



LAWN TENNIS.

(By Volley.)

INTER-VARSITY TOURNAMENT.

The entries for the above event have now been received, and the contests will be played on the Eden and Epsom Club's lawns on Saturday next and the following Tuesday morning.

Men's Singles.—Auckland: College, Messrs Coates, Smith, and McCoy; Victoria College (Wellington), Messrs Prouse, Beehre, and De la Mere; Otago University, Messrs Brown and W. Repa; Canterbury College, Messrs Rice and Cox.

Men's Doubles.—Auckland: Coates and Olliphant, Smith and Pickmere, McCoy and Short, Wellington: Prouse and Beehre, Mitchell and De la Mere, Brailsford and Prouse. Canterbury: Rice and Cox, Stowe and Cook, Chappell and Kiesel. Otago: Not to hand.

Ladies' Singles.—Auckland: Misses P. Gorrie, Hull and Metcalfe, Wellington: Misses Batham, Roberts and Wedde, Canterbury: Misses Barker, Triggs and Wilding, Otago: Misses Crump and McCahon.

Ladies' Doubles.—Auckland: Misses Gorrie and Metcalfe, Wellington: Misses Batham and Roberts, Wedde and Batham, Griffiths and White. Canterbury: Misses Barker and Triggs. Otago: Not to hand.

Combined Doubles.—Auckland: Miss Gorrie and Coates, Miss Hull and Smith, Miss Metcalfe and McCoy. Wellington: Miss Batham and Prouse, Miss Roberts and Beehre, Miss Wedde and De la Mere. Canterbury: Miss Barker and Rice, Miss Triggs and Cox, Miss Wilding and Stowe.

The trophy is a handsome silver cup, which was won last year by Canterbury College.

EDEN AND EPSOM LAWNS.

The following finals were played last Saturday. The courts were rather damp on the back lines, but otherwise in fair order:—

Men's Championship Singles.—Mr J. P. Grossman had a somewhat easy victory over Mr C. Heather, the sets being three to love, and the games 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. From the commencement of this club's tournament it was seen that Grossman was likely to prove a formidable nut to crack, and it was a pity that he did not enter in the Auckland championship. Mr Grossman also annexed the handicap event, beating T. S. Ruddock by 6-3, 6-4.

In the Ladies' Singles Miss S. Rice secured the coveted honours for the third season, beating Miss P. Gorrie 8-6, 6-3. In the first set Miss Gorrie had the lead, her volleying was good, and seemed at one time likely to earn this set, but Miss Rice's steady work and good lobbing was not to be denied.

In the final for the Combined Doubles Miss S. Rice and Mr A. F. Billing (own 30) beat Miss Towle and Mr Sharmen (rec 3/6) 7-5, 6-3.

The only event unfinished is the Ladies' Doubles.

At Parnell Mr Scherff beat Mr Dargaville in the Handicap Singles, this being the only match played, owing to the dampness of the courts.

There is evident intention on the part of those having the welfare of lawn tennis at heart to push the game forward to the position it should occupy. With this end in view the Wellington Lawn Tennis Association have recently con-

sidered the question of the present organisation of the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association, and have passed the following resolution: "That steps be immediately taken to requisition the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association to hold a special meeting to discuss the object of that association having a fixed centre, with resident delegates." There is no question that this is a move in the right direction, and should receive the support of all the affiliated associations. At the present time the association only meets once every year, and this meeting is held where the annual championship tournament takes place, so that very often only a very few of the delegates can be present. Even the secretary is unable sometimes to attend. It will readily be seen, therefore, that the supporting influence that should be attached to the meetings of the association is lacking, and the game must suffer in consequence. I understand that Wellington is prepared to produce a secretary and sufficient delegates to represent all the affiliated associations. Unless this proposal is adopted we must be prepared to watch the decline of what should be one of the most popular athletic sports. May it not be so.

At a meeting of the Ngaruawahia Lawn Tennis Club, held at Ngaruawahia on Wednesday last, the secretary reported that the arrangements for the open tournament at Easter were well in hand, and that besides a large number of country players there would be 12 to 14 competitors from Auckland. The secretary of the Auckland Lawn Tennis Association (Mr A. F. Billing) wrote stating that the club's application for affiliation to his association had been granted. It was decided to accept his offer to receive town entries, and they will close with him on Wednesday next at four p.m. The visiting players will be entertained to afternoon tea each day, and a concert and dance will take place on Easter Monday night, whilst picnics on the Waipa river can be arranged. Those wishing to return to town for Tuesday morning can catch the train leaving Ngaruawahia about twelve o'clock on Monday night.

A correspondent writes: "Under the heading of 'Lawn Tennis in England and the Colonies' an Auckland paper published an interview with Mr H. A. Parker a few weeks since. In this Mr Parker is represented to have said: 'This season I gave Miss Nunnally 30 and beat her.' This is not quite correct, hence the explanation I now forward. Miss Nunnally and Mr Parker played four sets on the Thorndon courts, Wellington, on January 15, each winning two, so that Miss Nunnally might equally claim to have beaten Mr Parker. On adding up the games I find that she was one to the good in the four sets, therefore the slight advantage was on her side. I merely send this correction in fairness to Miss Nunnally."

CRICKET.

AUCKLAND CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP.

WON BY PARNELL.

So far as the senior matches are concerned the cricket season came to a conclusion on Saturday, when Parnell defeated United by sixty runs on the first innings, and won the senior championship for the season 1902-1903. The wickets were greatly favourable to the bowlers, and United collapsed before the bowling of Cliff, who took seven wickets for 24 runs. United totalled only 43 runs, eight wickets falling for 21. Parnell thus win the senior championship for the first time for some years.

SWIMMING.

THREE RECORDS ESTABLISHED.

The Northern Amateur Swimming Club's first championship meeting, held in the Auckland Dock on Saturday afternoon, was in all respects successful. The attendance came quite up to expectations, and the estimate of 2000 could not have been very far out. By some of the Southern competitors and others it is averred that there has never been held in the colony so successful a meeting, conducted by a local club. The day was delightfully fine under the circumstances. The carnival throughout was one of continual interest. The first event set down for competition was the 100yds championship of Auckland. This race was contested in two heats and a final. In the first heat J. M. Hamilton was successful, his time for the distance being equal to the standing New Zealand record, viz. 66secs. The second heat was not particularly fast. The final provided the best "go" witnessed during the afternoon. H. Creaghe, Dunedin's representative, proved the winner, finishing fully two yards ahead of Hamilton (Grey-mouth). Creaghe put up a remarkable performance. His time was 65 3-5secs., which eclipses the previous record put up by Malcolm Champion at Christchurch two seasons ago by 2-5sec. When it became known that Creaghe had established a fresh New Zealand record the crowd cheered lustily, and the win was evidently very popular. Hamilton, who finished second, notched 67secs. dead. Creaghe, it may not be generally known, is a Rockhampton boy, and has only resided in this colony some six months. He is now in his seventeenth year, and tops the scales at 12st. Of the other items on the programme the half-mile championship of New Zealand was undoubtedly the most interesting. In this race another New Zealand record was made, the winner being J. M. Hamilton, who put up a marvellous performance. His time of 13min. 34 2-5secs. for the distance reduced the colony's best by the substantial margin of 42 3-5secs. Hamilton swam a great race, and was apparently equal to doing even better than the time recorded. He was not pressed at any part of the race. L. Penrose (Christchurch), the second man, also cut out remarkably good time. The record for the distance was 14min. 17secs., and the Christchurch man swam it in 14min. 6secs., which is 11secs. better. Loud and prolonged cheering greeted the result. If the races mentioned were the most interesting, the relay race, in which all manner of athletic bodies took part, certainly carried with it a great amount of local rivalry, and the cheering and shouting that was indulged in was enough to work any team up to a very high pitch of excitement. After an even "go" the City Football Club was victorious, the Auckland Rowing Club coming second.

In the evening the carnival was continued at the Albert-street Freshwater Baths. Again the attendance was exceedingly good. Those present must have numbered close on a thousand. The racing proved very exciting, and there were several close finishes. Hamilton again established a fresh New Zealand record, this time for the quarter-mile. Only three started, Hamilton, Penrose and Wattie Dunn. Hamilton won rather easily. He finished in 6m. 23 2-5sec, the previous New Zealand record being 6m. 30s. The second man, Penrose, was credited with 6m. 57 4-6s. Instead of being cheered, as might have been supposed, poor Hamilton was hooted and yelled at; a clique of hoodlums at one corner of the baths being the cause of all the disturbance. It was a despicably mean attitude to take up, and under no circumstances could it be put down to any but the vilest hoodlum or larrikin. As it was these persons were absolutely wrong in their conclusions. They believed, or made believe, that Hamilton was responsible in a measure for Champion's disqualification, but, as stated, in this they were entirely wrong. Hamilton did all in his power to assist the local club to get the Wellington body to rescind its resolution and allow Champion to compete at the meeting. The Southern Club stood firm, and Hamilton even went so far as to apply to the governing body in Christchurch, asking them to overrule the Wellington centre,

and allow Champion to swim, as it would, he pointed out, be a great help to the Northerners and swimming generally. Champion, he added, seeks protection under Clause 8. A reply was received to the effect that the Association could not overrule the Wellington centre, as the matter was purely a local difference. On the face of this the Club was quite justified in not permitting Champion to start. The general arrangements of the day were carried out in a thoroughly efficient manner, the several races being started with commendable promptitude. In this respect Messrs R. Eagleton, W. Seeley, and the other members of the committee were indefatigable, and are deserving of every praise. At the conclusion of the day's programme the members and their friends adjourned to the Federal Club rooms, where a vaudeville smoke concert was tendered to the Southern visitors.

AQUATICS.

AUCKLAND ROWING ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above Association was held on Friday evening, when the pennant and bannerette presented by Mr H. A. Marriner and the Association's caps were presented to the winners of the championship event at the Lake Takapuna Regatta. Mr Marriner, in making the presentation to the Waitemata Boating Club, who have succeeded in winning the pennant this season, expressed his pleasure that most of the races this season had been very keenly fought out. He was pleased to see that the Waitemata Boating Club had gained the flag this season, as they were the only club to send crews to represent Auckland at the championship regatta at Wangamui in February last, and their success came as quite a surprise to Southern oarsmen. Mr Marriner then presented the pennant to Mr Evers, captain of the club, who suitably replied. Mr Marriner, in presenting orders for association caps to the Auckland Rowing Club's senior crew, referred to their good work this season. He then presented the orders to the crew—H. H. Bach (stroke), W. J. Lyvelt, A. E. Foshaw, G. Griffin (bow), and the cox, D. Tucker.

MANUKAU YACHT CLUB.

The ninth race of the season was sailed on Saturday afternoon for a trophy presented by Mr Dalziel, and cash prizes. The handicaps were:—Maka Maile, scratch; Moa, 3m.; Belle, 5m.; Malua, 7m.; Plois, 7m.; Alma, 10m.; Ladysmith, 14m.; Endeavour, 19m.; Fedora, 22m.; Pretoria, 25m.; Myrtle, 22m.; Mascotte, 24m.; Presto, 25m.; Industry, 25m.; Daisy, 33m.; Petrel, 36m.; and Esma, 39m. At the start Malua had the misfortune to break her boom. The race was well contested. The finishing times were:—Alma, 4h. 33m.; Maka Maile, 4h. 34m.; Myrtle, 4h. 40m.; Endeavour, 4h. 43m.; Ladysmith, 4h. 43m.; Mascotte, 4h. 43m.; Belle, 4h. 46m.; Pretoria, 4h. 46m.; Fedora, 4h. 50m.; Industry, 4h. 50m.; Malua, 4h. 51m. Maka Maile is now leading for the handicap cup by six points.

PONSONBY CRUISING CLUB.

The annual yacht race of Ponsonby Cruising Club which was postponed from Saturday, March 28th, took place in the harbour on Saturday afternoon last, the Commodore's yacht Siola acting as flagship. The boats got away at 3.15, the start being a very even one. The finishing times were as follows:—Miro, 4h. 30m. 44s.; Horo, 4h. 40m. 40s.; Eulalie, 4h. 42m. 20s.; Alofa, 4h. 47m. 15s.; Cynisca, 4h. 51m. 5s.; Antipus, 4h. 56m.; Merrythought, 5h. 2m. 12s. On time allowance Alofa takes first prize, Eulalie second, Horo third, Cynisca fourth, Miro fifth, Antipus sixth, and Merrythought seventh. The race was sailed for ten trophies presented by patrons of the Club, therefore every boat that finished will receive a prize. The remaining three will in all probability be competed for at the final cruise, which takes place on Saturday, April 18.