

GOLF

This paper has been appointed the official organ of the Ladies' Golf Union, New Zealand branch.

Secretaries of ladies' golf clubs are invited to forward official notices, handicaps and alterations, results of competitions, and other matters of interest, to reach the publishing office not later than the Saturday prior to date of publication.

Auckland.

A PARTY of golfers, members of the above club, left on Thursday last to take part in a match against the Wellington Golf Club at Trentham. A team of five was originally chosen, but, owing to the inability of Mr. A. E. Dargaville to take part, only four of the team left, the members being: J. C. Burns, P. Upton, H. Gillies, and Dr. Bamford. Other golfers accompanying the team include: E. Bloomfield, H. Clark, Thorn Jackson, H. Horton, W. W. Bruce, and McIntosh. The committee has postponed the championship for a week. Entries should be in by noon on the 20th inst.

South Auckland Championship.

The South Auckland Championship Golf Meeting and Handicap Tournament takes place at Cambridge on August 17th, 18th, and 19th. Entries close on Saturday, August 13th. An interesting programme has been arranged, and it is to be hoped that the meeting will meet with well-deserved success.

The details of the programme are as follows:—
Wednesday, 17th August.—2 p.m., South Auckland Amateur Championship and Teams' Match, combined with Medal Handicap. Qualifying round of 18 holes, Medal Play, 8 to qualify. Match play thereafter. This will embrace a Teams' Match, team to comprise four players. First and second prize for best net score in Medal Handicap of 18 holes. These events are confined to members of South Auckland Clubs. Entrance fee for Championship and Handicap, 5/- N.B.—Champion and runner-up cannot take Handicap prize.

Thursday, 18th August.—9 a.m., South Auckland Championship (second round), 9.30 a.m., Men's Bogey Handicap, 18 holes, entrance fee 2/-, open to members of any registered club, 10 a.m., South Auckland Ladies' Championship (first round); match play 18 holes; confined to members of South Auckland Clubs; entrance fee, 2/6. 2 p.m., South Auckland Championship (third round). Men's Medal Handicap, 18 holes, Medal Play, open to members of any registered club, entrance fee 2/-. Ladies' Bogey Competition, 18 holes, open to members of any registered club, entrance 1/-. South Auckland Ladies' Championship (second round).

Friday, 19th August.—9 a.m., Bogey Handicap, 18 holes, open to members of any registered club, entrance fee 2/-. 10 a.m., South Auckland Championship (final). South Auckland Ladies' Championship (final). Ladies' Medal Handicap, 18 holes, Medal Play, open to members of any registered club, entrance fee 1/-. 2 p.m., Approaching and Putting Competition, ladies and men, entrance 1/-, post entries.

Wellington.

In the return match, Miramar v Hunt, played at Miramar on Saturday week, the former just managed to win by 61 games to 51. Miramar were without the services of R. L. D. Kidston (a recent arrival from Scotland), which weakened their team considerably. The match of the day was undoubtedly that between Dalnevis and Horton, who are both aspirants for championship honours at Christchurch in September. It was generally thought that Horton, on his own links, would have the better of the argument, and all credit is due to Dalnevis for defeating such a doughty opponent. R. C. Kirk proved too good for R. C. Wallroth, who is brilliant, but uncertain. On his day the latter is right in the front rank of players. Other results were: R. L. Taylor, beat J. L. Climie, F. Stevenson beat J. R. Callender, P. C. Freeth beat L. D. Hurst, E. Y. Mills beat C. G. Allan, E. H. Liddle, lost to R. Abbott, L. F. Watkins lost to

J. H. Wagg, A. Erskine and W. A. Hudson halved, C. R. C. Robieson beat H. Manning, M. Burnett lost to W. T. Wynyard, G. O. Sutton beat A. H. Treadwell.

The tie for the Victoria Cup between Arthur Duncan (owe 3) and E. J. Reid (rec. 14), was played off during the week, and resulted in a somewhat easy win for A. Duncan.

The MacNeil foursomes competition of the Wellington Golf Club is now finished, and resulted in a somewhat unexpected but popular win for T. Young and Miss E. Stafford with W. E. Fussell and Mrs. Freeth as runners-up. This competition which was played on the knock-out principle, and which has excited very considerable interest since it was started over two months ago, has been prolific of surprises, most of the more fancied pairs having gone under at various stages. It has proved exceedingly popular, and it is hoped that the committee will place a similar event on next year's programme. The prizes presented by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacNeil are: For the lady, a beautiful gold watch; and for the gentleman, a pair of Zeiss field glasses, whilst there are also prizes for the runners-up.

The Rototawai Golf Club brought its tour to a close with a match at Here-taunga against the golfing members of Messrs. Levin and Co.'s staff, the latter winning somewhat easily. The following are the results, Levin and Co.'s staff being mentioned first in each instance:—A. Duncan beat J. Carne Bidwill, E. S. Pearce lost to W. E. Bidwill, W. Higginson beat N. Anderson, A. S. MacShane beat Geo. Hume, C. Pearce beat Jno. O. Bidwill, A. R. Sclanders beat R. Barton, P. Howden lost to W. Hume.

Auckland v. Wellington.

Teams representing Auckland and Wellington Golf Clubs tried conclusions on the Wellington Club's links on Saturday, Auckland being defeated by 13 games to 3. Details are:—

A TEAMS.

A. J. Abbot (Wellington) defeated H. Gillies (Auckland), J. B. McEwan (Wellington) defeated P. Upton (Auckland), W. E. Reid (Wellington) defeated Dr. Bamford (Auckland), A. Duncan (Wellington) defeated J. C. Burns (Auckland).

The same men then paired off, and played a four-ball match, with the following result:—

Duncan and Abbott (Wellington) defeated Burns and Gillies (Auckland), McEwan and Reid (Wellington) defeated Upton and Bamford (Auckland).

B TEAMS.

MacIntosh (Auckland) defeated E. L. Clancy (Wellington), A. MacEwan (Wellington) defeated H. Horton (Auckland), Myers (Auckland) defeated Fairchild (Wellington), A. S. Biss (Wellington) defeated W. W. Bruce (Auckland), E. J. Reid (Wellington) defeated E. R. Howland (Auckland), C. McCosh Clark (Wellington) defeated H. McCosh Clark (Auckland), T. Jackson (Auckland) defeated R. W. Kirkby (Wellington).

New Plymouth.

Fine weather prevailed on Saturday afternoon, when a mixed foursome handicap (18 holes) was played on the Nga Motu Links. Fifty-two players took part in the match, and the following were the seven best results:—Miss G. Roy and H. Fraser, gross 98, handicap 17, net 81; Miss Standish and F. S. Johns, 85—0—85; Miss Smith and W. C. Weston, 95—5—85; Miss Hall and E. Barry, 100—18—88; Mrs. Brewster and H. H. Ward, 89—0—89; Mrs. Paton and H. B. Arncliffe, 97—7—90; Miss Ryan and C. A. Bonhous, 105—15—90.

The final of the Nga Motu Ladies' Championship was played off last Tuesday afternoon, when Miss Stephenson defeated Miss Standish by 5 up and 3 to play. This is the second year for Miss Stephenson to hold the prize.

The last of the semi-finals for the Ladies' junior competition was played on the links on Tuesday, and the following are the results:—Miss Bewley beat Mrs. A. Jones, 1 up; Miss Jackson beat Miss McKellar, 8 up and 7; Miss Bewley plays Miss Jackson in the final.

Fine weather prevailed on Saturday afternoon, when thirty-two golfers took part in St. Andrew's Cross competition, and the final round for F. G. Hood's prize. Following are the six best scores for the St. Andrew's Cross:—W. C. Weston, gross 81, handicap 7, net 74; E. S. Bayley, 89—15—74; C. H. Burgess, 90—10—80; F. S. Johns, 84—3—81; H. Fraser, 102—20—82; T. Hanson, 88—4—84.

E. S. Bayley won F. G. Hood's prize with a score of 186, handicap 30, net score 156, for thirty-six holes; W. C. Weston, 172—14—148; H. Fraser, 206—46—160.

Rotorua.

The weather was perfect on Saturday week, and quite a number of players turned out. There were no less than sixteen entries for the monthly medal competition, which was again won by Mr. C. Kusabs. Following are the scores:—C. E. Kusabs, total 91, handicap 12, net 79; J. Stewart, 111, 30, 81; C. H. Worthington, 95, 14, 81; J. McFarlane, 101, 17, 84; G. Williamson, 115, 30, 85; C. Crowther, 109, 22, 87; G. Empson, 102, 14, 88; A. Brown, 119, 30, 89; G. A. Empson, 119, 30, 89; T. Goudie, 121, 30, 91; J. Brown, 122, 30, 92; J. Cherry, 122, 30, 92; J. F. Robieson, 115, 14, 101; J. Redward, 122, 18, 104; C. C. Hawkins, 124, 20, 104; W. Grove, 128, 20, 108. The number of visitors continues to increase. Mrs. Bowie played a round, losing to Mrs. C. Kusabs by one up. In a local match Mrs. Groves beat Mrs. Sheriff. Others playing were Mesdames Hill, Dyson, Worthington, Hicks, Goudie, Misses French, Landon (2).

Stratford.

In the men's championship, N. Black beat F. Fussell, 2 up 1 to play; S. Spence beat E. C. Robinson, 3 up 2 to play; F. P. Uniaekke beat J. Jones, 4 up 3 to play. In the semi-finals, S. Spence beat F. P. Uniaekke, 2 up 1 to play; J. Stanford beat N. Black, 6 up 5 to play.

On Saturday the ladies went to Hawera and played a golf match, which resulted in a win for Hawera.

The ladies' championship rests between the Misses Orbell; Miss Orbell to play Miss F. Orbell during the week.

Pverty Bay.

The final for the A grade of the Handicap Tournament, played on Thursday afternoon, resulted in a win for F. Fraill (scr), 7 up and 5 to play, against J. Howie (8).

An eclectic match, 8-hole course, was also played on Thursday in the A grade, when Mrs. O'Meara (1) won, her score being 40, thereby winning a trophy presented by Mr. R. Barker.

Miss Ferguson (4), in the B grade, scored 56, winning a club presented by the Golf Club.

Piton.

Under uncomfortable conditions as regards the state of the links at Mount Pleasant, the second round of the Riddell medal competition was played off by the men on Saturday week, the result being as follows:—L. R. Smith, gross 102, handicap 18, net 84; H. C. Madsen, 95—5—90; W. H. Vickers, 91—0—91; A. J. Wicks, 93—1—92; A. C. Seymour, 103—8—95; W. Watson, 121—16, 105; W. F. Shaw, 130—20, 110.

There was a good deal of water on the links, and the fees were really miniature islands. The pavilion is completed and will be a real comfort to the members. At present L. R. Smith leads for the Riddell medal with three points, Smith and Watson two and a-half each, and Vickers two points. The club will unfortunately be a loser by Mr. Wick's promotion to Blenheim in the Lands and Survey Office.

Open Championship of Belgium.

Following on the French open championship, practically all the professionals journeyed to Brussels to take part in the first open championship of Belgium, which was played on the course of the Royal G.C. at Tervuren. Play was only over two medal rounds, and Arnaud Massay, who finished second to James Brady in the French event, won the new title, with an aggregate of 139. Both Harry Vardon and Alex. Herd took 144; and James Braid, with 148, tied for fourth place. Massay's 71 and 68 were hard to beat.

The Amateur Championship.

WON BY MR. JOHN BALL.

If youth was served in the recent amateur international match, the same thing could certainly not be said regarding the final of the amateur championship at Hoylake, since the winner of the memorable tournament is, about twenty years older than the runner-up (says a writer in "Golfing"). The moral of Mr. John Ball's marvellous and altogether unprecedented performance would therefore seem to be that youth will not always be served against age provided that age can call to its aid experience and unshakable steadiness. The possession of these two qualities undoubtedly brought about Mr. Ball's great victory, and they were the chief causes of his success, not only in the final, but in every one of the matches which led up to his ultimate encounter with Mr. Aylmer.

To an eye-witness of most of the play in the tournament, Mr. Ball's golf was perhaps the most difficult of which to give a description. He played few of those thrilling shots such as appeal to the sensation-loving section of the "gallery," and he made few brilliant recoveries of the heroic type. He did none of these things simply because the doing of them was never required. This is tantamount to saying that his golf was practically faultless, and that word just about covers it. Mr. Ball was frequently out-driven, notably by Mr. Mitchell in the semi-final, but he nearly always made up for that by keeping the best line to the hole, while in the short game he practically never gave anything away.

It was by his play near the hole that he won most of his matches; not, perhaps, so much by his putting—though that was sound enough—as by his magnificent approach shots, which were almost invariably "just right" in direction, elevation and strength. In this connection he was of course placed at a big advantage over his opponents through his peculiar knowledge of the course.

His steadiness was as marked as was that of J. H. Taylor in the Open Championship last year; indeed, his golf was in some ways more akin to the stroke than the match game, and often he shaped as though he were out for a round with Colonel Bogey rather than against a real live opponent. There was no standing against such steadiness, and so his opponents went down before him one after the other until in the end he gained his easiest triumph over Mr. Aylmer.

Of the runner-up it is difficult to form, at this period, a settled opinion as to his merits. He is unquestionably a very good golfer—at times a great golfer—but on his form in the final he is obviously immature as a championship force. The Mr. Aylmer who won such a sensational game in the semi-final and the Mr. Aylmer who collapsed before Mr. Ball played so differently as to make it difficult to believe that they could be the same man. In the one case there was jointly confidence, marked determination, and a display of putting that bordered on the uncanny. In the other there was halting, uncertainty, and complete loss of form, while the erstwhile marvellous skill on the greens had, for the time being, utterly deserted its possessor. Experience gave Mr. Ball tremendous assistance; inexperience helped to beat Mr. Aylmer. Mr. Ball was making his ninth appearance in the final, and was playing on his own course, before thousands of people who held him in the deepest affection. Mr. Aylmer had never previously got beyond the third round of the tournament, and never played in the presence of such a mighty multitude as had gathered on the Royal Liverpool Club, and was, as it were, a stranger in a strange land. Little wonder, then, that he failed to produce his best form. He started badly, and soon found that even his putting had failed him. There is nothing so disconcerting in golf as the discovery that one has temporarily lost the secret of the stroke which is the strong point of one's play, and no matter what is one's class such a discovery is bound to unsettle one's game. Outplayed in every other department, Mr. Aylmer had not even his putting left now to help him, and this being so it was not really surprising that he fell such easy prey to his well-salted opponent. His time will come, however. He has golf in him, real good golf; and it will be an astonishing thing if Mr. Aylmer, of Sidmouth, proves to be nothing more than the meteor of a moment.