

# LAWN TENNIS.

(By ROMULUS.)

## WELLINGTON.

### Brougham Hill Finals.

#### H. V. HOWE'S FINE RECORD.

Three championship finals were played off at Brougham Hill on Saturday last April, in the presence of a large muster of members and visitors. A feature of the afternoon's tennis was the unprecedented success of H. V. Howe, who established a record for the club by winning three championship finals in one day.

Howe once more upset calculations by defeating Hawkins, who is never the same player in his meetings with Harry Howe. The latter has not had nearly the same opportunities for practice as Hawkins, but after the first set he was the only man on the court. At the beginning of the concluding set Hawkins was done, although he put up a good finish, and Howe continuing to play confidently won the match 3-0, 6-1, 6-4, and the championship for the first time. A more unexpected result still was that in the Men's Doubles, Howe Bros. defeating Laishley and Hunter (the club's first double), after the latter pair had captured the first set, 6-love.

The Combined Doubles went to H. Howe and Miss Rothschild, the latter of whom is a really good doubles player. Following were the results:—

#### MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES.

H. V. Howe defeated L. W. Hawkins, 3-0, 6-1, 6-4.

#### MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES.

Howe Bros defeated F. Laishley and J. Hunter, 0-6, 6-4, 6-3.

#### COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES.

H. V. Howe and Miss Rothschild v. L. W. Hawkins and Miss Davis, 6-4, 6-1.

#### R. H. Nagle—Newtown Champion.

The final of the Men's Championship Singles of the Newtown Club was decided on Saturday week when the holder of the title, R. H. Nagle, succeeded in defeating E. Y. Redward, 6-4, 6-2; and thus is club champion for another year. Nagle was expected to win as he has had fairly regular practice this year, whereas Redward, Lindsay and Coy are confined to an occasional single they manage to work in at the courts. The winner joined the Thorndon Club some time ago, and has been much keener of late, so that in all probability this will be his last season at Newtown. The match under review was not marked by any great brilliancy, as Nagle was evidently disposed to take no chances, and an idea of the game may be gauged from the fact that Redward himself was responsible for whatever aggressive play there was.

The final of the Ladies' Championship was started, Mrs. Nagle and Miss Clark being the competitors, but as they were very evenly matched, darkness arrived before the game was concluded. The score was set all, and 3 all in the third set. Consequently a replay was necessary and the match was set down for decision during the week. The correct semi-final results were:—

Miss Clark v. Miss Robinson, 8-6, 6-1.

Mrs. Nagle v. Mrs. Grady, 6-4, 6-1.

#### Petone Club.

The suburbanites who have had the most successful season in the history of the club, winning two of the inter-club championships, concluded a Men's Handicap Singles event last week with the following results:—

First round.—Andrews (23) beat H. Caverhill (30), 60-50; Keau (23) beat A. Duncan (scr.), 60-42; Parkinson (owe 10) beat Austin (5), 60-40; Hope (25), beat Foster (40), 60-55.

Second round.—R. Thompson (38) beat L. Caverhill (35), 60-51; Andrews (22) beat Keau (23), 60-50; Parkinson (owe 10) beat Hope (25), 60-48; A. Thomson (40) beat Pheasant (35), 60-47.

Semi-final.—Andrews (22) beat R.

Thompson (38), 60-57; Parkinson (owe 10) beat A. Thomson (40), 60-55.

Final.—Andrews (22) beat Parkinson (owe 10), 60-40.

#### Miscellaneous.

Victoria College's team in the New Zealand University Tournament to be held in Auckland at Easter, will be chosen from:—D. S. Smith, S. M. Clegghorn, J. B. Parker, C. H. Taylor, A. T. Duncan, Mrs. Bogle, Misses J. Scott, H. McIntosh, I. Tennent, and A. Atkinson.

Mr Geo. S. Pratt, many years secretary of the Newtown Club, returned to Wellington on Sunday week, after a month's leave-of-absence, during which time he visited Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, and New Zealand's Southern cities.

Mr R. S. J. Beere, well-known in tennis circles in Wellington, leaves for England on Thursday, 20th April, having been selected as an officer of the New Zealand Coronation contingent.

Rod Heath, the great Victorian player, who has gone to the Old Country to compete in all the famous tournaments, played in the international championship at Col d'Azur, Cannes, and reached the final, where he was defeated by Raho (the German crack) 6-4, 6-4, 7-9, 6-4.

Next issue will be the last occasion on which Lawn Tennis Notes will appear this season. The championship tables for the various inter-club competitions will be published for the benefit of the many players who doubtless would like to preserve some record of the season's performances.

## AUCKLAND.

Last Saturday was a perfect day for tennis, and no doubt so far as a large number of players are concerned, will have been the last day of tennis for this season. A few players are keeping in form for the Rotorua tournament, for which the majority left by Tuesday evening's express—and will probably see the season out with the remaining club players on Saturday week. Most of the clubs have signified their intention of ceasing on the 22nd inst., so that top-dressing may be taken in hand at once. Some of the courts are in a very sad condition, and will need very careful attention at the hands of ground superintendents to give them a chance of recovering. Taken as a whole, the courts have not been in such good condition this year as in previous years.

In reviewing the events of the season now closing, one is not struck by anything of a startling nature. Most things have gone along in the ordinary way—a few matters in an extraordinary way—and some have not gone any way. There has been no tournament held here of any kind, but this probably, is not the fault of the Association; there has been no Taranaki match, no player from Auckland was a competitor at the New Zealand Championships, and no player has established any pronounced superiority over the best local players. The only redeeming feature seems to have been the promise shown by Duthie. This youthful player has all the attributes of a champion, and should be practice in the right way and receive encouragement and assistance from the older players, may yet worthily represent this district. Quinnell and Swainson have proved themselves undoubted acquisitions to Auckland, if not only by their winning the double championship, then by their live interest in the game, and their keenness at all times.

There are at present several young players of promise in Auckland, as well no doubt as elsewhere who are handicapped for want of instruction. In this respect tennis suffers as compared with other sports, which have their coaches. No one doubts the great advance in the standard of play amongst cricketers here since the advent of the "coach," and no one doubts but that there would be a corresponding increase amongst tennis players were the young players to get proper instruction. The day of the tennis coach, however, does not appear as yet, and one must be

## ATHLETICS.

Champion G. A. Wheatley.

### HOW HE TRAINS.

Gregory A. Wheatley, the Australasian middle-distance champion runner, has been selected to represent Australasia at the Festival of Empire sports, to be held in connection with the Coronation celebrations next June and July.

Born at St. Kilda, 27 years ago, Wheatley stands 5ft. 10½ in height, but on the running track he looks well over 6ft., and is known in all other States and New Zealand as the "Tall Victorian." His weight is 9st. 11lb. in running costume, but he only scales a few pounds more when out of training. He is a non-smoker.

He has for some years been among the leading pedestrians of Australia, and has won innumerable championships and other events. His performances include 800 yards in 1min. 56½ sec., on Exhibition track, Melbourne, March 18, 1910 (Australasian record), 1000 yards in 2min. 19.25sec. on the Melbourne Grammar School Ground, April 15, 1910 (Australasian record); and one mile in 4min. 23

content with watching one's superiors and "taking a leaf out of their book" at present.

Amongst the lady players, Miss Gray maintains her undoubted superiority, but while several others have shown themselves to be players of average standard, no one has showed signs of more than ordinary ability.

### THE NEXT SEASON.

In a few weeks' time the clubs will be holding their annual meetings and electing officers for the coming season. Next season, with the Davis Cup contest, and a prospect of a large championship tournament, and the advent of many fine exponents of the game, will probably be a record one in the history of tennis in New Zealand. Members will therefore do well to see to it that their best representatives be elected as delegates to the Association, and the Association will require to use a good deal of discretion in the appointment of its executive officers.

### EDEN AND EPSOM.

At Eden and Epsom on Saturday last, Grossmann and A. H. C. Brown defeated W. A. Brown and Morpeth in the double championship, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. The game was started late and was finished in the dark. The winners were most aggressive, Brown in particular. Their volleying, too, was better than their opponents. The play throughout seemed to be characterised by lack of enthusiasm, owing, no doubt, to the thought that the match could not be completed in time.

Grossmann (0-15, 4-6) defeated Young (scr.) in the final of the handicap singles, 5-7, 6-4, 10-8. Grossmann was repeatedly foul faulted, a decision which quite upset his game.

The following are the winners of the club championships for the season:—Eden and Epsom, H. Morpeth. West End, Quinnell and Swainson. Parnell, T. R. Grigson. Devonport, R. Grainger. Mount Albert, T. Gardner. Remuera, K. Duthie.

### ROTORUA.

The club tournament which has been in progress lately, was concluded last week, when the following games were played:—

In the men's handicap singles final, G. Vinton (scr.) beat French (30) 70-43.

In the men's championship final, Melville beat Emsom 6-4, 7-5, and 6-3.

In the ladies' handicap singles final, Miss S. Simpson (owe 10) beat Miss Murray (receiving 12) 30-28.

### FEILDING.

On Saturday last at the Feilding tennis court, Mrs Evans beat Miss Shannon in the final of the local championship. Mr Davey beat Mr Lawson. Mrs Evans and Miss Shannon were defeated by Mrs Harding and Miss Hare in the ladies' doubles. Mrs Evans and Miss Shannon are to play off on Saturday next for the ladies' handicap singles.

see on the Sydney Cricket Ground, November 9, 1908 (Australian record. He is the holder of the half-mile and mile, Queensland; half-mile and mile, New South Wales; and half-mile Victorian records.

### METHODS OF TRAINING.

Wheatley is very thorough in his training methods. His headquarters are at the North Melbourne recreation ground, which has a grass track with three laps to the mile. "Charlie" Sawyer, a well-known football trainer, has charge of the Essendon Harrier and other pedestrians.

When training for the half mile and mile championships, Wheatley considers that three months' steady preparation is necessary. For the first three weeks he puts in three or four nights a week, his work consisting of three laps of steady work, in order to cultivate a comfortable and easy stride, which, in his opinion, is a most important desideratum.

"Once a runner has developed a stride that is easy to himself," he remarked, "his training work becomes a pleasure."

Commencing the fourth week, he increases his pace somewhat, and this continues for the next three weeks. By this time he is feeling fit, and his trainer gives him "breaking" work, with occasional "runs through." Runs from a quarter of a mile to 600 yards at top speed are also undertaken.

Being handicapped by not being able to race in company with runners who can stay more than a good quarter of a mile with him, he often arranges to have a relay of men to take him around over the full distance. He frequently trains with a whipper. He is conceded a start of 30 yards in a 130 yards sprint, and the dog generally manages to beat him on the post. This, he states, is one of the best aids he receives in his training, as it improves his sprinting powers considerably.

Wheatley is not a food faddist. He believes in eating good, wholesome food, and does not consider it necessary for him to curtail his menu in any way, owing to the fact that he is always in good condition, and puts on very little weight when off the tracks.

Touching on the question of diet, Wheatley humorously remarked that when he and a number of other champions were competing at a big meeting in Bendigo some years ago, an "old-timer, who was watching the races from the arena, said, "Look here, you young fellows, you don't know how to train, or even diet yourselves for these championships."

"What are your methods?" inquired Wheatley.

"Dry toast and water," replied the old ped.

"Well, what have you won?" asked the Essendon runner.

"I've never won a race in my life," said the veteran; "but I know that dry toast and water is the best stuff for a chap to train on."

"He was a poor advertisement for this diet," remarked Wheatley, with a smile. "So I never followed his advice."

### TACTICS IN RACING.

Wheatley does not believe in making the pace in a race. He sizes up the field, and then keeps in a handy position until the bell. If he has a formidable opponent he makes his run about a furlong from home; but if the competitors are not up to his standard he challenges them about 50 yards from home. He refers to win just comfortably, and is "posed to "grand stand" finishes, as they tend to "bettle the other men in the race.

In his opinion the tracks in Australia are against fast times, but the Sydney Cricket Ground he considers to be the fastest. The cinder track at Carisbrook ground, Dunedin, is a very good one. He looks upon the Melbourne Cricket ground as being somewhat treacherous for racing. One day it has plenty of life in it, and on another day appears to be dead.

Nature has endowed Wheatley with a fine physique. He runs with a perfect stride, while his movements on the track represent the very "poetry of motion." His performances prove conclusively that he is the finest middle-distance runner in Australia at present.

If there was a shortage of labour in New Zealand, and it was desirable to have a policy of assisted immigration, he would point out that the last three vessels which had left Wellington for Sydney direct had been full ships, and the same was the case with vessels leaving Auckland for Sydney.—Mr. W. T. Young, Wellington.