

On the Golf Links

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, hand-cups and alterations, results of competitions and other matters of interest, to reach the publishing office not later than the Saturday prior to the date of publication.

AUCKLAND.

VERY keen interest was taken in the Auckland Golf Club's match, Captain v. Treasurer, played on the Middlemore Links on Saturday. The teams comprised 20 players a-side, the captain's team winning by 12 games to 4, no less than 4 of the games being halved.

The course showed a very great improvement after the large amount of mowing that had been done during the week, and the majority of the greens played remarkably true. Following are the results of the game, the members of the captain's team being mentioned first:—

Burns and Culbert, all square.
Lusk and Hamford, 21 square.
MacCormick beat Dargaville, 6 and 4.
Shartford beat Tonga, 4 and 3.
Nuttleton beat Laurence, 6 and 5.
E. Horton and P. Hanna, all square.
Cave beat H. Hart, 3 and 2.
Stridger beat Hall, 2 and 1.
Giblin beat Jackson, 1 up.
Macfarlane lost to Bruce, 1 down.
Allen beat J. Bloomfield, 3 and 2.
E. O'Rourke beat Richards, 3 and 2.
Tomison lost to Finn, 7 and 5.
Brown lost to Patricough, 4 and 3.
George beat Dukes, 4 and 3.
Kinde and Myers, all square.
Storry beat Clark, 3 and 2.
Towle beat Gortle, 5 and 3.
Webb beat Owen, 1 up.
Grant lost to Benjamin, 4 and 3.

In addition to the above a medal handicap was played, and was won by E. W. Cave. Following are particulars of the best cards handed in:—

R. W. Cave, 96, 10-80.
S. A. Longuet, 103, 20-83.
R. B. Towle, 108, 25-86.
D. MacCormick, 91, 4-87.
P. T. Upton, 98, 8-90.

The competition set down for Saturday next is the George Cup, entries for which close at noon on Thursday. The conditions are bogey handicap, partners being drawn.

MAUNGAKIEKIE.

The Maungakiekie Golf Club's medal handicap of three rounds concluded on Saturday afternoon at the One-tree Hill links, when about 50 players took part. The winner was Dr. Harke, with a net score of 80, and as he returned the two best cards in the three rounds he won the handicap.

The best scores in the third round were as follows:—Dr. Harke, gross score 83, handicap 15, net score 80; C. F. Gardner, 102-17-85; Dr. Huntley, 101-15-86; D. P. Reid, 106-20-86; J. P. Ridings, 100-17-86; M. Ward, 113-23-83; D. Theaker, 113-18-90; A. G. Cooke, 118-22-86; J. Cochrane, 117-24-97; H. O. Gardner, 115-14-101; Le Secur, 119-18-101; G. Morris, 128-25-101.

The best two cards in three were returned by the following:—Dr. Harke, 87 and 84, total 167; C. F. Gardner, 83 and 85, total 168; J. P. Ridings, 80 and 88, total 168; A. G. Cooke, 87 and 83, total 162; Dr. Dudley, 89 and 86, total 164; D. P. Reid, 80 and 86, total 166; H. O. Gardner, 86 and 101, total 187.

On the next two Saturdays the Club will hold an eclectic handicap.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(Special Correspondent.)

We have had a considerable amount of rain since I sent last week's notes, and the success of the autumn work on the links is now practically assured. The bad lies on the fairway have always been the worst features of the Shirley Links, and the committee are grappling with the matter in a comprehensive way. The fairway is first torn up with harrows, then manured and sown; a heavy top-dressing with sandy soil completes the operation. This plan was tried on several of the worst fairways last year with good results, and we hope for still better results this year, autumn sowing being better than spring sowing in this climate. It is intended to do some five fairways each year until the whole course is done. Another advantage of this scheme is that the course will be to some extent divided into fairway and rough. Golf on New Zealand courses is, generally speaking, open-paddock golf, where the player may roam from right to left at his own sweet will, paying no penalty for his vagaries. H. B. Lusk tells me that when playing in Sydney 18 months ago he was in the rough or bunkered at each of the first six

holes at Rose Bay, after which he realised the importance of keeping straight. Undoubtedly a course consisting of a two to three-chain fairway will improve the standard of golf of members to a marked degree. If it only has the effect of arousing ambition in the player and driving him to the professional much good will be done. Later on the Shirley committee should try to find some scrub of the nature of heather which will grow readily on the links, and sow the rough with it. Half the fun of the game is lost if no sporting difficulties are to be met with.

Last year the committee of the Christchurch G.C. brought D. G. Soutar over from Australia to advise on the re-laying of the links. Soutar's opinion is certainly one of the best in Australasia, and he drew up a plan which shows clearly his grasp of the subject. It is intended to play a course closely approximating to Soutar's as soon as the new greens in the north paddock are playable, probably about July. A permanent course will then be finally decided upon, but in all probability it will follow closely on Soutar's ideas. He found the chief faults to be bad lengths, cuppy greens and dangerous crossings. All these faults will be eliminated under the new scheme, except that our dry climate rather restricts us in the matter of green formation. Undulating greens tend to scorch in summer though the hollows remain green, and, good as the water supply is, it cannot prevent this.

Last Weeks Play.

Saturday last was an ideal day for golf—dull and calm; but the scores were not so good as might have been expected. The second qualifying round for the Borthwick Vase, the final round for the Cox Cup, and a medal handicap were played.

The Borthwick Vase match consists of two qualifying rounds, medal play, the best 8 net scores playing off by match play. The Cox Cup is a two-round medal match for juniors, 10 and over.

The first round of the day was a 77 by H. E. Wright. On his day Wright would hold his own with any New Zealand amateur, but, though in the club championship he has done well he has not done so well in the N.Z. Championships as might have been expected. He has a graceful and effective style, and may yet reach the highest honour in New Zealand golf.

B. B. Wood fell off, taking 80, and, as he is handicapped at plus 5, he failed to qualify.

B. C. Rutherford played excellent golf though the greens, but inability to putt the short ones dead caused him to take 83.

Some of the middle handicap men are doing creditable rounds just now. C. F. Thomas, playing off 13, did 85, which, leaving a net score of 72, would give a plus man something to think about. J. Anderson (10) won the Cox Cup with a net return of 153, which augurs well for future improvement. H. H. Knight won the senior medal with 85-9, net 76. He was for two years champion of Hagley, and is making steady progress towards a short handicap.

At Hagley Park.

The Hagley players are having rather a strenuous time. The exceptional growth of grass which our wet summer brought about is their trouble. The leases of the grazing rights on the park object to grass-cutting, and the sheep cannot get it down. Until the frosts come they will be playing under difficulties. Golf on a public park has its drawbacks, as One Tree Hill players probably know. The softening of the ground has emphasised the work of the divot fend. I counted in a space of three square yards three holes of one inch to three inches deep and proportionate area. Verily a spade would hardly do more damage. If players would only realise the importance of replacing divots, or, if that is impossible, of pressing down

the sides of the holes, they would confer a boon on all golfers. Unfortunately, the majority don't worry about divots until they find their balls in an unplayable lie.

Inter-club Matches at Dunedin.

Much interest is being taken in the inter-club games with Dunedin. It is a great pity Wright is unable to go, as he is in good form, and would bring our team to our full representative strength. We have a private opinion in Christchurch that in an 8 or 12-aside match we could hold our own with any club in New Zealand. We may be wrong. Wellington play us at Shirley during May for the Tasson Cup. Last year the Christchurch match was spoiled by the unseemly conduct of the weather, which delayed the ferry steamer several hours and caused our guests to be rather below their form.

Hosking-Campbell Shield.

On Thursday morning the Hosking-Campbell Shield was played for, and the same afternoon the Hammer Shield. The weather was very unfavourable for golf, a high wind from the south-west making play difficult. The wind increased during the day, and in the afternoon some apparently disgraceful performances were put up. The difficulty was greatly increased by the keen putting greens, which were so bare that it was a matter of extreme delay to putt the ball dead. The wind on some occasions accelerated the run of the ball to such an extent that it frequently was as far past the hole as it started from. This induced nervous putting, and to the three or four spectators who faced the weather the exhibition must have been deplorable.

In the Hosking-Campbell Shield, 8 men a-side, played for by singles, the Christchurch Club had a fairly easy win. The match results are as follows:—Wood (C) beat Dr. Ross (O), 3 and 1; Lusk (C) beat H. C. Smith (O), 6 and 5; Rutherford (C) beat Park (O), 3 and 1; Fisher (C) beat Harman (C), 5 and 4; Forbes (C) beat Stronach (O), 6 and 5; Trolove (C) beat Brasch (O), 3 and 1; Sleigh (C), all square with Rattray (O); E. Smith (O) beat Brittain (C), 4 and 2. Christchurch, therefore, won 5 matches and Otago 2, the other being halved.

In the Hammer Shield, played in foursomes, the results were as follows:—Dr. Ross and H. C. Smith (O) beat Lusk and Wood by 7 holes; Park and E. Smith (O) beat Rutherford and Trolove by 2 holes; Fisher and Brasch (O) beat Forbes and Brittain by 2 holes; Harman and Sleigh (C) squared Stronach and Rattray.

The rather remarkable reversal of form may be accounted for by the local players being less affected by the gale of wind and by the consequent peculiarities of the putting greens. Otago players never play foursomes nowadays, nor do the Canterbury men, four-ball matches having quite ousted them, so that no advantage exists there.

Wood and Dr. Ross had a great game in the morning, Wood being rather erratic for him. The Doctor, who is at Seaclyf, gets very little golf, which is a great pity, as he is obviously a player of parts. He gets well down to it, and, despite his small build, he hits a fine long ball. Hamilton Smith has played little of late, the rival charms of motor-boating being the cause, so that he fell rather easily to Lusk. The latter's round of 80 (approximately) was very useful under the adverse circumstances. Sleigh drew square with Rattray at the home green after making a gallant finish from the 15th. He holed the last 4 in 13, doing the last in 2. In the foursomes Lusk and Wood were annihilated by their victims of the morning. Neither played well, the putting being the chief weakness; but the excellent, steady play of the Dunedin pair was the main factor. The harder it blew the better Dr. Ross putted and the better Smith drove. The Doctor in particular played brilliantly

under the circumstances. The other matches were well contested, but the Otago pairs were too steady.

Orbell Cup Singles and Mixed Foursomes.

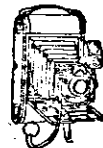
Otago won by 15 holes. The Christchurch men held their own, but the Otago ladies proved too strong, and in the foursomes Otago had the advantage. Ross (Otago), doing 77, beat Wood, 2 up; Lusk (Christchurch), was 8 up on Park doing 78. The scores were as follows (Christchurch being mentioned first in each instance):—Miss Campbell 0, v. Mrs. Dodshun 2; Miss Wilson 2, v. Mrs. Ward 0; Miss Rutherford 0, v. Miss Gould 8; Miss Wood 1, v. Miss Scott 0; Miss Cowlshaw 0, v. Miss K. Rattray 3; Miss Fisher 0, v. Miss Mill 4; Wood 0, v. Ross 2; Lusk 8, v. Park 0; Rutherford 5, v. Stronach 0; Harman 0, v. Brasch 3; Forbes 4, v. Scanlon 0; Trolove 0, v. Gale 3. Totals: Christchurch 20, Otago 25.

Foursomes.—Miss Campbell and Lusk 0, v. Mrs. Dodshun and Ross 2; Miss Wilson and Wood 3, v. Miss Gould and Park 0; Miss and B. C. Rutherford 7,

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