

LADIES' GOLF.

AUCKLAND.

Monday was an ideal day for golf, and it was generally thought that the play would be of a higher order than has been so far this season. This proved to be the case, for in the first round of the Captain's (Mrs. W. R. Bloomfield) prize, a match against bogey, Miss Winnie Cotter succeeded in lowering the "Colonel's" colours, returning a card of 1 up, and has now brought her handicap down to 10 for the L.G.U. The best cards returned for Monday were:—Miss W. Cotter, 8 strokes, 1 up; Miss M. Cotter, 12, 3 down; Miss S. Payton, 15, 5 down; Miss C. Thorpe, 18, 5 down; Mrs. E. Horton, 17, 6 down; Miss M. Alison, 11, 7 down; Miss M. McLean, 11, 7 down; Miss M. Towle, 14, 9 down; Miss A. Carr, 18, 9 down; Mrs. G. H. Richmond, 18, 9 down; Mrs. Hope Lewis, 18, 9 down.

The semi-final for the Hope Lewis Rose Bowl was played during the week, when Miss Gwen Gorrie defeated Miss Rachel Gorrie by 2 up and 1 to play, after a close and interesting match.

The match, Miss Winnie Cotter v. Miss Sybil Payton, proved most exciting. At the turn Miss Cotter was 5 up. Miss Payton stuck to her, and squared the match at the 18th. Playing on for three holes, the match was still "all square," so it was decided to play the match again. Miss Cotter concedes Miss Payton 8 strokes.

A challenge from a team of lady players has been sent to the golfers of H.M.s. Encounter and Pioneer. The match will probably be played on Thursday, 24th, and is being looked forward to with great interest.

The first of two medal handicap rounds for Mrs. Richmond's trophies was played on Monday under ideal weather conditions. A marked feature of the day's play was the steady improvement shown by a large number of players, no less than seven competitors, lowering their handicaps. In the senior division Miss Sybil Payton, with a gross score of 101, handicap 21, net 80, returned the lowest card, and brings her handicap down to 18. Other good cards were: Miss M. Alison, 100, 17-83; Miss R. Gorrie, 93, 17-85; Miss M. Towle, 106, 21-85; Miss W. Cotter, 98, 10-88.

In the junior division: Miss M. Cooper, 118, 40-78; Miss Roysie Greig, 115, 35-80; Miss C. Thorpe, 113, 32-81; Miss M. Rice, 121, 38-83.

Maungakiekie.

The best cards sent in for the medal handicap match for Miss Mary Frater's prize were: Miss Nancy MacCormick, gross score 129, handicap 40, net score, 89; Miss Gordon, 125-10-105; Miss A. Young, 143-40-103; Mrs. Ridings, 144-38-106; Miss Barstow, 145-31-112; Miss Dilworth, 156-40-116.

WAIHI.

The monthly medal competition was played on the 16th over 12 holes. Mrs. Clark was the winner, returning a card of 83, handicap 30, net 53. Miss Biddle was second, 72-15-57. Mrs. Gooch and Mrs. Noakes tied for third place with 58 net.

THAMES.

The members of this club held a competition for a trophy presented by Miss Hasketh. Keen interest was taken in the match, which was won by Miss Lily Rice, who finished 2 up on bogey; Mrs. Clendon, all square; Miss Hunter, all square; Miss Redman, all square; while Miss Stewart, Miss Gillespie and Miss McCullough were all 1 down.

A medal handicap match over nine holes was played for Mrs. Clendon's trophy. The winner was Miss Wilkes, with a net score of 46; Miss E. Read, 47; Miss Price, 48; Mrs. Clendon, 49; Miss Hunter, 49; Miss Gillespie, 55; Miss Dunlop, 57; and Miss Hague Smith, 61.

OTAGO.

The members of the Otago Ladies' Golf Club played their senior medal competition last week. Best cards handed in were:—

Mrs. Butterworth 107-17-90, Mrs. Gilray 113-21-92, Miss Gould 96-2-94, Mrs. Ward 101-6-95, Miss C. Williams 112-10-97.

The competition for the Championship of the Otago Ladies' Golf Club has now been completed. Mrs. Dodson and Mrs. Ward met in the finals, the former winning by 2 up and 1 to play after a very level game. In the Consolation Match for those who did not qualify for the Championship, Miss Law was the successful competitor.

RICHMOND HILL.

The ladies' monthly medal match was played last week. The following were the best net scores:—Mrs. Hamilton 82, Miss Steeds 89, Mrs. Harley 98, Miss Gosset 98, Miss Pratt 103, Miss Selby 105, Mrs. Rawlins 105, Mrs. Lawrence 106, Mrs. Dobbin 109, Mrs. Hargreaves 112, Miss Shand 116, Mrs. Fisher 136.

NELSON.

The senior medal was won by Miss Adams, 107-17-90.

The C grade match, 14 holes, resulted as follows:—Miss Maginnity, 95-32-63; Miss Bisley, 102-38-64; Mrs. Bigg-Wither, 111-47-64.

The third round of Mrs. Glasgow's trophy (match play, bogey handicap) is being played this week.

The Golf Club is asking for tenders for the erection of a sitting-room for the ladies and a smoking-room for the men. These extra rooms will be a great acquisition to the club.

NAPIER.

The members of the Napier Ladies' Golf Club played their monthly medal match for May, with the following results:—

A Section.—Mrs. Bernan, 104, 19-85; Miss C. Hindmarsh, 112, 26-86; Miss Kettle, 103, 16-87; Miss Dean, 106, 16-90.

B Section.—Mrs. Keely, 127, 38-89; Miss Miller, 132, 40-92; Miss Brabant, 127, 34-93.

The Napier Club intend holding their annual tournament the week previous to the New Zealand tournament, from August 29 to 23 (inclusive). Programmes, with full details, will be sent out later.

TARAHUA.

At Tarahua last week the ladies played a foursome medal handicap for silver buttons presented by the club. The new greens were in good order. Results:—Mrs. Cooke and Miss Furlong, 1st; Mrs. Neal and Mrs. List, 2nd; Miss F. Putt and Miss Hammond, 3rd.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

The second round for the Weston Cup was played at Ngamotu in perfect weather. The ground was fast, and consequently there was a lot of run on the ball. Results:—Miss Brewster beat Miss Perry-Smith, 2 up and 1; Mrs. Whetter beat Miss Glasgow, 5 up and 4; Miss Stephenson beat Miss Hall, 4 up and 3; Miss Read beat Miss Blundell, 3 up and 2; Mrs. Johns beat Mrs. Paton, 4 up and 3; Miss McKellar beat Mrs. Glasgow, 1 up; Miss Ryan beat Mrs. Hutton, 2 up.

The tie on the first round between Miss Bewley and Mrs. R. A. Gray was played off, Miss Bewley winning 3 up and 2.

WESTPORT.

At the annual meeting of the Westport Golf Club, held in the county office recently, the following ladies' committee was elected for the season: Mrs. Moss, Misses Enright, Harkness, Rayfield, and Snodgrass. At a meeting held afterwards Miss Snodgrass was re-elected secretary, and it was decided to play for the Golf Union medals and Gothard Challenge Cup, the fourth Saturday in each month, and club trophies on the second Saturday.

The first medal match of the season was played last week. The grass was exceptionally long, so good scoring was quite out of the question. The best cards handed in were:—Miss Enright, 113-28-85; Miss Snodgrass, 97-8-89; Miss J. Bailie, 116-24-91; Mrs. Wilson, 131-40-91; Mrs. Moss, 118-23-95.

In a bogey match the best scores were: Mrs. Wilson (handicap, 30), 6 down; Miss Snodgrass (6), 7 down; Mrs. Munro

(18), 8 down; Mrs. Tyers (19), 9 down; Miss J. Bailie (18), 9 down; Mrs. Moss (17), 9 down.

GISBORNE.

The first monthly medal competitions of the season was played on the links of the Poverty Bay Golf Club last week, but in spite of the fine weather the scoring was not at all good.

The A division was won by Mrs. F. T. Morgan, 102-18-84, and the B division by Miss L. King, 115-34-81.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The May monthly medal match was played at Shirley, but owing to a great portion of the links being top-dressed the scores were not good. The following were the best scores returned:—

Senior.—Miss D. Fisher, gross score 104-handicap 14-net 90; Miss B. Wood, 101-9-92; Miss Cracroft Wilson, 99-6-93; Mrs. Donald, 111-18-95; Mrs. Symons, 114-19-95; Miss Cowlishaw, 106-10-96; Mrs. Vernon, 123-25-98.

Junior.—Mrs. Stevenson, 136-40-96; Mrs. H. Wood, 124-28-98.

On Friday, May 10th, a bogey match was played at Shirley for prizes presented by Mrs. Duncan Macfarlane. The following were the best scores returned:—

Senior.—Miss N. Campbell (handicap 5), 2 down; Miss D. Fisher (11), 3 down; Miss Cracroft Wilson (5), 4 down; Miss P. Anderson (11), 4 down; Miss B. Wood (7), 5 down; Mrs. Hill (17), 9 down.

Junior.—Miss M. Newton (30), 5 down; Miss Lucas (30), 5 down; Mrs. H. Wood (20), 7 down.

The New Beginning.

By "The Stymie."

The average golfer, whether he be of those who "play in the frost or in the thaw" of a city course in winter, or of those who emulate the winter serenity of the dormouse where golf is concerned, is wont with the return of the spring to cherish fond but usually fallacious hopes of a big improvement in his game. The man who plays in winter expects that the better lies and serener air of the spring will completely rehabilitate "his game," which during the "off season" has been about as much "off" as it well could be. The man who has not played throughout the bad months nourishes the idea that the period of rest will, somehow, have enabled him to forget those ill-habits which produce the tops and scuffs, the slices and socketings, of the bygone summer. Vain hope! for long after we have forgotten our faults, we discover to our cost that they have not forgotten us.

That is not to say, all the same, that their ideas are wholly without foundation. Quite the reverse, and if players would only set the right way to work they ought to be able to make this time the opportunity for improving their play out of all knowledge. Unfortunately, their habit is to begin the season in the same purposeless and happy-go-lucky fashion as they began the previous one, and the vague hope that somehow things will turn out all right this year usually proves a very small and valueless asset when a dividend has to be declared in a Monthly Medal round.

I have small hesitation in saying that a very large percentage of golfers are conscious, at least at times, of the wish that they had the whole game to begin over again. Even quite fair players, possessing a long and arduously acquired experience of play, often realize that they cannot improve their game because they know it too well, and believe, rightly or wrongly, that they would have more chance of attaining ultimately to the glory of a lower handicap if they could be able to begin right from the beginning again. They are, indeed, probably quite wrong in so thinking, for were a fresh beginning possible, it would most likely take them into faults and difficulties, it may not be the same as those they at present labour under, but not less irritating or less apt to result in scores of vexatious dimensions. Yet the idea suggests the question: How much, and how, can the average golfer hope to improve his game at this season.

In the first place, nothing is more easy, and at the same time nothing is more fallacious, than for the player who has been enjoying a spell of rest, to

imagine that his reflections during that period, and it may be, his practice swing, with a cork in the back garden, have revealed unto him this or that minor error of grip, swing, or stance which has been the cause of all his many bad and still more numerous indifferent shots of previous seasons. When a player makes even what seems to him the most radical alteration in some detail of his style, he will usually be astonished, if he cares to take the opinion of all too candid friends, to learn that his swing seems to them to be still the same old sixpence, and even when the alteration is pointed out to them it is ten to one that they fail to recognise any change. To the onlooker, at any rate, the radical characteristics of his swing are the same as they have always been, and it is too much to hope that there will be any such miraculous improvement in the results.

Besides, it seems reasonable, if the player is going to turn over a new leaf, to ask that he should not attempt any patchwork of his old style. Let him rather start out with the idea of seeing that everything is right—and a lesson or two from the club pro. will do more to make sure of this than anything—rather than with the idea of sorting out one particular error which may or may not be the cause of the mischief.

The usual plan of the player who does not consider, has nothing at all to recommend it. If he does not play through the winter it is presumably owing to lack of opportunity, which only the lengthening days can give him again. He falls into the error, however, of delaying the start of his season until he can get a complete round, which is usually a match, friendly or otherwise, and in which he is almost certain to fall into all his old faults with a good few new ones thrown in, simply owing to his absurd effort to leap into what he is pleased to consider his true form all at once.

He would do far better to remember that long before the evenings draw out sufficiently to allow of a full round after business, there is sufficiently long light to allow of desultory, but still very useful practice. This, in any time, is his chance to do a little of that practising of particular strokes which he is so reluctant to waste time on afterwards when it becomes possible to secure a match. Let him take out his driver and half a dozen balls to the first or second tee of an evening. By that time more fortunate players will all have reached the homeward half of the course, and he can slog away to his heart's content without disturbing anyone. Other evenings should see him out for practice with his putter. There is nothing which will give him greater confidence when he starts play again than the knowledge that his work on the greens will not fail him when the time comes.

Another point that is worth remembering is that golf being what it is, the queerest of games, there is always a risk of a player losing his grip of the very strokes of which he deems himself surest. I have known a player who was remarkably strong with his cleek shots, and not a little proud of them, too—perhaps because they formed so bright a contrast with the other departments of his game—go off that most useful club completely during a period of enforced rest and never recover his old-time ability with it. For this reason the player would be well advised to start the new season by a little practice with the clubs with which he knows himself to be really proficient, and having got into form with these, then to turn his attention to the clubs of which he is doubtful. There is more than one good reason for this advice. For if he takes

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