

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, handicaps 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.

Cambridge Trip.

THE South Auckland Association has got together a good team to meet the Auckland Club tourists, and a close match is expected. As the matches are being played on King's Birthday, I will not be able to give any account of the games till next week. The Auckland team, consisting of W. B. Colbeck, A. N. Howden, Dr. Bamford, J. B. Lusk, F. J. Sharland, P. Lawrence, H. G. Stringer, R. Miller, J. L. R. Bloomfield, E. Cave, S. Carr, Dr. Fairclough, J. B. Macfarlane, and G. Pierce, left Auckland on Saturday, most of them travelling in the 4.15 train, after having a game at Middlemore. I have little doubt that some of the team will find the Cambridge course pretty tricky, especially the 4th and 6th holes. The 4th hole, or "the bluff," as it is called, has caused many a good card to be destroyed, and the Willows, or 6th hole, has nearly as bad a reputation. Local knowledge is a great help on a course like Cambridge, but being only nine holes, I look to our men to learn the fine points quickly. There was no fixture on the match card for Saturday, owing to so many going away. During the week one match in the A grade of the captain's prize was played. Colbeck meeting H. Horton. The first few holes gave promise of a very close finish, but after the round was half over Colbeck went steadily ahead, and ran out a winner, 5 up and 3. Colbeck is very consistent at present, and though his handicap is now only 1, I look for him to win a match or two very shortly. His round against Horton was approximately 80. He did not play out the third, and was 75 for the other seventeen holes. Burns and MacCormick play off their tie on Monday morning, and should furnish a close game. The touring team could have been strengthened if these two players had been able to travel.

Oval Shafts and Grips.

A new shaft for brassy, or driver, is to be placed on the market at Home, and will no doubt drift out to these parts. The shaft I have seen described is said to give another 20 or 30 yards on to the length of the drive. The oval shaft, or angle shaft, as the introducer calls it, is made with the flat side of the oval, not quite square to the ball, the top edge being turned away from it as it were. The idea is that when the club is being swung edge forward it retains its full stiffness, while when the flat side faces the line of swinging it becomes whippy and springy, and the oval is so arranged that, in conjunction with the natural turning of the wrists, the club is kept stiff until it is just coming on to the ball, when its full whip comes in, and so, it is claimed, the extra 20 yards is gained. Another shaft has been introduced, which is almost triangular to fit the natural formation of the hands when closed, and it is also provided with a sunk place to take the left thumb. This should be of great assistance to those players that cannot manage the overlapping grip with any degree of ease or comfort. There are also two new balls just ready to be put on the market, which the makers and those who have tried samples, declare will fly further than any ball yet introduced. It seems to me the troubles of the course architect are only just beginning.

The Handicapper.

When a long handicap man wins a match, the handicapper is reviled by all but the lucky winner. I wonder how local handicappers would feel if they had the experience that befell the Emsdon (Melbourne) handicapper a week or two back. In the first medal of the season, three players tied for first place with net scores of 62. Two had handicaps of 24, and the other player one for 27.

Permanent Course at Middlemore.

During last week a number of the holes at Middlemore were measured, and in the course of a few days, when the actual lengths have been decided on, the new tees will be put in hand. During this planting season, I think the committee should see about putting in a few plantations as bunkers. Going to the fifth and sixth holes would be a good place to start. A few trees at the back of the first and 17th greens would also be a good plan, as a background is needed at both these holes. The green at the tenth hole has been repaired, and will be ready for use in a few weeks. The temporary green at the tenth is very rough, and it will be a pleasure to get away from it.

Hand and Eye.

Norman Brookes, the famous tennis player, is also a finished performer at the golf links. In the Royal Melbourne Club Championship he has secured the substantial lead of six strokes at the end of the second round, and, barring a bad relapse, should be the winner. His rounds were 79 and 84. The 79 is the only one less than eighty in the two rounds played, while the 84 was played under trying weather conditions.

Auckland Golf Club.

The weather spoiled the golf on Saturday at the Middlemore links, though a few contested games were fought out between W. B. Colbeck and E. A. Dargaville in the semi-final of the A grade of the Captain's Prize tourney, the former winning by two strokes. Dargaville started well by winning the first two holes, but Colbeck's eyes. The third was halved, and the fourth was Colbeck's in a beautifully played 4, reducing Dargaville's lead to one up. The fifth and sixth were halved, and Dargaville recovered his lead of two-up by winning the seventh in 3. Colbeck, however, made matters all square at the turn by winning the eighth and ninth in fives, Dargaville during his mashie at the latter when in a good position. Colbeck took the lead for the homeward journey with a 3 to Dargaville's 4. The 11th was halved, and Dargaville made the game all square at the 12th with a four, but Colbeck was one up again at the 13th. The 14th was halved in well-played fours. Going to the 15th the players were heavily handicapped by the weather, and Colbeck won in five, making him 2 up and 3 to go. Colbeck dropped well to edge of 14th green, and Dargaville, finding the creek the match appeared over, but he recovered with clever mashie and holing out with next the hole was halved in 3. This made Colbeck down 1 to 2, notching the 17th in five to his opponent's six, he won his way into the final round of the tourney.

Hogey competition also played was won by Colbeck, with Dargaville second, very few of the small setts completing the round. During the week W. B. Colbeck beat H. Horton five up and three, and R. O. Gardner beat I. Storey two up in the captain's prize tourney.

The continuous putting competition for May was won by E. A. Dargaville, with a score of 22 for the 12 holes. Other cards returned were—W. B. Colbeck 23, H. G. Stringer 23, H. D. Bamford 24, B. MacCormick 24, E. Horton 24, F. J. Sharland 25. This competition is becoming so popular that the committee are considering making the periods fortnightly for the future.

Waitemata v. Maungakiekie.

A match between the Waitemata and Maungakiekie Golf Clubs was played on Saturday, when, despite the heavy rain, the games were enjoyed, and some good golf was provided. The A teams of the two clubs played on the One-tree Hill links, where each club won five games, the B teams meeting on the Waitemata links, where each club also won five games, so the match ended all square. The results of the various games were as follow: Waitemata players being mentioned first.—A Teams (at One-tree Hill)—Penman beat Burns, 3 up and 2 to play; Kempthorne lost to MacCormick, 4 up and 3 to play; Johns beat Kirker, 4 up and 3 to play; Henson beat Harker, 5 up and 3 to play; Balgarnie lost to C. F. Gardner, 3 up and 2 to play; Sutton lost to Wynyard, 4 up and 3 to play; Norton beat Morepoch, 5 up and 3 to play; Mickle beat Dudley, 8 up and 7 to play; Jeffries lost to R. G. Griner, 4 up and 2 to play; Malender beat Ridings, 5 up and 4 to play.

B Teams (at Waitemata).—McNeill lost to Reid, Federham lost to Chennell, Hobbs lost to Thacher, Bush beat Le Ruz, Cousins lost to Ward, Dimant beat Taylor, R. Macky beat Cooke, R. Macky lost to Grant, Simmonds beat Parkes, Haldow beat Feaseck. The return match will be played on August 3.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Tussock Cup.

Christchurch once more holds the Tussock Cup. The match was played at Shirley on Saturday week, each club being represented by teams of eight, and Christchurch won decisively by 8 games to 4. Wellington was represented by a strong side, consisting of A. D. S. Dunwan, A. J. Abbott, R. L. D. Kidston, M. W. Horton, K. D. Duncan, J. B. McEwan, C. St. G. Gore, and L. C. Hales. The Christchurch team consisted of B. Wood, H. E. Wright, B. C. Rutherford, J. Forbes, W. T. D. Harman, R. Trolove, S. K. Sleigh, H. R. Brittan. Previous matches have been confined to singles, but on this occasion four-ball matches were added. The results of the matches were as follow, the Christchurch players being placed first:—

Four-Ball Match.—Wood and Wright 1, beat Duncan and Abbott 0; Rutherford and Forbes 1, beat Kidston and Horton 0; Harman and Trolove 1, all square with K. Duncan and McEwan 1; Sleigh and Brittan 0, lost to Gore and Hales 1. Christchurch 2 1/2, Wellington 1 1/2.

Singles.—Wood 3, v. Duncan 1; Wright 1, v. Abbott 0; Rutherford 1, v. Kidston 0; Forbes 1, v. Horton 1; Harman 0, v. K. Duncan 1; Trolove 1, v. McEwan 1; Sleigh 1, v. Gore 0; Brittan 1, v. Hales 0. Christchurch 5 1/2, Wellington 2 1/2. Totals: Christchurch 8, Wellington 4.

Although so decisive a victory was rather unexpected, still local players generally expected Christchurch to win. Besides the knowledge of the course, in which the local men have an advantage, the fact of the visiting team having to travel is another factor of importance. Christchurch is also well off for sound players near the scratch mark, more so, perhaps, than any other club in New Zealand. Wellington were without Bidwell, but Christchurch were also without Lusk, otherwise the teams were very representative. The next match will be played at Wellington in October. Perhaps naturally, each club has won the cup twice on its own links and lost twice on the foreign links. The difference between the sandy Shirley and the more or less clayey Wellington easily accounts for the fact. A good shot in sandy country is often no good on heavy turf, and vice versa.

The match which created most interest was that between Wood and Duncan. It was not disappointing in one respect but was so in others. There was seldom much between the players, but the scores were very poor for such players. Neither Wood nor Duncan should be over 80 at Shirley, but both players were in the eighties. Duncan failed chiefly on the greens where he is usually deadly, and Wood was weak in the short approach, a very unusual thing for him. The greens were excellent, but the top-dressing furrows were very heavy, and allowed of no run on the balls.

Duncan made one noteworthy recovery. At Land's End he topped his second, hit his third into a bunker, got out in 4, on the green (a difficult one to approach in 5), and holed in 6. Wood, overrunning, lost the hole.

The matches between Sleight and Gore, and Trolove and McEwan were very close, as was the finish of the match between Forbes and Horton. Forbes held the lead all the way, but Horton came with a rush at the end and squared a game that was apparently lost. Wright played probably the best golf for Christchurch, and his win from Abbott was the result. The steady Rutherford was too steady for Kidston, and Brittan excelled himself.

The closest game in the four-ball was that between Harman and Trolove, and K. Duncan and McEwan. There was never more than one hole between the sides, and when the 17th had been halved in 3 the game was square. Trolove here holed out in 3 with his mashie, but McEwan equalised by sinking a 12ft putt for the half. Rutherford and Forbes (C) accounted for Kidston and Horton by 6 and 5, a big difference in a four-

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