

# 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-icaps 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.

(Special Correspondent.)

THE club fixtures of the Auckland Golf Club are nearly at an end for this season, but it seems highly probable that a number of members will be found playing all through the summer. I understand the course is to be kept cut all the summer, and, judging by the good work done by the pony-mower up to date, conditions should be splendid. Players will also find that straightness will be necessary, as the fairway is only being cut 2 1/2 chains wide, and the grass will get very rank outside the line of cutting. Summer golf at Middlemore is most enjoyable. It is a good thing to start rather late than the usual winter time and play later, catching the second train to town after tea at the clubhouse. I hope quite a number of members will be regular attendants this year, as they are bound to feel the benefit of the extra practice when next season's matches start.

While on the subject of matches, I think the Auckland Club would do well to play their championship earlier in the season. It is very late to be playing a final half-way through October.

### All-day Match.

A 36-hole Medal handicap is to be played on Labour Day, October 28, for a trophy presented by Mr Downes. Players arrange their partners. This is, I think, the first occasion on which the club has tried an all-day match. One hopes the field will be large. I have heard of several other trophies which are to be played for after the regular matches are over. This should help to encourage the summer players.

### The New Greens.

The new greens, which were played on for the first time last week, are a great success. A few players object to the hummocks, but nearly every player on Saturday last was very complimentary. Visiting golfers from Southern clubs will find more variety on the Auckland Club greens than on any others in New Zealand. Most clubs believe in the severely level surface, but my own opinion is that a little variety in the way of hummocks is a good thing, always supposing the surface is good, and the surface of the new greens at Middlemore is splendid.

### Vardon's Ambition.

It is freely stated that Harry Vardon is specially keen on winning the championship of France and the News of the World Tournament, the two big professional events in which he has not been successful up to this season. He made a great effort to win both this year, and only lost the French event by one stroke, while the cable tells us that the News of the World event is his at last, he having beaten Ray on the last green in the final, which was played at Sunningdale on the 4th of this month.

### Auckland Club Championship Final.

In playing the final of the Auckland Championship last year Burns and Colbeck put up a very fine game, the golf was good, and the finish as close as could be desired. Inspired by the memory of this fine game, quite a large number of enthusiasts turned out on Saturday to follow this year's final between the same players. Unfortunately the spectators were badly treated, as though the game went to the last green before Burns won, the play was not as good as expected. The morning round was especially poor. Neither player was sure in any part of the game. The morning's play does not need a full description. Colbeck started off by winning the first two holes. Burns won the third, and then at both the 4th and 5th missed easy putts in each case for the win. The 6th Burns got a good four, and squared the game. At the 7th Burns got three to Colbeck's four, but the hole was not well played. The 8th

was halved in six. Burns drove into the swamp, and Colbeck was short. An easy win for Colbeck should have been the result, but a simple putt was missed, and a-half resulted. Burns won the 9th, five to six, and turned 2 up. This lead he increased to 3 up at the 11th, getting 3 to Colbeck's 4. The next three holes went to Colbeck with three fives, and the game was square again. A good four at the 15th put Colbeck 1 up, only to lose his lead by bad play on the green at the 16th. Burns took the next two holes in 3, and was 2 up at the adjournment.

Second Round.—Though the wind had increased in force when the second round started, the play was decidedly better. As in the morning, Colbeck won both the first two holes, and the match was square again. The 3rd and 4th were halved in 5, Colbeck's putt at the 4th running round the hole. The 5th saw Burns the victim of a dead stymie, and he lost the hole. The 6th was halved in 4. At the 7th both got good balls, but Colbeck's approach was weak, and Burns won with a 3 to 4—all square. The 8th saw Burns in the ditch again, and after playing 3 he picked up, and Colbeck was 1 up. The 9th was halved in 6, after poor short play. The 10th 10th seemed to trouble both players, and it was once more halved in 5. The 11th saw both get good threes. The hedge at the 12th caught Colbeck's drive, and Burns squared the game. The 13th and 14th both went to Burns in sixes to Colbeck's sixes. The 15th was practically the deciding hole of the match. Colbeck lay dead in 3, and Burns holed a splendid putt of 8 feet for the half. The 16th saw another poor tee shot from Burns, and Colbeck reduced the lead to 1. The 17th was halved in 3, after Colbeck played a poor approach, running practically through the green. Dorny one. Colbeck got the longest ball at the 18th, but after the seconds had been played they were about equal as to position. Colbeck was short with his approach, while Burns was on the green. Two putts by each player, and a-half in 5 was the result, and Burns was once more champion. This is his fourth successive win.

The course was in splendid order for the match, and one cannot find excuses for the standard of play. Burns has been much below his form for some time now, but Colbeck has been playing well, and was expected to win.

## WELLINGTON.

(Special Correspondent.)

October 15th.

There is a bachelor's establishment in Wellington, where golf has eaten in like a canker. One has golf with porridge in the morning, and restless souls toss about at night, muttering in their sleep concerning missed putts, sliced drives and fearful "logies." The house in question has now to its credit two out of the three club championships of Wellington. H. R. H. Balneavis won the Hutt one, and on Saturday last M. W. Horton won the Miramar championship from R. L. D. Kidston by 0 up and 5 to play. These three players are all in the same house, and there are soft whispers that they'll go eyes out for the Wellington championship at Heretaunga to complete the hat-trick. Horton finished the morning round two up on his opponent, and in the afternoon he increased it and won by six up. Horton won the same championship three years ago, and it is quite probable that he will hold it again. The Tucson cup goes to him for one year, and he gets a prize presented by the club captain, Mr. P. C. Prebble. It will be remembered that it was Horton who put up such a battle with "Boston" Kennaday in the N.Z. Championship. His name is in the American book of golf as the holder of the record for the longest drive. Under ordinary conditions, and without any wind, he drove 340 yards. The figures are indeed astonishing, but I took occasion to pace out a drive of his on the Wellington course,

and it was roughly 310 long paces—approximately yards. And this with not more than six yards run for the ground was absolutely sodden. He quaintly explained that he held the record for U.S.A. for some years until "some fellow came along and beat me on frozen ground with a 348 yards hit." Kennaday is now farming at Nelson, and up to the time he came to Wellington last month, he had not had more than half a dozen rounds of golf in about four years—since he left Boston.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

(Special Correspondent.)

### Shirley.

Medal handicaps were played at Shirley on Saturday, resulting as follows: E. T. Shores (4) 82, C. H. Hewlett (13) 82, H. H. Knight (9) 82, C. T. Clarke (21) 82. Shores and Knight play off for the senior medal, and Clarke and Hewlett for the junior. The number of competitors was fewer than usual, a good many players having turned their attention to other pursuits. The scores were not good, as, under ordinary conditions, 77 will hardly win a medal at Shirley. The weather was warm, a light N.W. wind blowing steadily all day. The high scores may partly be attributed to the long grass which now abounds. The growth has been tremendous, and though the fairways have been cut by the new machine it is very easy to find the long grass. The course at present is admirably bunkered by the long grass, and hardly one crooked shot can escape the penalty. This is as it should be, but it is rather a nuisance looking for (and often not finding) one's ball.

The Committee has decided, on the recommendation of the Greens Committee, to start play on the new course in about four weeks. It will be impossible to play the permanent course in full before next autumn, but one closely approximating to it can be laid out. It will involve one or two crossings and one temporary green, but this matters little, being only a temporary inconvenience. The final course will follow Soutar's plan to the 15th hole, but the last three holes will differ essentially. At least it will be laid on a scientific basis, and will not be a collection of haphazard holes.

### Subscriptions.

The Committee has decided to call a general meeting of the Club at the end of this month to consider the question of raising the subscription to 5 guineas. It will also be proposed that a penalty for non-payment in three months from due date be instituted. In making the suggested increase the Club will only be following the example of Auckland, Wellington, and, I think, Dunedin, all of which clubs have found that 4 guineas is too low. Of course, it cannot be denied that it is possible to have golf for the lower subscription, but it has been found impossible to give golf of a first-class order and make ends meet. The question resolves itself into the simple one, Do members prefer to save a guinea a year, or to have first-class links to play on? I hope the proposal will be carried. As to the other point of inflicting a penalty for non-

payment of subscriptions by a given date, I feel sorry that such a proposal should be necessary. Members who do not pay until the year is almost over show little consideration for those who are managing the affairs of the Club. It would do some of them good to try it on in a big English or Australian club. I was in the office of the secretary of the Royal Sydney Golf Club one January, about the 4th or 5th of the month. The cheques simply littered his desk, and he told me that more than half had already come in, and he expected the rest during the month. This is not superior virtue on the part of the Sydney players, but result of a system which merely considers the question of whether a man's subscription is paid or not by a fixed date. In most places they don't fine; they suspend and even strike off the name of the non-payer.

### Richmond Hill.

The final of the Richmond Hill Club Championship, played over 36 holes, was won by A. C. Fryer, who beat C. H. Seymour by 3 and 2. The final for the Ravensley Cleeck resulted in a win for G. K. Webber and Miss D. Meares.

### New Brighton.

The favourable season experienced this year has had an excellent effect at New Brighton. The greens, which were top-dressed, have done very well, and the course gives great promise of future excellence. It is a pity it is so short, for the country is all that could be de-

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