

match at Nelson, indicating a slight falling-off in the Lady Champion's powers. These two ladies, playing together, easily secured the Doubles.

A description of this meeting would not be complete without some mention of the brilliant form shown by J. C. Peacock, the rising young Auckland player. His display against Parker, whom he nearly put out in the penultimate round, was very meritorious, and gave promise of greater successes in the near future.

The last Championship Meeting was held at Dunedin for the first time since 1892. For a wonder the weather, with the exception of a drizzling Scotch mist on the first day, was beautiful, and the ground was in very good order, though rather on the slow side. C. C. Cox, of Christchurch, was the bright particular star who pulled off the Singles, and, in partnership with J. U. Collins, the Championship Doubles. It was, of course, a pity that Hooper, the then champion, was unable to attend, but Cox played a very fine game, and his displays against H. A. Parker and J. M. Marshall were of a high order. His volleying was the best I have seen in New Zealand. He has not Collins' reach, but his power of anticipation makes him very difficult to pass. He has a nasty service which keeps to the backhand and bounds high, and this he generally follows up to the net. His driving from the baseline is both accurate and well placed, but is not severe, and herein, I think, lies his vulnerable point. Cox made his first appearance in championships at Nelson in 1896, but was beaten by Hooper in the first round. The final of the Singles, when Cox was opposed by Collins, proved only of moderate interest, as both men were obviously tired, and seemed, moreover, to be afraid of each other. There were occasional flashes of brilliancy, but these were of a very fitful character. Both men played far better lawn tennis in the earlier rounds.

The exhibitions in the Championship Doubles were the feeblest I have ever seen. Everybody seemed out of practice, and, as Cox and Collins were the only pair that could be trusted to put two consecutive balls over the net, they won all their matches in rather hollow fashion. Both are first class double players, and it was a pity they were not extended, as a good double is unquestionably the prettiest thing in lawn tennis.

The Ladies' Singles were, as usual, a gift to Miss Nunneley, who only lost one game in the final, Miss C. Lean, of Christchurch, being her unfortunate opponent. These two ladies competed for the Doubles, and won the event, though Misses Ramsay and Campbell gave them a hard match in the final.

I have now completed this brief account of the Championship Meetings that have been held in New Zealand, and do not intend to enter into any comparisons in this article. I may perhaps go the length of saying that, after carefully weighing everything, and giving the matter full consideration, I am of the opinion that Minden Fenwicke has been the best all-round player in the colony.

Several players have occasionally given exhibitions of the game probably superior to Fenwicke's best, but have not displayed continued excellence in various parts of the colony and under all conditions, and it is this feature in Fenwicke's game, combined with his splendid record, that has influenced me most in this decision.

In the foregoing summary—I can call it no more—I have of necessity hardly mentioned many players whose performances would fairly entitle them to some space were I writing a history of the game in New Zealand. Perhaps at some future date, I may be able to elaborate this sketch, and so place on record matches and incidents that have possibly already passed from the memory of those interested in the game.

