

The first junior contest, Auckland v. Gordon, produced, as anticipated, an interesting finish, resulting in favour of Auckland by five wickets and two runs. The Gordonites in their second essay put together 115 for a loss of five wickets, leaving their opponents 76 to get to win. This Auckland succeeded in doing for a loss of five wickets. Excellent cricket was displayed on both sides, Marsden (35, not out) and Airey (18) being most prominent with the willow for the victors, whilst T. Gould (54, not out) and Cowan (24, not out) were the principal run getters for Gordon.

Wanderers met with their first reversal for the past two seasons at the hands of Parnell, who were returned victors by 17 runs. The teams were level pegging in their first innings, either side having 71 to their credit, and Parnell going to the wickets for a second time were dismissed for a total of 44, and matters looked all over as though Wanderers were coming out on top. But a surprise awaited them in the destructive bowling of Angus and Edwards, the effective trundling of the twain disposing of the crack team for the meagre total of 27. The wickets fell like ninepins, Angus taking five for 13 runs. For Parnell, G. Dixon (16) was the principal contributor in the second innings, the excellent bowling of Pritchard and Waddingham accounting for this state of affairs. Looking over the performance of the Parnellites it is unaccountable that they should come out on top in contests with such teams as the Wanderers and Belmonts, and yet suffer defeat at the hands of Pitt Street Mutual and United. This is undoubtedly an illustration of the uncertainty of cricket.

The Belmont—North Shore match, contested at the marine suburb, resulted in a win for the visiting team, who defeated the Shoreites by 7 wickets and 3 runs. In the first innings twenty runs separated the opposing teams, Belmont having placed 86 to their credit as against the 66 scored by their opponents. Going to the wickets for the second time North Shore run up 70, but their bowling seemed to take little effect on the Belmonts, who put together 53 for a loss of 3 wickets, Morrison (17, not out), Brierly (11, not out), and Seccombe (11) being most conspicuous in the batting department, the first and last named being also responsible for eight of the Shore wickets, taking 2 for 14 and 6 for 30 respectively. For the losers, Brown (21) and Cuff (14) were the principal scorers.

In the Second Junior contest, Auckland v. United, the first mentioned scored the easiest of victories over United by 161 runs. In their first innings Auckland made 73, and disposed of their opponents for 26, and in their second essay made 120 as against the 6 registered by United. Allen (53) played capital cricket for the winning team, with Hamilton (13) and Greville (10) next best. Greville and Paul did great execution amongst the United wickets.

Belmont A. emulated the actions of their senior brethren of that ilk by defeating North Shore to the tune of 8 wickets and 3 runs, the scores being: Belmont, 48 and 20 for two wickets, total 68; North Shore, 36 and 29, total 65. Spurway and Gillespie were to the front with the leather, taking 5 wickets for 14 and 5 for 12 respectively.

The Parnell-Clarence match, which looked all over a good thing in the first innings for Clarence, who had placed 56 to their credit as against 28 compiled by Parnell, resulted in a win for the latter by 2 runs, they scoring 56 as against 26. Lynch (16) and Kilfoyle (14) batted best for the winning side, none of the Clarence players reaching double figures.

It is not often we hear of an eleven being downed for a total of 6 runs, but such was the case with United III. in their second innings against Auckland III. last Saturday.

The Britishers gained the decision over the Broken Hill cricketers by an innings and 8 runs. Rather a hollow drubbing, certainly.

Stoddart's team play Dandenong tomorrow (Friday), and Saturday. The fourth test match opens at Sydney on February 1st, when a great struggle for supremacy will be witnessed by those who have the pleasure of being present; whilst we across the water will anxiously await the results, hoping that at the conclusion of the contest the cable fiend will be able to record a victory for our Australian Cousins over the Mother Country.

The Wellington Cricket Association will send a representative team to play Hawkes Bay on the 16th and 18th of March.

The credit of the defeat of the crack junior team, Wanderers, is due to the bowling of Angus and Edwards—the former's performance with the leather being particularly good.

ATHLETICS.

Now that the Championship Meeting is drawing near I would impress upon our athletes the necessity of settling down to their training, as one and all must be cherry ripe when the time comes if we are to "top the poll" and bring the banner north. The test races will be held in about a fortnight's time, though I fear the committee have not acted wisely in the matter of selecting a time. A man may be brought up to concert pitch in order to run in the trials, and then go off, as two weeks is a long time to keep a man thoroughly strung up. Bull, Francis, Jones, and Roberts have been picked to run a quarter-mile test, and Jones and Roberts, I believe, straight out for the shorter events, which practically reduces the distance to a test between Bull and Francis. In the half-mile, Beere, Farquhar, O'Conner, and Bull are the selected, and I hear Francis will also compete: while for the one and three miles, Farquhar, Beere, Davis, O'Conner, and Bull will compete. Farquhar and Roberts intend leaving earlier than the rest of the team in order to have a couple of weeks on the Napier track, so I conclude neither of these men intend to run tests.

Unfortunately, Buchanan will not accompany our team to Napier, having ricked his back whilst on a yachting cruise recently.

Martin, Beere, and O'Conner are striding along in great style in view of the forthcoming meeting, which also may be said of Brady and Creamer, who are preparing themselves for the walks.

Secretary Wynyard notifies that the North Shore Amateur Athletic Club will hold its next gathering on Saturday, February 16th.

Several athletes have already started training for the March carnival, and others will no doubt start shortly.

King, the Sydney sprinter, has left Auckland. Prior to his departure I hear he was anxious to make a match with one of our leading amateur sprinters, offering to concede him six yards start in 100 yards for a large stake, but the latter declined, not wishing to break his amateur status.

Bert Davis, the long distance pedestrian, had the misfortune to get lost in the bush for a day at Ngaruawahia. He says he was prospecting for gold at the time of his misfortune.

A good number of the Athletic public intend, I believe, to take a run down to Napier with our boys to help them carry the banner back.

The well-known trainer, J. Pickering, has, I hear, been on the sick list.

Several of the local trainers have intimated their intention of accompanying the team to Napier.

Everyone will be pleased to hear that George Walker, the popular trainer, at present in the hospital, is gradually recovering from his attack of typhoid fever.

Entries for the Championship meeting close with the secretary to the N.Z.A.A. Association, Mr L. A. Cuff, on the 12th of February.

Tim O'Connor is, I hear, making preparations for his events, viz., throwing the hammer and putting the weight. I look forward to a good contest between Tim and McCormack, of Wellington.

The Canterbury Amateur Athletic Club has decided to hold a trial meeting in view of the forthcoming Championship Meeting at Napier. A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Webb, Cussack, and Wood, were appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

The Hawke's Bay A.A. Club have postponed their test races in connection with the Championship Meeting until February 2nd. Mr Gurr writes to say that everything is going well, and the men are training hard.

At the recent meeting of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association the following Auckland applications for re-instatement were favourably considered:—H. V. Burton, A. Anderson, A. J. Webber, and R. Oliphant.

Our Wellington correspondent writes me that Hempton will not take part in the Championship Meeting. This decision on the part of the champion, coupled with the probable loss of McCormack, will prove a great blow to Wellington's chance of annexing the banner, and I hope Hempton may be persuaded to alter his verdict, and that McCormack will obtain the necessary leave.

Mr Batkin will probably be appointed starter at the Napier championships.

F. C. White, who for so long held the high jump record, will be a competitor at the Championship Meeting.

"Sprinter," in the *Canterbury Times*, says:—"W. Hayward is now training at Lancaster Park, and tells me he will be a competitor at Napier provided he gets well. I hope he will train on all right, as with Hempton out of the road, he should be able to secure the hundred yards, and the club just now is very short of championship competitors." If he is to win he must beat Jones.

CYCLING.

Zimmerman is said to have netted something like £4000 upon his season's racing in Europe since June last.

A Miss Alice Mitchell, of Gore, Southland, accompanied by her young brother, recently rode from Gore to Christchurch, a distance of something like 355 miles, in seven days. Last week this peripatetic couple were in Wellington, and from a contemporary I learn that they were on their way to Auckland.

A lover of statistics has arrived at the conclusion that a cyclist who lives to be sixty spends five years in oiling his machine.

The result of a punctured tyre is always a windfall, and yet few riders can be convinced of it.

Reynolds, late of Auckland, will, according to a Southern paper, represent the City of the Plains in the cycling events at Napier.

YACHTING.

The Judge's Bay regatta comes off on Saturday, and with suitable weather will be good sport in every way. The yachting contests will be very close, and the entry list is a satisfactory one. The committee are doing their utmost to make it a success, and their efforts deserve a good return. It is safe to say that there has never been so much interest taken in a Judges Bay regatta as the present one is causing, and the winners of the four sailing events are very hard to pick. The course is arranged as near triangular as possible—up and down the harbour from the Arawata to a mark off the Bastion and out to Rangitoto Reef—so that each boat will have a good show on her best point. Added to this the spectators on the flagship will have the yachts in view the greater part of the afternoon.

On Saturday afternoon the Messrs Logan Bros. launched the new 5-rater for Waiheke. She lay at anchor off the firm's slip on Saturday and Sunday and her smart clipper-like appearance was the admiration of all yachting men. Dr. Coates should be proud of his little craft, and she will prove a welcome addition to Auckland's yachting fleet.

During the past week the majority of the yachts have been measured ready for the regattas. Some of the boats, especially the 2½-raters, have had to "sweat down" considerably to get under the measurement.

The regattas are drawing near, and the intending contestants were out on Sunday doing their preliminary. I hoped to obtain a little idea of the chances each of the competitors had in the coming carnivals, but they all appeared so evenly matched that I am as much in the dark as ever. This applies particularly to the 5-raters. The Yvonne was not out, and the Aorere and Thetis were each beating the other on different points, so that the result will depend to a great extent upon the direction and strength of the breeze. With a good wind and a beat I think the Aorere will do the trick, the steel yacht and the Yvonne fighting close up for second place. The other two competitors—Ngaru and Rangitira—in my opinion, have "Buckley's chance," but the race between them will be worth watching, as the owners each think their boat the fastest. My idea is that the Ngaru will beat the Rangitira, unless it is a light day. For a straight out tip I must give the Aorere the preference, as she has been showing pretty good speed lately.

In the 2½-rater race next Saturday there are five entries—Gloriana, Zinita, Daisy, Rogue, and Mahoe. On past performances the Gloriana will pull off this event, with the Daisy and Zinita close up.

The race for centre-board yachts in the Judges Bay regatta is creating a great deal of interest. I think the Lilian will be in first in this event, but she is a good-sized boat (about 3½ rating), and the Manola is too fast a boat to be given time. The Clio people also think they have a big cut in it. However, my idea is that the Manola will take the first prize.

The entries received on Saturday night for the sailing events in the Auckland Regatta, which takes place on January 29th, were very small, and the committee decided to keep the list open. The following are the entries:—Scow Race: Bee, Hobsonville. Yachts, 7-rating and over: Viking, Tawera, Volunteer. Trading vessels, 40 tons and under, exclusive of scows: Henry, Tay, Wanderer. Yachts, 5-rating and under: Toroa, Rangitira, Thetis, Aorere, Yvonne, Ngaru. Fishing boats, over 4 tons: Coocoe, Waimeri, Maroro. Fishing boats, under 4 tons: Italy, Venice. Centre-board boats, 30ft over all and under: Cynisca, Lilian, Manola. Yachts, 2½-rating and under: Rogue, Daisy, Zinita, Gloriana. Yachts, 2-rating and under: Mahoe, Waitangi. Open boats, 16ft and 20ft over all: Colleen, Violet, Minnie. Open boats, 13ft over all and under: My Jack, Bit o' Blue, Una.

The following entries were received for the Judges Bay regatta, to be held on Saturday next:—Yachts, 5-rating and under: Thetis, Ngaru, Aorere, Yvonne, Rangitira. Yachts, 2½-rating and under: Daisy, Rogue, Zinita, Gloriana, Mahoe. Yachts and fishing boats, centre-board, 4-rating and under: Clio, Zealandia, Venice, Manola, Italy, Kotiro. Open sailing boats, 18ft and under: Minnie, Irene, Bit o' Blue, My Jack, Violet.

By mistake Mr Duder's centre-board yacht, the Lilian, was entered to compete in the Auckland Regatta; she should have been entered for Judges Bay.

The Wellington Championship Regatta came off on Tuesday, and although the weather was very calm at the start, a splendid breeze sprang up afterwards, and some good racing eventuated. Space will not permit a detailed account of the races, but the following telegrams, received by the Logan Bros., will give a good idea of the two principal events:—"Wellington, 12.20—Pastime rounded Halswell Point two minutes before Waitangi, Mascotte close up. Good southerly breeze. Waitangi splendid show." "3.12—Waitangi winning easily. Atalanta leading second-class race." "5.20—Waitangi won easily. Rona, won second-class." This is a feather in Mr Logan's cap, to design, build, and sail the winner of a first-class championship. Wellingtonians make a great mistake if they think the Mascotte would have won in a breeze. The Waitangi would leave her hull down in a good thrash to windward. The Atalanta beat the Rona, but was disqualified for excessive rating, which was hard luck for the Napier sportsmen. The Waitangi got home 28 minutes ahead of the Mascotte.

ROWING.

The following are my anticipations for the various rowing events at the forthcoming regattas of Saturday and Tuesday next:—Maiden Gigs under 10st: St. George's R.C., with the Waitemata-City crew to fill second place. Junior Gigs, under 10st: The Waitemata-City crew should about win, with North Shore close handy. Senior Gigs, under 10st: Waitemata-City. Junior Gigs, open: St. George's, with West End as their most dangerous opponents. Senior Gigs, open: Auckland R.C. No. 1 crew. The sculling race for the Marshall Cup and gold medal attracts a field of seven, viz., Messrs. J. Sullivan, W. Logan, H. Cramond, A. Dacre, W. Brigham, G. H. Reston, and Cossar, and the winners should be found in either W. Logan or G. H. Reston. The Naval Volunteer Cutter Race will result in an interesting go between the Devonport Torpedo Corps and the Auckland Artillery, and I look to the latter to gain the judge's verdict. The Dinghy Race, for youths under 21 years of age, has brought out four competitors, and I think the struggle will lie between V. Masefield and J. M. Brigham, with the former for preference.