



AUCKLAND POLO CLUB'S ANNUAL SPORTS AND RACES.

TO BE HELD AT

POTTER'S PADDOCK, EPSOM,

ON

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, 1896.

First Event to start at 1.30 p.m.

President: Colonel Dawson. Vice-President: J. P. A. Philson, Esq. Stewards: Major Banks, Colonel Dawson, Mr E. Dennis O'Rorke, Dr. Sharman, Dr. A. C. Purchas, Mr Colegrove, Mr R. H. Wynyard, Mr W. R. Bloomfield, Mr C. E. Purchas, Mr H. C. Gorrie, Mr J. P. A. Philson, Mr H. O. Nolan, Mr H. C. Tonks, Mr W. Clarke, Mr A. Hanna, Mr Makgill. Judge: Thomas Morrin, Esq. Clerk of Scales: W. Percival, Esq. Clerk of Course: A. Selby, Esq. Starter: J. B. Kidd, Esq. Timekeeper: Adolph Kohn, Esq. W. R. Bloomfield, Esq., hon. sec.

Bending Competition, for Trophy.—First Stake 20yds from starting point. Stakes 5yds apart, and 18 stakes in course. Any competitor knocking over one stake, to be disqualified. To be run in heats.

Hurdle Race, for Trophy.—Six furlongs. Weight for age. Maximum weight, 11.7. Over four flights of hurdles.

Polo Ball Race, for Trophy. Ball to be hit from starting point round flag 220yds distant and back through goal posts. Ball to be hit from right to left round flag.

Auckland Polo Cup, for Trophy.—Weight for inches. Maximum weight, 11.7. Winner of Hurdles to carry 5lb penalty. Four furlongs.

Ladies's Bracelet, for Trophy.—Ponies to be nominated by ladies. Competitors to start with ribbons, gallop round post from right to left, one furlong distant, and back, dismount at starting point and lead lead pony to lady, who will thread the needle; when needle is threaded, remount and again gallop round post, from right to left, and finish with needle threaded. To be run in heats.

Cigar and Umbrella Race, for Trophy.—Competitors to stand with coats off, saddle on ground, and an unlighted cigar and closed umbrella; to mount and go once round the post, and finish with pony saddled, coat on, umbrella opened, and cigar lighted.

Steeplechase, for Trophy. Weight for inches. Maximum weight 11.7. Winner of Hurdle Race or Cup to carry 5lb penalty. One mile and a half.

The Slow 'Uns Stakes, for Cup presented by E. D. O'Rorke, Esq. For ponies owned by members of the Auckland Polo Club only, and approved by the Committee as qualified to compete. Winner of Cup, Hurdles, or Steeplechase ineligible. Minimum weight, 10st. List of eligible ponies to be seen at the office of the Secretary. Four furlongs.

Entries for Cup, Hurdles, and Steeple, 10s; other events, 5s.

Entries must be in the hands of the Hon. Sec., Government Insurance Chambers, Queen Street, by FRIDAY, the 10th April, by 5 p.m., accompanied by fees, names, description, and height of pony, and rider's colours.

W. READ BLOOMFIELD,
Hon. Secretary.

J. ALEXANDER.]

TELEPHONE 901.

[F. W. SMITH.

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AUCKLAND RUGBY UNION

The Annual General Meeting of the above Union will be held in the Club Room, Metropolitan Hotel, TO-MORROW (Friday), 10th April, at 8 p.m.

BUSINESS:

To Receive the Committee's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the past season, and the Election of Officers for the ensuing year.

To consider Proposed Alteration in the Boundary of the Grafton District, and to deal with applications for Affiliation.

G. H. DIXON,
Secretary.

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[By VIGILANT.]

CRICKET.

Unless the unexpected happens, the cricket season will be virtually concluded on Saturday, when Gordon and Auckland continue their battle for the senior championship, and Parnell and North Shore for first junior honours. In the case of the seniors, the Gordonites are confident of their ability to knock up something better than the 168 compiled by the Auckland eleven, providing they are favoured with good weather and wicket. If they can, well, of course, they win the championship, if they can't then we will witness another round, in which Gordon, Parnell, and Auckland will take part. In the junior ranks, Parnell, with over sixty to their credit for a loss of five wickets, after dismissing their North Shore opponents for a total of 68, look all over like placing themselves at the top of the first junior poll.

On Saturday last, a scratch Parnell team defeated the visiting team from the Thames by an innings and twenty-five runs. Going first to the wickets, Mr Kallender's (Parnell) team knocked up 149, towards which the infantile one contributed 70 in his vigorous style, E. T. Gould being next with 28, and the only other double figure men were C. J. Hemery and E. J. Greville, with 14 each to their credit. The Thamesites only managed to score 52 in their first essay, F. Billing, with 10, being the only double figure man, and strangely enough their second innings (following on) closed for exactly the same figure, Tracey Moresby (not out) 27, J. Laing 18, and A. Laing 11 being the two figure rungetters. For the Parnellites Labatt secured eight wickets in the first innings of the Quartzopolians, and in the second innings, Harrison accounted for nine.

A match in aid of the Brunnerton Relief Fund was also played between a scratch Parnell team and the Auckland Licensed Victuallers eleven, in which the latter proved victorious on a single innings game with the substantial majority of 51 runs, they scoring 114 as against the 63 of their opponents. For the winning team Cromwell (24), Arneil (20), and Elley (15) were the double figure men, while for Parnell, Colwill (14) Holle (13) and Brown (11) were top scorers, the remainder doing very poorly. Mr C. Phillips, secretary of the victorious team, informs me that over £20 has been raised in aid of the Brunnerton Fund, as the proceeds from the collection and sale of tickets.

ATHLETICS, Etc.

ATHLETIC CARNIVAL.

The combined strength of the Auckland and North Shore Amateur Athletic Clubs purpose holding a carnival on the Domain on Wednesday next, the proceeds from which will be devoted to the Brunnerton Relief Fund, and as considerable interest is being evinced in the fixture by outsiders and the public generally, it is to be anticipated that a large sum will be realised in aid of this laudable object. Already a very large number of tickets have been sold and it is believed that prior to the carnival several thousands will have found purchasers. The programme drawn out for the occasion at a special meeting of the committee on Thursday evening is a most attractive one as in addition to the usual pedestrian and wheel events there will be several novelty races including a half mile "go" for the almond eyed sons of the flowery land, a feature that it will be remembered took immensely at the Jubilee gathering of 1887. The one mile Relay Race should also find a good following as it is entirely new to Auckland devotees. The programme is as under:—100yds Handicap, 200yds Handicap, 440yds Flat Handicap, Half Mile Handicap, 120yds and 440yds Hurdle Handicaps, Pole Jump, Bicycle Handicap (for high ordinary machines), Five Mile Scratch Bicycle Handicap (Reynolds barrad), One Mile and a Half Bicycle Handicap, Three Mile Bicycle Handicap, 100yds Officials Handicap, One Mile Relay Race, 300yds Shop Assistants' Handicap.

Local merchants and trades people are responding most generously to the request to furnish trophies for competition at the carnival, and Mr B. J. Esam expects to solicit quite a number more.

Entries for all events on the programme closed last night (Wednesday) at the Metropolitan but too late for notice in these columns.

F. H. Creamer, "our" champion walker, is in training for the gathering, and if the sciatica does not trouble him again during his preparation, the Auckland public may expect to witness a meeting between him and A. Brady (one mile champion) over the two mile course. This alone should be worth going a long way to see, as the question as to which of the pair is the better man over this distance is decidedly open. F. H. Creamer is admittedly an improving man and Brady is in great form.

Mr B. J. Esam on the limit in the 100yds race for officials is quoted at a very short price, in fact punters tell me it's odds on, on the treasurer, despite his weight. If the race had been w.f.a. where would he have been?

After considerable correspondence, a match has at length been definitely settled for the Light-weight Championship of the Word (says *Sporting Life* of a recent date between our crack, Dick Burge, and the American champion, "Kid" Lavigne, whom our readers will remember as the recent conqueror of the coloured phenomenon, Joe Walcott. The men have agreed to box at 138lb (9st 12lb), weigh at four o'clock on the day in Derby week, for £500 aside, and a purse of £700 given by the National Sporting Club, and owing to the reputations of the opponents, the contest will doubtless excite unusual interest on both sides of the Atlantic.

A subscription list is open at Christchurch for the purpose of obtaining a testimonial for Mr. L. A. Cuff, in recognition of his nine years' service as secretary of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association. It is understood that he has permanently retired from the athletic arena, and will come to Auckland in the course of a week or two where he enters into business with his father. In speaking to the testimonial a southern writer says:—"I hope amateur athletes—and all who take any interest in athletics know the secretary of the Association either personally or by repute—will respond heartily to the call to assist in recognising in a substantial manner the nine years of work so satisfactorily carried out in their interests.

The South Canterbury Amateur Athletic Club will hold their twenty-sixth annual gathering at Timaru on May 6th and 7th. A programme has been courteously forwarded me by the secretary, and from it I gather that fourteen events will be decided on either day, one of the features of the second day's card being a One Mile Relay Race, similar to that which will be held on the Domain next week in the local carnival, in aid of the Brunnerton disaster.

Evidently Mr. N. L. Gurr is making a stir in matters athletic down New Plymouth way, as the local amateurs are now moving in the matter of the formation of an amateur athletic club.

A. Francis is credited with having won the Half-Mile Handicap from scratch at the Marton sports on March 25th in the remarkable time of 1min. 58 2-5sec.

The London Amateur Athletic Club will not issue a challenge to the New York Athletic Club for an International field meeting to take place in London during the present year. Speaking of the matter "Old Blue" in the *London Sporting Life* says:—"Nothing has given one more real pleasure for a long time than the recent decision of the London A.C. to abandon, for the present, the idea of sending a challenge to the New York A.C. for a return meeting. This will do more than anything else to restore universal confidence in our premier athletic organisation, which, I must frankly say, had begun to lose caste in many directions. For myself, I felt confident that the committee, if they were true to themselves and the traditions of the club, would not—could not—meet another team hailing from a club even now engaged in the herculean task of cleansing the Augean stable, *re* rank professionalism. By their own convictions thuswise, the New York A.C. tacitly admit that their 1895 all-conquering team was largely composed of professionals pure and simple. I honestly believe that the Americans are as tired of this sham-amateurism style of affairs as we are—in fact, recent wholesale suspensions