

The Wellington Referees' Association has decided that its members shall wear a white jersey when officiating as referee.

The Wairarapa Union proposes to make a tour of the North Island this season, playing the Bush, Hawke's Bay, and Manawatu. They also play the annual match with Wellington at Wellington.

The Management Committee of the Thames Rugby Union met on Friday evening last. Messrs Christie, McNeill, Sommerville, Greenslade, and Buckland (hon. secretary) were present. A letter from the Northern Rugby Union (Wairoa) re a Thames team returning the visit paid by the Wairoa team last season was considered, and it was resolved that a reply be forwarded stating that no promise could be made, but that the matter would be considered later on in the season. It was decided that the arranging of the junior fixtures be held in obedience. The opening of the season was fixed for the 16th inst., with the match, Thames v. Rovers. It was proposed by Mr McNeil, seconded by Mr Greenslade, that letters be forwarded to the secretaries of the senior clubs, asking for an expression of opinion as to affiliation with the Auckland Union, or as an alternative affiliation direct with the New Zealand Union. This motion, which concluded the business, was carried.

A meeting of delegates to the Ohinemuri Rugby Union was held at Waihi recently. Mr W. Cullen presided. Mr H. Poland's resignation as secretary was accepted, and Mr J. D. James (Waitekauri) was appointed to fill the vacancy. This Union being now affiliated with the Thames, a discussion arose over a selection committee for the representatives. It was left in the hands of the secretary to write to the Thames Rugby Union for particulars. It was resolved to form a Referees' Association, and that each club nominate a fit person to act as referee, such nominees to undergo an examination by the Thames officials appointed for the purpose. The successful candidates will act in a similar capacity for the Ohinemuri district. This is a step in the right direction, as it will ensure the services of a fully qualified referee for future cup matches.—*Advertiser*.

A meeting of the committee of the Auckland Rugby Union was held at the Metropolitan Hotel on Wednesday night, last for the purpose of considering the applications of Smith and Siddle to be permitted to play for City and Newton Clubs respectively, and the protest lodged by the Suburbs Club against permission being granted to Absolum to play for City. The requests of both of the first-mentioned players were acceded to, and after going into the evidence relating to Absolum, the committee saw no reason for altering their decision to the effect that he be allowed to play for City. It was decided not to send a delegate to the forthcoming conference of referees, to be held at Wellington.

It is to be regretted that the local Rugby Union cannot see its way clear to send a representative to the conference of referees, to be held in Wellington. The local union must know the ambiguous nature of the rules at present, and should support such conference, so that there will be one reading of the rules by allowing the referees to make what amendments they deem necessary, have the rules re-issued, and then try and do without any more tinkering for a few years, unless something of real importance crops up. It is hardly fair that the head-quarters of football in Auckland should refuse to lend their assistance to such a useful body as the Referees' Association.

I shall be glad to receive from secretaries of Rugby Unions a list of the dates arranged for the championship, cup, or senior contests connected with their Unions.

The Canterbury senior competitions for the week ended 2nd inst., resulted as follows:—Albion scored 8 points to Sydenham's nil; Christchurch beat East Christchurch by one goal, two tries (11 points) to one goal (5 points); Linwood defeated N'tu Aburiri by 13 points to 4; and Merivale scored 9 points to nil by Canterbury College.

The game at Woodend between Linwood and the N'tu Aburiri team (reports the *Lyttelton Times*) was of the roughest possible nature, sufficiently so to demand the attention of the Rugby Union.

On Saturday last Waitekauri defeated Karangahake by seven points to nil.

ATHLETICS.

PRESENTATION TO MR J. F. LOGAN.

On the eve of his departure for England Mr J. F. Logan was agreeably surprised to be asked to attend at the Metropolitan Hotel on Thursday night, when the clans of the local athletic circles gathered in strong force to assist at a hearty send-off to their chief, and also to make him a presentation. Mr B. J. Esam (vice-president and treasurer of the metropolitan club) presided, and had on his right Mr L. A. Cuff (ex-secretary of the N.Z. Amateur Athletic Association), on the left being seated Mr Logan and Messrs. Frank Lawry (M.H.R.) and Buchanan (president of the North Shore Club). Mr Esam, in rising to make the presentation to Mr Logan of an album containing the signatures of 336 athletes, said no one who had been identified with Mr Logan in athletic work could fail to recognise his ability, knowledge of rules, and sterling worth, and he had always been of great assistance to the local associations, and he had ever been assiduous in attending to the duties pertaining to president of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club, vice-president of the North Shore Club, and local delegate of the N.Z. Amateur Athletic Association;

Association, and vice-president of the Auckland Cricket Association, you have for many years identified yourself with us, and it affords us great pleasure to convey to you our high appreciation of the inestimable services you have rendered towards the development and welfare of all branches of outdoor sport, and the able manner in which you have fulfilled the responsible duties attaching to the offices mentioned. Your enthusiasm has been an admirable example for many of us to imitate, and by your courtesy, tact, consideration, and encouragement, our institutions have been greatly benefited. In wishing you good bye, we ask your acceptance of this memento of our regard, which is accompanied by our best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of yourself, Mrs Logan, and daughter." [Then followed the signatures.] Mr Logan suitably replied, and expressed his regret at severing his ties with Auckland for a lengthened period. He concluded by stating that he proposed to offer a challenge cup to be run for as the committee may decide. (Cheers.) Mr Logan, as president of the Auckland Athletic Club, presented the prizes won at the meeting in aid of the Brunner Relief Fund. Mr Logan concluded by announcing that Messrs. Read Bros



MR J. F. LOGAN.

while even the cricketers would have occasion to remember him as a vice-president of their association. Several other speakers (including Mr L. A. Cuff, recently from Canterbury) referred to Mr Logan's valuable services in the interests of athletics. Mr Esam then presented the album, which was beautifully bound in morocco, and contained the signatures of no less than 336 athletes, including the officials of the Auckland and North Shore Clubs, the executive of the N.Z.A.A.A., the executive of the Cambridge Club, and the N.Z. Cricket Council. The frontispiece comprised a very handsome illuminated address, bordered with artistic imitations of athletes participating in the several branches of outdoor pastimes, a view of the Domain cricket ground and pavilion, with a match in progress, and a view of the North Shore and Bangitoto. The address was as follows:—"Auckland, May 7th, 1896. To Jas. Fowlds Logan, Esq. Dear Sir,—We cannot allow you to depart from Auckland, for probably a considerable period, without expressing our sincere regard and esteem towards you. As president of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club, vice-president of the North Shore Athletic Club, local officer of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic

would give a valuable gold medal for competition next year. Songs and recitations were given during the evening, which was most sociable, and after three cheers, "a safe passage and quick return" to Mr Logan, and "Auld Lang Syne" in good old Scottish style, the evening's enjoyment terminated.

At a meeting of the 1895-96 General Committee of the English Amateur Athletic Association, held on March 14th, the following walking records, recommended by the Southern committee, were passed:—Two miles walking, by W. J. Sturgess; time, 13min 44sec, at Windsor and Eton Sports, September 26th, 1895. Records made at the Polytechnic Harriers' Meeting at Wembley Park, December 26th, 1895: Eleven miles walking, by W. J. Sturgess, 1hr 29min 32 4-5sec; thirteen miles walking, by E. Knott, 1hr 45min 6 4-5sec; fourteen miles walking, by E. Knott, 1hr 53min 36 2-5sec; fifteen miles walking, by E. Knott, 2hrs 2min 57 4-5sec. The twelve-mile record of 1hr 39min 55 2-5sec, made by W. J. Sturgess in the same race, was refused because E. Knott undoubtedly beat it, but as Knott's time was not taken at that distance he could not be credited with Sturgess' time, which he certainly beat.

Very few people were surprised when they heard of Peart's death at Sydney. Hardly a spectator at Fitzgerald's Circus came away with any other opinion than that it was only a question of time, and he would break his neck doing the tank trick. Still the public like sensationalism, and support a suicidal sort of act like Peart's. He was undoubtedly foolish, and has paid the penalty which he has been courting for some time. Fortunately, few people in the circus in Sydney, where the fatal dive took place, knew that anything had happened to Peart. His diving act was always the last on the programme, consequently when Peart disappeared into the tank and was being drawn up the side, the crowd began to disappear as quick as possible.

The Hawkes Bay Amateur Athletic Club (writes our Napier correspondent) held their Autumn Meeting at the recreation Ground on Saturday afternoon. There was only a limited attendance. Following are the results:—Maiden Race 150 yards—C. L. St. Hill 1, J. Riddell 2, T. Baker 3. Time, 17sec. Three Mile Walk—D. Jameson, 250yds, 1; J. Hamilton, scratch, 2. Time, 26min 48 1/2sec. Hundred Yards Handicap.—First heat: A. H. Holder, scratch, 1; G. Heslop, 11yds, 3; W. Woods, 10yds, 3. Time, 10 4-5sec. Second heat: R. Neagle, 7yds, 1; R. Riddell, 10yds, 2; J. Ryan, 4yds, 3. Time, 10 4-5sec. Final: Holder 1, Heslop 2, Neagle 3. Time, 10 1-5sec. Won on the post. One Mile—C. L. St. Hill, 80yds, 1; H. Marshall, 50yds, 2; H. G. Anderson, 25yds, 3. Time, 4min 36sec. 250 Yards Club Championship—J. Ryan 1, F. P. St. Hill 2, W. Woods 3. Won very easily. Time, 29sec. Hurdles, 440 Yards—A. H. Holder, scratch, 1; R. Neagle, 25yds, 2; A. G. Balfour, 35yds, 3. The winner jumped none too well, but succeeded in beating the N.Z. record, held by Roberts of Auckland, by 1-5 of a second. Time, 60sec. Putting the Shot—Fahey 1. Bracelet, 440yds—C. L. St. Hill, 35yds, 1; Heslop, 35yds, 2. Time, 62sec. Long Jump—Neagle (2ft 6in), 19ft 7in, 1. Half-Mile Officials Bicycle Race—J. E. Conell; scratch, 1. Half-Mile—Baker, 40yds, 1; Hamilton, 55yds, 2. Time, 2min 16sec.

YACHTING.

As an appropriate way of winding up the past yachting season, the members of the Auckland Yacht Club decided upon a smoke concert, and with a number of their friends, the large and tastefully arranged dining-room of Host Gallagher, of the Metropolitan Hotel, was comfortably filled on Wednesday. Mr J. L. R. Bloomfield, Commodore of the Club, occupied the chair, and expressed his gratification at seeing so many present. The season, from all points of view, had been the best the Club had yet had. The weather had been good, and the number of members to the Club and yachts had considerably increased. The prizes won by members of the Club in races, etc., were presented during the evening. Dr. Coates (Ladye Wilma) was handed the first prize for 5-raters and the champion flag presented by Mr George Goldie, Messrs W. R. and F. Wilson (Moana) second prize; Messrs Chatfield, Cossar, and Co. (Mahaki), first prize for the 2-raters and the Commodore's Cup and champion flag, presented by the Club. A flag was also presented to Mr W. Lind, of the Daisy, his yacht having held the Commodore's Cup last year. After the presentations, Mr Bloomfield proposed the toast of "Yachting," which was enthusiastically received. Dr. Coates responded, and in the course of his remarks said that the past season had been the most interesting of any in which he had taken part in Auckland. Yachting had made wonderful strides in Britain of late years, but taking the population and the means of the people of New Zealand into consideration, the development here was marvellous. He had visited the various ports of Australia, but not one port took such interest in yachting as Auckland. After the routine business was finished, Mr Bloomfield left the chair, asking all present to make the remainder of the evening as sociable as possible. Mr George Gilmer called for three cheers for the Commodore, which was heartily responded to. In acknowledging the compliment, Mr Bloomfield said he had the best interests of the Yacht Club at heart, and he hoped yet to see it the premier club of the Australasian colonies.