

BILLIARDS.

Mr F. Weiss has been down in the goldfields district the last week, and although not expecting to find the best of tables up country, he was agreeably surprised, and found that all the tables he played on were just as well kept and as good as any in Auckland, in fact he showed tip-top form down amongst the mud and gold. At Waihi he played two men who were considered by the local men to be "pretty fair players." Anyway, the champion ventured to give the twain 700 points start in 1000 up. Remarkable as it may appear, the two players between them only scored 33 (thirty-three), but the champion was fairly on the job, and this may be inferred from the fact that he scored the 1000 in one hour and fifty-five minutes, so that little time was left for the two local players to score. In this game, after the man from Kangaroo-land had made breaks of 92, 60, 57, 201, and 70 (spot-barred), the audience asked to see a few spot shots, and the champion quickly ran up 135 (spot-in), and then finished the game spot-barred, making breaks of 113 and 42 unfinished.

On Monday night at the Thames, Mr F. Weiss had a friendly match with Mr Dave Stewart, conceding the latter 700 in 1000, spot-in. Mr Stewart only succeeded in making 110 (810, including a start of 700) Mr Weiss wanted 349 to win this game, and these he knocked together in one break, and going on, ran the total of the break up to 387. In this game the champion got on the spot, and before he left the position, succeeded in potting the red 129 (one hundred and twenty-nine) consecutive times. Mr Weiss admits he has not been in such form for many a day.

Messrs Taylor and Noble of Christchurch have invented and patented a contrivance for holding on the tips of billiard cues. The arrangement is a very simple one, and consists of a split ferrule, which is fitted on to the point of the cue. The tip, which is rather thicker than those generally in use, is fitted into the point of the ferrule and held fast there by means of a clamp screw. The invention should prove a most useful adjunct to billiard-rooms. Its chief advantages are that the tips can be changed in a few seconds, whilst the annoyance of a tip flying off a favourite cue is avoided. It is well-known that cues, after being tipped a number of times, become worn and thin at the point, and will only take very small tips. The present contrivance allows the cue to remain always the same thickness, and also prevents the stick splitting at the end. The cues play extremely well the thickness of the tips allowing of the required elasticity so desirable in making a good stroke.

On Thursday evening last Mr F. Weiss had a friendly match with Mr Walker, which was played at the Northern Club, the latter receiving 700 points start in 1000 up, spot-barred. Mr Weiss won by 150. His largest breaks were 137 and 113, and three over 80.

On Saturday night, at the Metropolitan Hotel billiard-room, a friendly match was played between Mr James Cook a well-known local player, and Mr F. Weiss, the latter conceding 650 pints start in 1000 up (spot-barred). Mr Cook was in very fair form, but the champion did not seem to get going in the first part of the game; in fact Weiss only gained 10 points on his opponent in the first two hundred. Towards the finish he pulled himself together, but was unable to avert defeat, Mr Cook winning by 223 points, his largest breaks being 66, 34, 29, 19, and 18, while the champion put on 159, 110, 86, 68, and 52.

The annual billiard tournament in connection with the Auckland Tattersall's Club commenced on Monday evening at the rooms of the club. There were twenty nominations and twelve acceptors. The following are the handicaps:—F. Machattie, 60 points behind; W. Davis, 40 behind; T. Neil, scratch; J. F. Cruickshank scratch; W. J. Russell, 50 start; L. McDermott, 50 start; C. Godwin, 60 start; H. Hayr, 60 start; C. Philpott, 80 start; R. Blaikie, 80 start; R. Duder, 80 start; M. Moore, 155 start. The following is the result of a portion of the first round up to Tuesday night.—R. Blaikie beat J. F. Cruickshank by 123 points; C. Philpott beat W. J. Russell by 2; M. Moore beat L. McDermott by 86. The others to meet in the first round are H. Hayr meets C. Godwin, R. Duder meets W. Davis, and F. Machattie meets T. Neil.

SMILES.

A run of luck.—Winning a race.

Writing of Colonel North, the Sporting Times relates the following story of the late sportsman:—The first time I was brought into contact with him was at a ploughing match at an agricultural meeting, and he presided at the dinner at night, and presented the prizes. He was elected president. "Hello" said the Colonel, in his breezy way, "This society is in debt. I cannot afford to be president of a society that is not solvent; here's a hundred to wipe off the debt and to be going on with." Then the different winners came up for their prizes, and the exuberance of the Colonel, which could never be suppressed, broke forth. An old man's reward for having been a faithful servant in the same employment for forty years was a pair of corduroy trousers. "How's the missus?" asked the Colonel as he handed over the trousers. The old man answered, "Any kids?" he further interrogated. "Ten living, sir, and three dead." "And you've brought that lot up on 13s a week?" "Yes, sir," was the reply. "Give me the trousers back," said the Colonel, and presently, handing them to the faithful servant again, he said, "You will find a five in the right-hand pocket for the missus and a tanner in the left-hand pocket to give a sovereign each to the kids." With the others he dealt in a similar manner.

Boy (on the stump, who has been patiently watching the strange angler for about an hour): "You ain't caught anything, ave yer?" Stranger: "No, not yet, my boy." Boy: "There wasn't no water in that pond till it rained last night."

OUR TREBLE COUPON.

The following coupons were received up to Tuesday, the 21st inst., for the Caulfield Cup, Melbourne Cup, and New Zealand Cup treble:—

Table listing names and races for Caulfield Cup, Melbourne Cup, and N.Z. Cup, including entries like 492 D.M.—Toreador—Valiant—Man-o'-War, 493 J.B.—Marusa—Toreador—Vandyke, etc.

661 C.W.—Devon—Hova—Fabulist
662 J.R.—Toreador—Reka—Euroclydon
663 V.A.M.—Marusa—Broken Hill—Irish Twist
664 E.J.R.—Trentham—Trentham—Bellicent
665 M.L.—The Parisienne—Hova—Searchlight
666 S.C.—Marusa—The Chevalier—Curassow
667 R.C.L.—Hova—Trentham—Fabulist
668 W.S.—True Blue—Coil—Lotion

HANDICAPS.

V.A.T.C. GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE MEETING.

GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE RACE. Two miles and a quarter.—Emmalee 12.9, Apsley 12.0, Leslie 11.13, Larnock 11.13, Artist 11.12, Dungan 11.10, Favor 11.10, Lord Byron 11.8, Donald McKinnon 11.7, Cornerake 11.7, Morago 11.7, Woonooke 11.4, Merrigal 11.4, Tiritea 11.3, Hirundo 11.2, Black Flag 10.13, Simulator 10.12, Sylvan Prince 10.12, Catspaw 10.11, Gulzean 10.9, Glenmore 10.9, Triangle 10.9, Clendower 10.7, Nora Creina 10.6, Manazona 10.6, The Don 10.4, All Right 10.3, Goldleaf 10.3, Zouroff 10.3, Hero 10.2, Summerlea 10.2, Eular 10.1, Bloodwood 10.0, Collingwood 9.13, Lucid 9.12, Latrobe 9.6, Gold Prix 9.5, Coolgardie 9.5, Vesta 9.4, Bischoff 9.4, Earlston 9.3, Havelock 9.3, Chummie 9.2, Carlsruhe 9.1, Tasman 9.0, Kossuth 9.0, Leap Year 9.0.

GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE. Four miles.—Woonooke 12.8, Dondi 12.8, Larnock 12.0, Jai 11.13, Apsley 11.13, Donald McKinnon 11.12, Merrigal 11.9, Tiritea 11.7, Dart 11.6, Romance 11.4, Waterloo 11.2, Banjo 11.1, Quicklight 11.1, Mikado II. 10.13, Glendower 10.13, Confusion 10.10, Nutmeg 10.9, Larrikin 10.9, Songster 10.9, Zouroff 10.5, Walter 10.4, Ballyhooley 10.3, Dread 10.0, Whenside 10.0, Latrobe 9.12, Peveril 9.12, Mailboat 9.10, Tayforth 9.10, Mercury 9.6, The Lout 9.5, Cerbarus 9.4, Leap Year 9.4, Will-o'-the-Wisp 9.0, Countersign 9.0.

N.Z. GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE. Three miles and a half. Table with columns for name, st lb, and time.

GRAND NATIONAL HURDLES. About three miles.

Table with columns for name, st lb, and time for Grand National Hurdles.

C.J.C. SPRING MEETING.

NEW ZEALAND CUP of 1,500 sovs. Two miles.

Table listing names, weight, age, difference, and times for the New Zealand Cup.

V.A.T.C. SPRING MEETING.

THE CAULFIELD CUP of 2500 sovs. One mile and a half.

Table listing names, st lb, and times for the Caulfield Cup.

V.R.C. SPRING MEETING.

THE MELBOURNE CUP of 3000 sovs. Two miles.

Table listing names, st lb, and times for the Melbourne Cup.

ACCEPTANCES.

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

WELLINGTON STEEPLECHASE HANDICAP. Three miles.

Table listing names, st lb, and times for the Wellington Steeplechase Handicap.