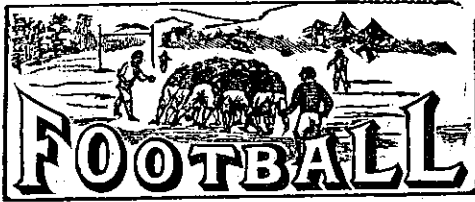


The N.S.W. League of Wheelmen will probably include an intercolonial team race in their programme for the June Carnival. In the event of the race being decided upon New Zealand, New South Wales, and Victoria will be represented.

Now that cycling has become so popular with all classes (says the *Wheeler*), the next most intelligent animals to human beings themselves seem to be taking it up. A firm have had an order from Mr Sam Lockhart, of Leamington, the world-famed elephant trainer, for a tricycle for his elephant Trilby. This sweet little thing weighs a little over half a ton, and Trilby's feet in this case necessitate the use of pedals somewhat on the style of frying-pans. The machine is to be of the front-driver type, as Trilby is quite a child, and wants a tricycle on the juvenile style. When she has quite mastered this machine, the makers are going to build her a rear-driving tricycle of the most up-to-date type. The tricycle is to have pneumatic tyres, but the make of the tyre is not yet decided on. The managers of the firm have been busy working out the designs for this novel machine, so that Trilby may have her machine in good time to practice for jubilee processions, etc.



[BY VIGILANT.]

THE CUP MATCHES.

The curtain was rung down on the first round of the championship matches, under the Rugby Union, last Saturday, when Parnell met and defeated Grafton by 4 points to nil, Ponsonby beat Newton by 9 points to nil—(both these matches being played at Potter's Paddock)—and City were defeated by North Shore, on the latter's ground, by 12 points to nil. The Parnell-Grafton match occupied the No. 1 Ground, and, considering the unfavourable state of the field, was of a most interesting character. That Parnell won is due solely to a smart goal from the field by Jervois, as the play on the whole was slightly in favour of Grafton, and certainly they had very bad luck in not scoring on one or two occasions, the most notable of these being when Douglas Hay failed to pass out to his brother backs, Fielder and Tait, who were with him, and only had Hedges to pass. This club has been somewhat unfortunate as far as results are concerned this season, and have deserved a better fate, as they have played consistently and well through the first round, and if not quite as "old in the head," so to speak, are a willing lot of young players who give plenty of promise, and should give the best of the clubs no end of difficulty in the course of a season or two. Newton are evidently becoming careless of their prospects through the result, no doubt, of their many defeats, and only placed ten men in the field against Ponsonby, the game, therefore, being a "frost." The surprise of the day was that at the Devonport Domain, where North Shore inflicted a defeat, to the tune of 12 points to nil, on the City team, the match having been looked upon in most quarters as a fairly good thing for the town players. The defeat is in a measure attributable to the weak play of the City front rank, while the back division did not, on the whole, show themselves as brilliant as usual. North Shore, on the other hand, played for all they were worth and deserved their win. Ponsonby and Parnell are now leading for the championship, the position of the clubs at the completion of the first round being as under:—

| District | Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | For. | Agst. | Points |
|-------------|--------|-----|------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| Parnell | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 47 | 10 | 23 |
| Ponsonby | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 42 | 23 | 23 |
| North Shore | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 44 | 14 |
| City | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 37 | 14 |
| Grafton | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 18 | 6 |
| Newton | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 38 | 0 |

Hedges, at full back for Parnell, acquitted himself very well, his kicking being really good considering the state of the ground.

Jervois was the pick of the three-quarters, and seems to have got right back to his old form again. His kicking was a treat, the drop-kick that won the game for the maroons being very neat and smart. He used the touch-line when kicking, and gained lots of ground for his side, besides taking part in several passing runs and showing sound defence.

Brody was never seen to better advantage, and if he goes on improving as he has done of late he will turn out a sterling three-quarter, while of Richards nothing unfavourable can be said. He is undoubtedly of more use to his club at three-quarters than at five-eighths, and a feature of his play is his sound tackling.

D'Arcy was again played at five-eighths, where his weight stands him in great stead. When he gets going he takes considerable stopping, and the beauty of his play is that he goes straight through his opposing backs instead of trying to get round them, so that an opening once made by him is always dangerous. For his kicking alone he is worth a place in any team. Up to the present time opposing teams have taken so much care of him that we have not seen him get away with a decent run.

Edmonds played a fine defensive game, and was kept pretty busy in stopping the forward rushes of the Grafton vanguard. His passing was clean.

The front rank worked well together, F. and P. Murray, R. Hancock, and Gordon being about the best. They heeled out very cleverly, but their tactics in screwing the scrums did not always come off as intended, the ball being left behind occasionally.

Smith played as sound a game as usual at full-back for Grafton, but once or twice failed to get rid of the ball in time.

The Graftonites played four three-quarters, and a very good quartette they were, both as offensive and defensive players, the latter department, perhaps, being their forte, as they tackled in splendid style. Moncur was perhaps the best, but Tait, Fielder, and Douglas Hay all deserve praise, though the latter would do well to rid himself of the habit he seems to be falling into of hanging to the ball too long. In the second half Grafton would very probably have scored a try if he had not erred in this direction, as Fielder and Tait were on his heels, and only had Hedges to beat to score.

Carlton Hay played unselfishly at five-eighths, and got in a great amount of work, while Purvis Hay, behind the pack, was in his place, and is the makings of a really good man. A pity he has not a few pounds more weight.

The pack all grafted in fine style, and for comparatively young players—as a whole—acquitted themselves remarkably well. They got away with several fine dribbling rushes, and were strong in defence, a point the team excels in all round. Brady, on the wing, was perhaps the most noticeable, playing a dashing game.

D'Arcy (Parnell) is rapidly getting into form, and in consequence his play is improving every Saturday.

The Ponsonby v. Newton match calls for no comment as to individual play, as the game was as a whole a farce. It might, however, be mentioned that Masfield on one occasion appealed to one of the opposing players not to throw him and soil his "panta," which had evidently been washed.

Dacre played his usual hard forward game for the Shore. This player (who last season represented Southland on several occasions), although not always conspicuous, does a lot of solid graft in the scrum.

Murray Bros. (F. and P.) grafted like Trojans for Parnell. It was a surprise to many to find the name of the former missing from the list of chosen ones for the Australian trip.

Oliphant was an absentee from the City ranks on Saturday in consequence of a bad cold.

Corles played an extremely plucky game behind the beaten forwards, and several times the North Shore pack simply walked over him.

W. Clark passed well and made several serviceable runs. That goal he potted was a beauty.

Nicholson played a sturdy game at five-eight for the Shore, and with a little coaching this player should be heard of later on.

Clark was perhaps the most conspicuous of the North Shore backs on Saturday, and played a slashing game. The Gerrard Bros. also played well, and Nicholson at half did good work for his team, his defence being good, while he always fed his backs in good style. Cardno also deserves mention, his tackling being particularly strong.

Francis had hard luck on one or two occasions in not scoring, and fully deserved figures on the game he played.

Thomas played a fine defensive game for City at full-back, and looked after his line like a tradesman. Of the other backs, G. Smith was undoubtedly the best, and no better game was witnessed on the ground. He got away with several dashing runs, but was poorly supported, otherwise City would not have been defeated by 12 points to nil.

The City front rank were decidedly off, their scrum work being at times very indifferent. Hyland was about the best of them, and was always on the ball, while S. Browne and McConnell also did good service.

At the time of writing I do not know the intentions of the Auckland Rugby Union as to Saturday next. The first round being completed, the question is whether they will go on with the second round or hold a practice match in view of the fixture with Wairoa on the 19th.

It is not to be wondered at that the Auckland Referees' Association finds some difficulty in getting gentlemen to act as referees, if the treatment received by Mr Katters, who refereed in the Parnell v. Grafton match, at the hands of a section of the spectators is any criterion of what one is to look forward to after gratuitously lending his services in the interests of football, to run up and down the field of play for an hour and a half, wet or dry. The section referred to were mostly occupants of the grandstand—what might be called the respectably attired hoodlums—and supporters of the Grafton team, not necessarily residents of the Grafton district, but rather the "clique" antagonistic to Parnell, though why there should be those amongst the followers of the game who feel so bitterly towards the maroons I know not, for no unbiased individual follower of the game can deny the fact that Parnell deserves, and always has deserved, the success that has attended the club. They lay themselves out to win by consistent training, and any team that does this deserves the success that may attend their efforts, and it is undoubtedly that success that has caused the disgraceful display of feeling on Saturday. As it was of no use jeering or hooting at the Parnell players themselves these "hoodlums" turned their attention to the referee, and every time Mr Katters gave a decision that was not in favour of Grafton he was assailed with hoots and groans, and held to be favouring Parnell. To suggest that Mr Katters would lend himself to such an action is ridiculous, and to say that he frequently erred in his decisions would be equally wrong. I might say, for the information of those who participated in the unseemly display, that Mr Katters treated it for what it was worth—as beneath contempt. However, be this as it may, the Rugby Union will, in the interests of their patrons and of football, be compelled to make an example of one or two of these well-dressed hoodlums, by expelling them from the ground if this state of affairs continues.

"Punter," of the *New Zealand Mail* (Wellington), sums up the New Zealand as under:—"In Orchard, who, of course, will go as full-back, the team have a very safe man, who is also a magnificent kicker. Of the other backs Glennie is a splendid all-round back player. He is a dashing runner, a fair kick, and good taker. His best position is at five-eighths. He has been picked as half back. Smith (three-quarter) is a dashing wing player, very fast, kicks well with both feet, and is very good on the defence. Armit is a good all-round man, fast and sure. Though not a brilliant player he can always be relied on. Humphries is a good half, looks well after his three-quarters, and is good on the defence. Bayly, though not quite the Alf. Bayly of old, is still a very reliable man. Allen, on his form playing for New Zealand against Queensland last year, is one of the best three-quarters in the colony. Duncan is reputed to be the best five-eighth player in the colony, though on his form when playing for Otago against Wellington last year he did not prove it. He was, however, not seen at his best then. Of the forwards Blair is a front rank man, and a sturdy one at that. Kerr is especially good on the line-out. He plays in the centre, and is clever with his feet. He is also good in the open. Harris is a player of Calnan's stamp. Hancock is a front rank man, and an honest worker in the scrum. Wilson is said to be the best forward in Auckland. He is very fast in the loose. Plays in the back of the pack, and is a good worker. Watson is a strong scrummaging forward, and O'Dowda is a clever man at foot work. He is an old Blackheath player. Young is a front rank player, who never

shirks his work and goes all the way. Pauling will play in the centre. He is a hard worker in the scrum, clever, and is dashing in the loose. Calnan has earned his place in the team by his fine play with the Wellington representative team last year and on his form this year. He should give a good account of himself. McKenzie, as a wing player, is one of the best in New Zealand. A good general. Mills, the other wing man, is a young player and very brilliant. A good kick, but inclined to be a little erratic in his play at times."

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Wellington Rugby Union Football Annual, edited and compiled by Mr W. C. Marter, the hon. secretary of the Wellington Union. The work contains a lot of useful information to footballers and referees.

Our Napier correspondent wires:—"The Caledonians v. Pirates was the senior fixture last Saturday afternoon at the Recreation Ground. To say that a good exposition of the game was given would be miles away from the truth, both contesting parties being far from fit, as after playing about a quarter of an hour, "dead beat" was the term that could well be used to both teams. The spectators who paid their shilling a head for the afternoon's sport (save the mark) must have considered themselves very badly used, and if more energy and training is not gone in for in the future by football teams the long-suffering public will be conspicuous by their absence on future Saturday afternoons. The Pirates scored 7 points to nil.

Sandy Kerr, Canterbury's crack forward (writes our correspondent), will not be able to accompany the New Zealand football team to Australia, and Wells, of Taranaki, will go instead. Kerr is a first-class forward, brilliant in open, and his services will be missed. The selection of the team has been freely criticised here, and the general opinion seems to be that the three selectors have chosen a really good team. So far as I can see, and I have seen most men play, the team is about the best that could have been got together. The southern footballers have complained about being poorly represented. Southland has gone so far as not to take any part in the North v. South Island match. I certainly think that the selection committee should have given one of the Southland forwards a place, especially after the fine form they showed while on tour last year. The three Canterbury representatives are members of the Linwood Club. Orchard (full-back) stands alone in that position. Glennie will be general utility man of the team. He can play a good game anywhere his captain wishes to place him—from forward to full-back. Kerr is our best forward, but cannot get away. The Linwood and Merivale teams are leading for the senior cup. They hold an unbeaten record this year. When they met a fortnight ago the game ended in a draw.

HAWKE'S BAY RELIEF SPORTS.

NAPIER, June 5.

The Relief Sports held at Stotford Lodge, Hastings, last Wednesday were an unqualified success, and the fund will benefit to the tune of about £70 by the undertaking. Mr Stock and the Trotting Club generously gave the use of the grounds free of charge, and the prizes were also donations. The following are the results of the principal events:—

LADIES' BRACELET, for horses that have never raced.—Mrs Archibald's Donald Deronda, 1; Mrs Jackson's Whakapora, 2. Mr S. Cottle piloted the winner.

FIVE-MILE BICYCLE RACE (amateur).—W. Garnett, 280yds, 1; A. J. Pocock, scr., 2.

TROTTERING RACE, one mile and a half.—Mr A. McDonald's Violet, 1; Mr W. Jones' Mollie, 2.

220YDS HANDICAP (amateur).—J. Hodd, Syds, 1; J. Fritchley, Syds, 2. Hodd also won the Open Handicap.

ONE-MILE BICYCLE HANDICAP (open).—R. Catherall, 100yds, 1; H. Symonds, scr., 2.

VETERANS' BICYCLE RACE.—Wilson, 1; S. Charlton, 2.

FIRE BRIGADE COMPETITION (five men).—Foreman Keith's team, Hastings, 1. H. Symonds, Keith, Anderson, Leipst, and List.

FOOTBALL! FOOTBALL! SATURDAY NEXT.

AT POTTER'S PADDOCK. PONSONBY v. GRAFTON CITY v. NEWTON

AT DEVONPORT. PARNELL v. NORTH SHORE

Play Commences at 3 p.m. Admission to Ground, 6d; Grandstand, 6d extra. LADIES FREE. Return Fare by Tram, including admission to Ground, 1s.

G. H. DIXON, Hon. Sec. A.R.U.



DISTRICT ORDERS

Brigade Office, Auckland, June 3rd, 1897. The Commander of the New Zealand Forces will inspect the Auckland and Ponsonby Naval Artillery Volunteers at their respective Forts at 2.30 p.m. on SATURDAY, 12th inst. The Devonport Naval Artillery Volunteers will Parade for Inspection at the Torpedo Yard, Devonport, on SATURDAY, 12th inst, at 2.30 p.m. The previously-ordered parades for these Corps are hereby cancelled. By Order. J. GRANT, Captain, Acting Adjutant, Auckland District.