

[By MURITAI.]

On Saturday last the second general handicap race for the Donald Cup was run. A strong nor-easterly gale was blowing, with a heavy cross sea, and this was the cause of some of the boats entered not starting. The course was from Matangi (anchored off Queen Street Wharf), round mark at Bastion, thence out to Rangitoto Reef, back to Bastion, finishing at Wharf, twice round. The following were the entries and handicaps:—Volunteer scr, Thelma 7min, Rainbow 11min, Moana 16min, Aorere 24min, Heartsease 24min, Yvonne 21min, Ladye Wilma 24min, Rangitira 26min, Zinita 24min, Mahaki 30min, Mizpah 32min, Mavis 45min. Nine of these started—Volunteer, Thelma, Aorere, Yvonne, Heartsease, Ladye Wilma, Zinita, Mizpah, Mavis. While sailing about waiting for the start Rainbow carried away her mast, which robbed the race of a good deal of interest, but she would never have had a chance with such a handicap. The least said about the handicap all round, however, the better, but doubtless the heavy weather upset the handicappers' calculations. Mr J. Ansonne got the boats away to a fairly good start, Thelma being ahead down the harbour, with Volunteer under her lee, Heartsease next, then followed Zinita to windward of Aorere, the others tailing off. Just inside the Heads some of Volunteer's throat gear went, and she retired. Mavis, Mizpah, and Ladye Wilma also dropped out. Up to this point Zinita had been sailing exceptionally well, but it was seen she was shipping a great deal of water, as also were some of the larger boats. Thelma was first round the Rangitoto mark, Heartsease next, then came Aorere, Yvonne, and Zinita. They rounded the flagship as follows:—Thelma about 6min ahead of Heartsease, Aorere, Yvonne, Zinita. In the second round all the boats, with the exception of Thelma and Heartsease, went to their moorings, and these two finished—Thelma, 5hr 59min 50sec; Heartsease, 6hr 11min 49sec. Heartsease thus won by about 6min. I think the Thelma crew thought they had the race won, and when it is considered they beat Heartsease by the length of the harbour there is some excuse for their thinking so. Both boats, however, sailed splendidly, Heartsease surprisingly so. The heavy weather seemed to suit her full, bluff lines.

Only three boats started in the Patiki race, namely, Boomerang, Eka, and Zoe. The course was from Wharf, round Calliope Dock buoy, thence round Sandpit buoy, across to Viking, finishing at Wharf, twice round. It was a ding-dong go between Boomerang and Eka from start to finish. Beating across to the Dock, Eka had the best of it, but running and leading Boomerang caught on her; and this is how they raced all the journey until nearing the Viking the last time round, when Boomerang passed her rival and finished first at 4hr 47min 9sec, Eka 4hr 47min 45sec, Zoe 4hr 53min 10sec.

By the Mokoia on Sunday Mr Hordern and his little 1/2-rater Brorzewing IV. arrived from Sydney. She was built of mahogany in England, and is about 25ft overall, 15ft l.w.l., and 4ft 6in beam. This seems a little beam, but she gets her stability from a big bronze plate, weighing about 2cwt. The new arrival was out for a spin on Monday, and off the wind seemed to skim over the water very fast. She is a graceful little thing, with her bamboo spars and silk sails, looking more like a toy than anything. I suppose we ought to be thankful for small mercies, but I think it shows a want of interest that Sydney—with its "splendid harbour," its "wealthy and powerful sailing clubs," etc., etc.—should only be represented by a 1/2-rater. Of course this is not detracting from Mr Hordern's enterprise, nor from the ability of his boat, as I believe she is a flyer, and may make some of the bigger ones move themselves. Still, one would think some of the Sydney clubs would have been represented in an inter-colonial championship race, which has been asked for and worried about for years.

I am afraid "Lux," of the *Herald*, in his aquatic notes of last week, was laboring under a wrong impression. He thinks it is scarcely fair that boatbuilders, after building boats for a certain class, should build others for themselves and beat these, as they had always a chance of "going one better," and refers particularly to the 1/2-rater Rambler. This reads very well at first sight, but there is another side to the question, as it would be a queer rule that debarred builders from improving upon the boats they had previously built for fear of beating them; where would the progress in boat-building come in? Now, in the first place, Logan Bros. did not build this boat for themselves; she was built to the order of the well-known cycling firm of Dexter and Crozier—hence the name, Rambler. Then again, she was built to the same moulds as the other Patikis turned out by this firm. If those who are grumbling about Rambler gave a little more thought and practice to the handling of their boats they would be nearer the winning boat at the finish of a race. I wonder what yacht racing in Auckland would be like if builders did not take an interest in it besides actually building the boats. Take, for instance, the coming inter-colonial 1-rater race. There will be about ten starters. Out of this number Bailey Bros. are building two, Logan Bros. one, Clare one, and although the owners of Geisha and the Waitakauri boat are not professional boatbuilders, they built their own boats. This means that only two or three were built to order, and that if builders had not taken the risk it would have been a very poor race.



[By STONEWALLER.]

THE CUP MATCHES.

The interruption to our cricket season appears to have had the effect of robbing the contests of a deal of public interest, the attendance at last Saturday's matches, when the fourth round was commenced, being meagre.

The Parnell v. Gordon match, in which the former only succeeded in putting on 108 runs—though the weather was admittedly against the batsmen as the afternoon wore on—looks a fairly good thing for Gordon, provided they are favored with a fine day on Saturday next.

Ohlson and Mills, usually the most reliable pair on the Parnell side, were disposed of for a total of 11 runs, the former getting 9 and the latter 2, and had not a tidy score been put on in a somewhat unexpected quarter, Thorpe getting 26, including some very nice strokes, Seager 24 and Woods 21, both playing good cricket for their runs, quite a collapse would have taken place.

For Gordon Sawbridge carried off the trundling honors with 3 wickets for 8 runs, two of these being clean bowled, while the ground fielding taken all round was very good.

The Auckland Fifteen seem likely to give the Eleven of the same club a pretty stiff task to surmount, as when the rain compelled them to draw stumps for the day they had scored 104 for the loss of 8 wickets.

Stone was the hero of the day, contributing no less than 60 (not out) towards the total, scoring freely from all trundlers and playing sound cricket.

The veteran, Selby, with 16, was the only other batsman to run into double figures, his score being the result of careful cricket. Had not this pair made a stand, the Fifteen would have made a sorry showing, as no less than 7 wickets fell for 27 runs.

United, who are playing North Shore on the latter's ground, seem to stand a fair chance of receiving their first check of the season, as although they have got on 115 for the loss of 7 wickets, I understand they will be without the services of Marshall (5, not out) next Saturday, and probably one or two other batsmen.

Brown played well for his quota of 40, and Lusk, who is coming on rapidly, made 30 in good style, while Walton batted carefully for a contribution of 24. These were the only double figure scorers.

I fancy last year's champions were inclined to hold North Shore too cheaply, and made a mistake in going in on a bad wicket after winning the toss. They will be lucky if they escape paying the penalty.

The Association cup matches will be continued on Saturday next, December 24.

Southern papers seem to agree that in appointing Mr Raphael to the management of the New Zealand cricket team for Australia a happy selection has been made.

I have been watching exchanges from the South Island pretty closely of late, and summing up the various comments that have appeared about the probable personnel of the New Zealand team for Australia, it would appear that G. Mills is the only Auckland likely to find inclusion.

In connection with the visit of an Australian Eleven to England, two matches each have been arranged with Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Oxford University, and M.C.C. and Ground; single matches against other first-class counties, as well as the Cambridge University and the South of England. Several more matches are in course of arrangement.

The following dates have been arranged for the New Zealand team's Australian tour:—Leave Dunedin, per Waikare, January 30; arrive

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Mr H. B. Lusk, the Hawke's Bay Cricket Association's selector, has chosen the following team to play in the representative match at Wellington on the 26th and 27th inst.:—Andrews, C. H. Cato, Fanning, Gore, Hallimore, Hill, W. Hughes, Lusk, Tairaro, Wilson, and Wolstenholme. Owing to the inability of some of the most prominent players to get away, the team is not by any means the strongest Hawke's Bay combination.

BILLIARDS.

On the night of October 29 John Roberts informed a *Sporting Life* representative that he was prepared to defend his title of champion against his persistent challenger, Dawson. Roberts takes the original defiance of the little Yorkshireman's that produced such an amount of correspondence last winter, to be something of what the latter desires. It ran as follows:—"I will play Roberts 21,000 up on a standard table made by any of the following firms, viz., Messrs G. Wright and Co., Thurston and Co., Cox and Yeman, or Burroughes and Watts, for £250 or £500 aside, the game to be push barred." Roberts will also agree to play in a neutral ball, have a neutral stakeholder, and neutral referee. The champion would now like to hear from Dawson upon the subject, and is curious to learn whether any more concessions will be expected from him. If the straightforward acceptance of his challenge is not agreeable to Dawson, he can have another match which, perhaps, may better coincide with his view:—Roberts will give him 5,500 points start in 21,000 (push and spot barred), for £250 aside. The match to be played at the Egyptian Hall. Bonzoline balls to be used. As in the proposed level contest, the whole of the gate to go with the stakes—*Sporting Life*. As we have been informed by cable, a match has been ratified.

A peculiar story of assault is reported from Wanganui, the case having been tried before Mr H. W. Northcroft, formerly our Auckland magistrate. The verdict was against the defendants, and Ann Kirkwood, licensee of the Metropolitan Hotel, and her son, William Kirkwood, manager of the hotel, were fined 40s each for assaulting and beating Hugh McIntosh, a porter lately in their employ. The evidence of complainant was to the effect that he had given notice to leave, but on Sunday morning was informed he would be paid off and could leave without notice. As his things were lying about unpacked in his room he refused to give up the key till the Monday. Shortly afterwards he found the Kirkwood had put a ladder up to the window and got into his room. He then went into his room to pack his things, and after some heated words Kirkwood struck him on the head with a stick, partially stunning him. Mrs Kirkwood came to her son's assistance, and while McIntosh was lying on the bed struck him two or three blows on the face with her clenched fist. Mrs Kirkwood stated that her son was a cripple and she had gone to his assistance, fearing he would be hurt. She denied striking complainant, but admitted pushing him back on the bed. William Kirkwood stated that the complainant had been impertinent to him and threatened to strike him, and a scuffle ensued. He never saw his mother strike the complainant.

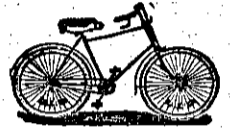
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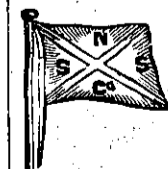
Acceptances will be seen in the morning papers of December 17th, 28th, 31st, and January 3rd.

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