

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

April 2	.....	Helenville Jockey Club
April 7	.....	Waipawa County R.C.
April 7, 8	.....	North Otago J.C.
April 9	.....	Avondale Jockey Club
April 13	.....	Foxton R.C.
April 18	.....	Auckland Trotting Club
Apr. 18	.....	Tauwhare Racing Club
Apr. 18	.....	Wairapa Racing Club
April 18	.....	Patea R.C.
April 18	.....	Tauwhare Annual Races, near Morrinsville
April 18	.....	Waipukurau J.C.
April 18, 19	.....	Fielding Jockey Club
Apr. 18, 19	.....	Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 18, 19	.....	Canterbury Jockey Club
Apr. 18	.....	Turaganui Races
April 23	.....	South Auckland Autumn Meeting
April 23, 29	.....	South Canterbury J.C.
Apr. 23, 30	.....	Wellington Racing Club
May 11	.....	Egmont Racing Club
May 24, 25	.....	Dunedin Jockey Club
May 24	.....	Wanganui J.C. Steeplechase
May 24	.....	Town and Suburban R.C., Hawke's Bay
May 24	.....	Horowhenua Jockey Club, Wellington
May 24	.....	Takapuna Jockey Club Winter Meeting
May 24	.....	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
May 24	.....	Nelson Trotting Club
June 4, 6	.....	Auckland Racing Club
June 24	.....	Hawke's Bay J.C., Winter
June 25	.....	Napier Park R.C., Winter
July 9	.....	Wellington Racing Club

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

Apr. 8, 22	.....	Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 9	.....	Dunedin Jockey Club
April 9	.....	Tauwhare Races
April 9	.....	Town and Suburban R.C., Hawke's Bay
April 16	.....	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
April 26	.....	Wanganui Jockey Club
May 10	.....	Dunedin Jockey Club
May 10	.....	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club Winter
May 12, 26	.....	Egmont Racing Club
May 27	.....	Auckland Racing Club
May 28	.....	Egmont Racing Club—Hack Produce
June 6, 27	.....	Wellington Racing Club
June 17	.....	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June 20	.....	Canterbury Jockey Club
July 25	.....	Wellington Jockey Club

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

April 7, 13	.....	South Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 4, 17, 18	.....	Auckland Racing Club
Apr. 8, 13	.....	Canterbury Jockey Club
Apr. 19	.....	Egmont Racing Club
Apr. 20, 29	.....	Wellington Racing Club
April 30	.....	Bell Block R.C.
April 30	.....	Town and Suburban R.C., Hawke's Bay
May 3, 24	.....	Dunedin Jockey Club
May 7	.....	Egmont Racing Club
May 10, 30	.....	Auckland Racing Club
June 4	.....	Auckland Racing Club
June 8	.....	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June 25, 30	.....	Wellington Racing Club

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

April 1, 14, 18	.....	Canterbury Jockey Club
April 7	.....	Foxton R.C.
April 8	.....	Auckland Trotting Club
April 8, 14, 16, 19	.....	Auckland Racing Club
April 9	.....	Patea R.C. (General entries)
April 12	.....	Waipukurau J.C.
April 15	.....	South Auckland Racing Club
April 25	.....	Wellington Racing Club
Apr. 30	.....	Egmont Racing Club
May 10, 24	.....	Dunedin Jockey Club
May 14	.....	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
May 14	.....	Town and Suburban R.C., Hawke's Bay
May 20	.....	Auckland Racing Club
June 1, 4	Auckland Racing Club
June 17	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June 1, 6	Wellington Racing Club

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Sporting Review.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1892.

METROPOLITAN CLUB RULES.

[BY PEGASUS.]

As pointed out in previous issues, this question requires a great deal of careful consideration at the hands of those appointed as delegates to the Conferences of Metropolitan Clubs, held from time to time throughout the Colony.

Many of the rules, as at present framed, are very ambiguous, and lead to endless trouble, more especially with country clubs. These clubs, I contend, are the very ones which the Metropolitan Clubs should frame their rules to accommodate. How often do we find disputes, protests, and lawsuits arising from the inability of country stewards to rightly interpret the intention of the rule to which they are refer-

ring, owing principally to the fact that the rule is so worded as to be anything but lucid or clear; and I have even known clever men, able to interpret the meaning of almost any legal Act, quite non-plussed when called upon to give an opinion on some of the rules of racing. For instance, here is an example of what is occurring almost daily amongst us, and on which there is no definite ruling amongst racing men and Committees. A programme is issued which contains a hurdle race and a steeplechase. The conditions state that the winner of any race (or any handicap) after the declaration of weights shall carry a penalty of (say) 5lbs. Now Don Juan is in the Hurdle Race at 10 stone (which he wins), and later in the day in the Steeplechase, at 9st 10lb for which he intends starting. Strictly and legally, according to the Rules he has to put up the 5lb extra in the Steeplechase. But we find this is not the custom in vogue, and country stewards (especially) wonder why?

Take Rule 2, which states that—"A race includes plate, match, sweepstake, steeplechase, or hurdle race," and compare it with Rule 7, which reads "A handicap is a race &c. &c." I hold, then, that by Rules 2 and 7 Don Juan (whom I have quoted), and all other similarly situated horses are legally bound to carry the penalty prescribed in the conditions laid down by the Club. This question has been referred to me repeatedly, and I have adjudicated upon it according to the foregoing interpretation; but I have found that when referred to the Auckland Club it has been disallowed on the ground that it was not customary to put up penalties in a Steeplechase for winning a hurdle race, and vice-versa.

"Rome was not built in a day" and I suppose the Rules could not be perfected during many such periods of time, still I think much more might have been done than has in the past, towards attaining that perfection necessary to the welfare of racing, and the alleviation of the burdens of those who undertake the duties of country or suburban race stewards.

It must be allowed that as "the country makes the town," so the country racing clubs must act as "feeders" to the town or Metropolitan Clubs. Certain it is that a great proportion of our cross-country horses will be bred and will make their debut in the country and at country races; hence the necessity (to my mind) of making the Rules far more intelligible and simple of interpretation than appears to be the case at present.

Besides, it must add considerably to the duties, and occupy a great deal of the time of the Metropolitan stewards and officials when called upon to mediate between the parties whenever such troublous cases occur.

An instance of this kind has only recently occurred at Wangarei, which, from the intricate nature of the circumstances, will test the acumen and discernment of the most astute of the stewards of the Auckland Racing Club.

But I find I am digressing from my preconceived plan of dealing with the rules now in existence, which was to "wade" through them serialim, and point out "all and sundry" discrepancies, ambiguities, or anomalies, which might happen to attract my notice.

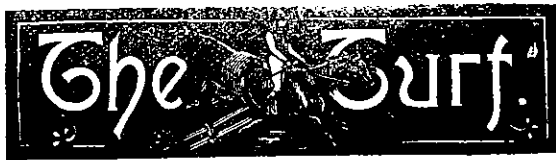
Rules 2 and 7, taken together, as shown above, do not "fit in" very nicely with Rule 43. I think it would be advisable to state clearly how penalties are to be reckoned. For example, again, taking those three rules, I hold that by the strict legal reading of them, any horse entered for both the Easter Handicap and Steeplechase is bound to carry any stipulated penalty in the Steeplechase for winning the handicap, or vice versa, if the conditions state that the winner of "any handicap" after the declaration of the weights has to carry such penalty. It would certainly be more intelligible were a rule to be inserted setting this matter forth more definitely than appears to be the case at present. A rule (call it Rule 42A) to the following effect would meet the case:—"In all cases where the conditions of a programme state that 'the winner of any handicap is to carry a certain penalty' it shall be deemed to mean that—(1) No winner of a flat race shall incur such penalty in a subsequent hurdle race or steeplechase on that programme. (2) No winner of a hurdle race shall incur such penalty in any subsequent flat race or steeplechase or vice-versa."

The next rule to engage attention is No. 20, It would be advisable to state therein whether

or not a horse, owner, &c., that was under disqualification at the time of nomination is eligible to win the stakes provided the disqualification be removed before the race or races be run. A case of this kind occurred recently at Wangarei, with the result that the matter was referred back to the Auckland Club for their ruling on the question. I shall again refer to this matter in a future issue.

In Rule 22 perhaps it would be advisable to cause all balance-sheets to be forwarded, and not allow the proviso "if required." Why not compel all clubs to show how they stand. This would act as a deterrent to the increase of what I alluded to recently as "mushroom" clubs.

Rules 23 to 44, inclusive, appear to be necessary good, and very applicable, except the probable insertion of Rule 42A, which I have remarked on above.



[BY OLD TURFITE.]

MR. EVITT has issued the weights for the Easter Handicap and the Autumn Steeplechase for the A.R.C. meeting. They must be declared very flattering ones, at the same time good, though, as must be expected, there are some discrepancies. Taking the Easter Handicap first, Mr. Hunter's two mares Cynisca, 8st 13lb, and Whisper, 8st 7lb, head the list. They have both been running badly at recent meetings, but the former, if at all in form, should have a show. Pinfire, 8st 6lb, is unfairly treated. He won the Auckland Cup with 6st 10lb, from a moderate and crooked field. Since then he has done nothing. Ingorina, 8st 5lb, on all public running has no business to give 11b to Leorina, who is most leniently treated, as she is getting fresh again, and the way she romped home for the Papakura Cup must not be forgotten. Morion, 8st 3lb, is not to be overlooked. He won the Great Northern Derby pretty cleverly, and then romped home for the Victoria Handicap and Onslow Cup at the Farewell Meeting at Eilerslie, but in the Hawke's Bay Cup Handicap he ran nowhere, although heavily backed by the local punters. Many say that he never tried, but he is "cow" hocked, the near one being especially bad, and a right-handed course will suit him better than a left-handed one. Many do not pay attention to these things, but Scot Free for one has proved it. In the Onslow Cup, Morion gave Pinfire 3lb, and beat him by half a length. Now it is just reversed. How does Mr. Evitt account for this, as Pinfire has not been out since. In the same race Dancer, 7st 6lb, received 18lb from Morion and was beat anyhow, now they have to meet at 9lb. Van Dieman, 8st 3lb, is kept in his proper place, as no one knows his exact form, but from the price his owner put on him (and he is no fool) he must be something out of the common. Raglan, 7st 11lb, is harshly treated, at the same time he is broken down. Dolosa, 7st 10lb, is thrown in, but she is such an uncertain brute there is no knowing what she will or can do. Coalscuttle, 7st 10lb, is about in her proper place. Queen of Trumps and Thame, 7st 5lb, are leniently treated. Master Pat, 7st 4lb, has got too much, as it is doubtful if he can stay the distance in this company. We now come to Fiesole, Huerfana, Krina, Free Lance and Pani, all thrown in at 7st. As the handicapper has seen all, with the exception of Fiesole, run lately, and cannot separate them, it would be folly for me to try to do so until the acceptances appear, as there are others in the same interest engaged. Lady Belle, 6st 12lb, if fresh and well, would have nothing to complain of. Swivel, Torpedo, and Weka are again bunched together at 6st 10lb. The same remarks apply to them as to the 7st division. Yattaghan, 6st 9lb, has got in easy enough. Melas and Bulrush, 6st 7lb, may be dismissed as altogether out of the proper place. There being so many outside horses engaged, the race had better be left alone until the acceptances appear, but of the local horses Leorina, Dolosa, and Major George's representative read the best, but the chances are the race goes to Hawke's Bay.