

THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR OF THE AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

THE SPORTING REVIEW has been appointed the Official Calendar for the publication of all programmes in the Provincial District of Auckland, in terms of Rule 17 of the Rules of Racing.

COLOURS. (Registered with the Auckland Racing Club.) Mr. Marangai ... First colours—The Huia: Black jacket, old gold collar, white armlets, black cap, white peak. Second colours—Pink jacket, black cap.

Mr. J. Forth ... Blue body, white sleeves and sash, blue and white cap. Mr. J. Malcolm ... Black body, pink sleeves and cap. Mr. A. J. Wilson ... White jacket, yellow sash, and white cap, yellow tassels.

The following trainers have been granted licenses by the Auckland Racing Club:—H. Harrison, J. B. Williamson, John Rae, D. McRighan, Adam Byers, E. Stening, F. McManamin, W. McManamin, F. Dodd, James Kenne, G. Wright, J. Fletcher, H. Smith, Murdoch McKenzie, Archie McMullen, H. H. Brown, J. McHugh, G. Absolum, Michael Maher, Alex Smith, Robert Smith, William Harrison.

The following jockeys have been licensed by the Auckland Racing Club:—Thos. Taylor, R. Ryan, Thos. Stewart, Fred Gay, A. McPherson, W. Gilly, W. Hayner, John Slater, D. Creamer, Jas. Skeats, T. McRighan, P. Hammond, James Byrne, G. Heaton, Alec Williams, W. Shaw, Hy. Priest, F. Davis, W. Smith, Harry Johnson, J. Gallagher, J. Carey, W. M. Hatfield, E. Donovan, R. Hall, C. Parker, J. Quinton, J. Homan, W. Moberley, E. Hickey (for 3 months), Sam Cook, H. Eva, J. Pennell, J. Duggan, G. W. Banks, Nathaniel Noble, G. E. Cudd, T. Geach, F. Burns, D. McKinnon, D. Wright, G. Donovan, T. Sharp, C. Coleman, W. Ashdown, Alfred Cook, John Cook, E. Monroe, Ambrose Dixon, Thomas Greenwood, E. Williams, James Donovan, James Buchanan.

Apprentices' licences have been granted to Ben Jones, W. Brown, E. Headley, James Mitchell, W. Oliver, John Stewart.

PROGRAMMES PASSED. Waikato Hunt Club—Oct. 7 Poverty Bay T.C.—Oct. 17 and 18 Pakuranga Hunt Club—Oct. 21 Gisborne R.C. Nov. 9 South Auckland R.C.—Dec. 30 Wnatawhata Races—Jan. 1 Waerenga-a-Hika R.C.—Dec. 26 Thames Jockey Club—Dec. 26 and 27 Matamata R.C.—Dec. 26 Poroti Racing Club—Nov. 9

DISQUALIFICATIONS. The following disqualifications by the Te Aroha Jockey Club have been endorsed by the A.R.C.:—That the horse Arawa, or Emmett, be disqualified for life. The disqualification of the horse Bookas or Bacchus, inflicted by the Gisborne Racing Club, has been removed by the Auckland Racing Club.

All horses, trainers, jockeys, and owners that took part in the Northern Waikato Racing Club Meeting, held on the 26th and 27th December, 1892, and the Whangarei Racing Club Meeting, held on 6th and 7th January, 1893, are disqualified.

The disqualification of E. Monroe, the jockey, was removed by the A.R.C. committee at their meeting on the 7th inst. The disqualification of Maori Girl was also removed at the same meeting. The disqualification of Mr P. Grant has been removed by the A.R.C. Committee. The disqualification of the pony Ben and the jockies W. Oliver, H. Hickton, J. Fletcher and R. Donovan has been removed.

The disqualification has been removed by the A.R.C. from ponies, owners, trainers and jockies that have competed at meetings at Potter's Paddock. The disqualification inflicted on W. Moberley and J. Hickey for riding at unregistered meetings has been removed by the A.R.C. The disqualifications have been removed from D. Sullivan's Alic, and J. Corboy.

WM. PERCIVAL, SECRETARY.

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SPECIAL CARE TAKEN

WIFE

HORSES, CATTLE, DOGS,

AND

ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS.

SPORTING FIXTURES ETC

Table with columns for date, event name, and location. Includes 'COMING EVENTS' and 'NOMINATIONS'.

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Table with columns for date, event name, and location. Includes 'AUSTRALIAN RACES', 'ENGLISH RACES', and 'HUNTING'.

Table with columns for date, event name, and location. Includes 'COURSING' and 'OUR LETTER RACK'.

OUR LETTER RACK. Letters wait at our office for Utiku Marumu, Mr and Mrs Bland Holt, Mr Harry Norman, Professor Heller.

Sporting Review.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1893.

THE dispute between Mr D. O'Brien and Major George in connection with the First Challenge Stakes is exercising sporting people on the other side. Commenting upon the affair as it stands at present, and more particularly on the action of the Canterbury Jockey Club in placing Mr O'Brien on the forfeit list, the Australasian of September 23rd writes:—

How Mr O'Brien came to be placed upon the forfeit list was curious, not to say questionable. Two horses of his breeding were entered in his name for the First Challenge Stakes, but before any fees for the race became due the two horses had been sold, and, in accordance with racing custom and practice, Mr O'Brien ceased to be responsible for them. It may very pertinently be asked, first, if Mr O'Brien was in the forfeit list, how was it that the stewards of the Canterbury Jockey Club permitted Loyalty to start? and secondly, how was it that Mr O'Brien, who, of course, professed ignorance of the circumstances, was not informed that he was in the forfeit list until about a month after Loyalty had won the race? These are very knotty questions. The

forfeits due for the two horses sold by Mr O'Brien were paid by Mr O'Brien under protest, but the club refused to receive the money under protest, and as remaining on the black list involved disqualification on all recognised courses, Mr O'Brien, who was contemplating a visit to Australia with horses, paid the money unconditionally. The stewards of the Canterbury Jockey Club proposed to hear the objection under circumstances which made it impossible for all the members of the tribunal to receive proper notice to be present, but Mr O'Brien took exception to such hurried procedure, and obtained an interim injunction restraining the stewards from dealing with the protest. But the stewards have since had the injunction rescinded, and may now deal with the protest. Mr Justice Denniston, who granted the application, made it pretty plain that Mr O'Brien had not been treated as he ought to have been by the club. His Honor's remarks suggested that there was a doubt as to Mr O'Brien being technically a defaulter, and also that no notice probably would have been taken of Mr O'Brien's name being in the forfeit list if he had not put in a claim for stakes to which he thought he was entitled. Major George's protest, coming as it did after Mr O'Brien had been accounted a defaulter, is unsatisfactory in that it is said to have been instigated by the Canterbury Jockey Club for the purpose of defeating Mr O'Brien's action; but Mr Justice Denniston, although accepting a denial of the statement, said at the same time that 'it had not been denied that Major George's protest was a direct result of Mr O'Brien's action against the club, and that the one would not have been heard of but for the other.' Altogether it is a pretty kettle of fish, and the issue will be awaited with interest.

THE Takapuna Jockey Club, like a good many other clubs, had a deficit to show over the season's operations at their annual meeting on Wednesday of last week. From the report and balance-sheet, appearing in another column, it will be seen that £210 5s 4d is the amount of the club's loss on the season—less than we expected under the circumstances. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, could not help alluding to the fact of the present stake money limit being largely responsible for the loss made by the club during the season, but, bearing in mind no doubt the fact that the Conference of Auckland Country and Suburban Clubs had elected him as their delegate and representative at the next Conference of Metropolitan Clubs, wisely restrained himself, and refrained from talking about those arbitrary acts of the self-constituted Metropolitan Clubs, etc. Even with the stake money left as it is now we believe the T.J.C. would flourish, though of course a less number of meetings would have to be held, but when, as we earnestly hope, the Country and Suburban Clubs gain the concessions they ask for, the Takapuna Jockey Club will sail along merrily with liberal bills of fare, and will be able to show at the end of the year that they have enough in hand for them to effect further improvements to their course, and in every way study the convenience of their patrons.

BUT the shoe has pinched not only the Country and Suburban Clubs but some of the Metropolitan Clubs, and none more so than the Dunedin Jockey Club, which has for a long time been a staunch opponent of the present stake money limit, and the roll of clubs under whose jurisdiction is indeed a large one. The Dunedin Jockey Club have just brought out their programme for the season, and no less than £770 is the reduction in the four programmes. It is hard indeed to see races like the Otago Cup reduced from 500sovs to 400sovs, the Dunedin Cup from 600sovs to 500sovs, the D.J.C. Handicap from 350sovs to 300sovs, and the Forbury Handicap from 250sovs to 200sovs. But this season it is evident that the high-minded sport who loves good racing, and loves it often, will have to take a back seat, and that a lot more of the L.S.D. element will be introduced into the operations of the various clubs.

THE decision of the Australian Jockey Club not to hear the complaint brought by Mr J. B. Clark, a well-known Australian-side racehorse owner, against a jockey for foul riding on Jeweller in the Wycombe Stakes at the recent A.J.C. Meeting, opens up the question whether the rules re complaints might not be advantageously amended. Mr Clark in lodging his complaint made it clear that he did so not with a view of its affecting the result of the race, but merely to investigate an offence said to be on the increase, and one which must be viewed with great seriousness seeing that it endangers not the loss of a race but probably the loss of human life. But the A.J.C. declined to hear the complaint on the ground that it had not been lodged within 15 minutes of the finish of the race. Under the rules, the Club had no option but to act as they did. But is not some alteration of the rules necessary to meet such special cases? The Melbourne Sportsman commenting on the subject points out, "Where

older or leading jockeys are concerned, the younger division are naturally afraid to speak of any real or fancied ill-treatment that they may sustain, lest worse befall them next time. These matters do not come before the owner or trainer immediately, and when they do he has to search carefully for the evidence, and to estimate its value ere occupying the time of an important tribunal with the matter. All this is impossible in fifteen minutes, or even during the afternoon of a busy race day." This is very true, and an alteration from the time limit of fifteen minutes to say a week, where an owner does not wish to upset the race but merely to bring to light an instance of unfair riding, might profitably be entertained by all racing clubs.

THE "riding to order" style of horsemanship which is unfortunately only too common on the turf, has received a salutary check by the action of the Victoria Racing Club in refusing to grant licenses to three leading Australian jockeys. The affair has created consternation amongst the riders in Sydney and Melbourne, for it was never dreamt by the parties interested that such decided action would be taken by the V.R.C. committee. When the time for licensing approached there was a general feeling that something would happen to certain jockeys, but those who felt they would be singled out for notice, never imagined that anything more serious than the usual words of caution would happen. But the men who at present have the guidance of the governing Australian turf body in their hands are determined to check the growing opinion that riding must be most decidedly and unmistakably "cronk" before official notice will be taken, and as an earnest of their future intentions they have suspended George Robson, James Hayes, and Joseph Cunningham from riding at registered meetings, the suspension to remain in force during the pleasure of the committee. The first named jockey's claim to distinction may be said to rest on the fact that he steered Glenloth home to victory in the last Melbourne Cup; but that result was probably as great a surprise to Robson as to everybody else. Hayes, however, is perhaps as good a rider as there is on the other side just now, consequently his services are much in demand, and his suspension must mean a serious thing to him. But an example was necessary, and the three jockeys who were selected were no doubt answerable for acts which the V.R.C. has set itself to put down. The news that riding which does not commend itself to the governing racing body will be visited with such severity cannot but have a very salutary effect for the Australian turf has shown lately that the tendency amongst even first class jockeys is to ride with a charming disregard for the rules of honest racing.

BUT there is another side to the question which must suggest itself to fair-minded people, and that is that the V.R.C. are striking at the branches of the tree which is supposed to be diseased instead of attacking its roots. Why not deal with those people who are responsible for the ranning of their employees? The jockeys in question are mere boys, and may be more sinned against than sinning. To most of them the question is not, 'Shall I ride straight or stiff?' but, 'Shall I decline to follow orders and lose my situation?' It is doubtless a hard thing to get at those who are at the head of the evil, but it is probably a harder thing to punish those who by their peculiar environment are forced into the practices which lead to their suspension. No doubt the V.R.C. Committee will temper justice with mercy and restore the jockeys' licenses after a time has elapsed sufficient to show the lads in question that the loss occasioned by a refusal to 'pull' their mounts is infinitely smaller than that which will assuredly follow any acquiescence in such a style of riding.

THE Carrie case which has been exciting so much attention in coursing circles, and to which the Auckland Coursing Club have devoted so much time in fishing out information ever since a protest has been laid, has at last been settled. After a mass of documentary evidence had been brought before the Club, and a host of letters and telegrams had passed between them and the National Coursing Club of New Zealand, it was decided to refer the question to the latter body, who have now given their decision. They hold that Carrie could not claim the stakes under the Club's Rules, because she was