

## AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

On Monday afternoon the annual general meeting of the Auckland Racing Club took place, some seventy members attending the Chamber of Commerce. Mr Thomas Morrin, the Chairman of Committee, presided and proceedings were of a very brief nature.

The annual report, which was given in our last issue, was brevity itself, comprising but fifteen lines, and this was read by the secretary. It showed that the club had experienced a successful season, the net profit being £1575 7s 2d. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr M. McLean, the report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted.

Mr E. D. O'Rourke moved, "That it be an instruction to the incoming committee to consider the advisability of limiting the number of members of the club, and that in future all members shall be balloted for by the whole club, one black ball in five to exclude; voting papers to be sent to each member." This being seconded by Mr Walker some discussion ensued, but on it being pointed out that the sub-committee which had been appointed to revise the rules had practically embodied the resolution the matter was allowed to drop.

The matter of a circular which had been issued and which adversely criticised the management of the club was referred to, and several gentlemen whose names appeared upon it disowned having had anything to do with the same, but the subject was not gone into.

Mr Roulston thought there was much room for improvement in the manner in which the Provident Fund was dispensed, but the Chairman explained that the delay generally occurred through the papers in each case having to be forwarded to Christchurch.

The election of six members of committee was then proceeded with, the candidates being: Messrs H. T. Gorrie, Thos. Morrin, A. Hanna, M. McLean, G. W. S. Patterson, H. O. Nolan (all retiring in terms of rules, and offering themselves for re-election), A. E. Price, Samuel Bradley, George Dunnet, and Dr. F. W. Sharman (fresh nominees). The voting was as under:—Gorrie, 164; Nolan, 151; Morrin, 144; Bradley, 140; Patterson, 126; Hanna, 101; Sharman, 95; McLean, 86; Price, 65; Dunnet, 44. Messrs Gorrie, Nolan, Morrin, Bradley, Patterson, and Hanna were then declared duly elected, after which proceedings terminated.

The Australian Jockey Club has appointed two stipendiary stewards this season instead of three. There were some eighty applications for the positions, and the two gentlemen selected to fill the posts are Messrs L. G. Rouse and J. McMahon. The former comes from a racing family who reside at Mudgee and is a horseowner, but this will, of course, have to be given up. Mr McMahon has acted as handicapper for the Clarence River Jockey Club, and has owned and trained horses. The new appointments have been somewhat severely criticised, as many consider that men with other than country experience should have been preferred, while the reduction in the number of stipendiaries is also thought to be a mistake.

Washington Park, Chicago, where the American Derby is run, has been compelled to close its gates (says the "Breeder and Horseman"). The Washington Park Club is one of the best racing organisations in America. It is an organisation of gentlemen who have kept the sport clean and high-class, refusing to hold their meeting for more than twenty-one days in each year, and under whose auspices the American Derby has become the greatest event of the summer racing season. Washington Park, however, is within the city limits of Chicago, and the officials of that city insist that the laws prohibiting betting on races shall be obeyed. The Washington Park Club's officials respected the laws, made no attempt to evade them, and some found that they could not afford to continue their meeting, so the stakes were all declared off and the gates of the track were closed. Every true sportsman will regret that such a condition of things exists in Chicago, but will realise that it is the natural result of the excess of racing which has led to it.

## AFTER THE RACES.

## HAWKE'S BAY HUNT CLUB MEETING.

(By Our Napier Correspondent.)

The votaries of Diana held their usual annual re-union on the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's grounds. Though the climate was sharp and keen it was fine overhead, and might justly be described as an ideal winter day. The attendance was far more numerous than has been the case for years past, and notwithstanding that no totalisator was in evidence those of a speculative nature had ample opportunities to gratify their inclinations, as sixteen bookmakers had each paid the required license fee (£5). Judging from the tone of the ringmen backers must have had a good day, for each and every one of the pencillers averred that they had lost money.

Owing to the fact that the application for a conditional license was not made in time no publicans' booth was open, and thirsty souls (somehow or other they are always more so when the requisite alcoholic liquors are not to be obtained) had therefore no means of assuaging their appetites.

Mephisto, an aged half-brother by Lochnagar to the defunct Scallywag, landed the Hunters' Bracelet for the nominator, Miss Pettit, by a head from Taipairu; Ogle a fair third. The winner was the outsider of the pack, his starting price being 10 to 1. Cavill was the favourite, but was not prominent at the business end of the argument. Mr Harold Russell in an apropos speech presented the bangle to Miss Pettit.

Talune was made a solid favourite for the First Open Flat Handicap and thoroughly justified the confidence reposed in him, for he was always adjacent to the van, and coming on from the half-mile post captured it comfortably from Sleepwell, who experienced no serious difficulty in disposing of Ballyneety. The other starters, Taniwha, Quilted, Baldie, and Tane, had no say whatever in the disposal of the prize.

Only a couple in Dubious and Secrecy lined up for the Hunt Club Steeplechase, and Mr Jack Groome had an easy task set him to land the former the conqueror. Dubious, who is by Straybird's sire Wanderer, carried Miss Sunderland's colours and the win was a most popular one, for the lady is a well-known follower of the Hawke's Bay pack. Mr M. E. Groome in presenting Miss Sunderland with the trophy took advantage of the occasion to refer to the increased interest that was being taken in hunting in the district, and the hearty cheering that greeted his remarks proved conclusively that the spectators voiced his opinion.

The rising three-year-old son of The Officer and Martyrdom, The Stake, was selected as the right article for the Trial Plate, and the good style in which he pulled his supporters through showed that they had not been chancing anything to luck. Whakawehi, a rising three-year-old gelding by Daunt—Queensborough, one of Monro's stable mates, claimed second choice from backers, and the public showed that they were on the spot with easily settled the others as The Stake had their selection, for Whakawehi just as accounted for him.

Ogle, who claims full brotherhood to Little Billee, upset a hot favourite in Anadeja in the Hunters' Flat Handicap, in fact the first choice had also to strike her colours to Bill Bailey, who kept Ogle busy in his efforts to overthrow him.

Talune's connections were of the opinion that nothing had a chance with him in the Second Open Handicap, and the public taking the lead from the stable put their coin in on Virginia's son. He did not bear out the good ideas formed of him, for he did not get in the first three, the victor turning up in Admiral Cerveras, Te Hawke second and Golden Comb third.

Business was brought to a finale with the Hunters' Final Steeplechase, Sassimir, an aged son of Prince Cole, gaining the honours for that enthusiastic sport, Mr H. F. G. Carlyon, from Hikairoa, owned by Mr T. te Ua, who in times gone by had a real good one in Philanthropist carrying his racing livery. Black Boy, who had the services of Mr P. Neagle, was third.

## TRAINING NOTES.

## RICCARTON.

(By Our Canterbury Correspondent.)

We are now within two weeks of the Grand National Meeting. With horses arriving almost every day training work at Riccarton is becoming interesting.

The weather held fine up to Sunday, when rain commenced to fall and has continued at intervals up to the time of writing. It is now very cold, with every prospect of very severe frosts or a fall of snow.

A large number of horses worked on Saturday morning, when the tracks were in capital order. Most of the work was accomplished on the inner plough track.

Sharp at eight o'clock Huku traversed three circuits, the first steady, the second at half-speed, and finishing over the last round at a sound three-quarter speed.

Cannie Chiel dashed over a mile going freely and well, while Roseshield negotiated two circuits, finishing down the straight at three-quarter speed each round.

Brave Heart ran six furlongs, while Ability and Methuen separately put in half-steady pacing over two circuits.

The Mohican (Legarty) and Bayonet (McGregor) were then associated in a schooling task over hurdles. The Mohican, who fenced proficiently, easily out-paced his companion, who, however, jumped satisfactorily.

Plantaganet galloped a mile, while Catherine Gordon compassed two circuits, finishing down the straight at a solid half-pace each time.

Wet Reef traversed about a mile and a half at his best pace, while Hotu negotiated the circuit at three-quarter speed. Zealous, with an advantage in weight, held Gold Bangle safe at the end of a spin over six furlongs, while Cerise and Blue appeared to be going well at the end of a strongly run seven furlongs.

Mokowhiti (McGregor) cantered round to the top and was then brought on to the schooling track. He negotiated the first flight of hurdles in good style, but on coming to the next obstacle he stood off too far and came down, giving his rider a bad fall. Onlookers soon gathered round and it was at once seen that McGregor was badly hurt. He was carried to the hotel when a doctor was telephoned for. McGregor is conscious, but it is thought that his collar-bone is broken, while he has also been severely shaken.

Secret Society and Petrovna together were given a sprinting task over about three furlongs. Clanburn galloped once round, while Ia was given trotting exercise over three circuits.

Star (Quinton) alone was given a schooling task over the big fences, but he did not jump in a pleasing manner, running off at one of the obstacles, while he showed a tendency to shirk some of the other fences.

Haydn (Derrett) and Ranana (Julian) traversed two circuits, the first at steady three-quarter speed and the second at a working gallop. The pair went pleasingly and were anxious to improve the pace.

Papatu put in long steady pacing, while Ordinance and De la Rey ran five furlongs, finishing together.

Kaitere's task was steady to strong half-pace over three circuits. There appeared to be little to choose between Manjess (Donovan) and Lady Sout (Derrett) at the end of a spin over five furlongs.

Pipi negotiated two circuits, the first at half-speed and the second at three-quarter speed. Graduated Tax was given a similar journey, while Wet Blanket galloped six furlongs.

Phaetonis (Moraghan) and Comfort (Lind) were companions in a schooling task for two rounds over big fences. The pair kept together throughout and fenced safely.

Slow Tom (Delaney) alone followed the above pair over the big fences and jumped in a finished manner, although he was allowed to go at a leisurely pace throughout.

Aka Aka (W. O'Connell), and Crespin (Howard), were then associated. Starting down the straight they reached the double, where the latter ran round, but was eventually got over. He also missed the second fence, and continuing, the pair increased the pace; both fenced well over the post and rails and sod wall. On coming to the double again Crespin refused, but after several attempts by the onlookers to frighten him over, he eventually succeeded in scrambling over. The pair then got together again and fenced safely over the post, and rails, and sod wall. Aka Aka especially pleased by his bold style of fencing, but Crespin was a very disappointing display.

Moccasin (Quinton) fenced in his usual finished manner in a schooling task over two circuits of the big fences, while Oyster (Swinburn), and Wonderful

(M'Laughlin), gave a fairly creditable exhibition over the hurdles. Oyster was taken over the double but missed the second fence on two occasions, but eventually jumped correctly. Tahae and Oblivion II. ran a strong mile, finishing together, while Merry Boy travelled three circuits on the tan, the last two rounds at half-speed.

Reliance and Ilector negotiated two circuits, the last mile of the journey at a working pace.

Kremlin and The Guesser separately put in two steady circuits. Both horses are looking well, the former especially so.

On Sunday a dense fog obscured the course during the greater part of the morning and was accompanied by a steady rain. Slow Tom cantered once round, and then traversed two circuits at three-quarter speed, going freely. This horse is very well.

Aka Aka covered two circuits at half-speed, while Tahae and Crespin separately put in steady pacing over two rounds.

Oblivion ran six furlongs, while Kremlin went two circuits, the first at a steady half-pace and the second round at three-quarter speed. The Guesser did similar work.

Haydn's task was two circuits at half-speed, and Carlo went freely over two circuits at a good three-quarter speed.

The following horses were given half to steady pacing:—Catherine Gordon, Rose Shield, Ability, Reliance and Balfour. Several others were out walking on the roads.

On Monday rain fell, and the tracks were wet and greasy. Most of the horses claiming engagements at the Meeting were out, but nothing beyond half to steady pacing was accomplished, several of the candidates were out exercising on the roads.

Hippowai, who arrived yesterday, was out. He is looking in fine fettle.

The weather was bitterly cold this (Tuesday) morning. The outside of the course proper was opened, and although somewhat heavy, it provided good going. Shortly before eight o'clock, Iiuku started operations by covering one round, being allowed to run home the last half mile at his best pace. The Mohican, with St. Reef for a companion, broke away at the mile and a half post. Reaching the six furlongs post he was joined by Methuen, and the pair raced home together; it was a good, useful gallop.

Cannie Chiel galloped a mile, while Rose Shield negotiated two circuits, finishing over the last half-mile at three-quarter speed. Catherine Gordon was given a similar task. Shellfire traversed a circuit at three-quarter speed, and Clanburn galloped one mile and a quarter.

Star compassed two circuits, brushing over the last half-mile of each round. Phaetonis, Agitator and Narcissus were companions over two circuits, first at half-speed and the second at a working gallop.

Hippowai covered two circuits at half-speed, and Cerise and Blue galloped one mile in 1min 5sec, finishing well.

Papatu's task was a couple of circuits, first at half-speed and the second round at three-quarter speed. He went more freely than usual. King Stork sprinted half a mile easily in 55sec, and Secret Society with the worse of the weights defeated Petrovna over seven furlongs in 1min 37 1-5sec, an attractive performance.

Reliance performed creditably in the schooling task once round over the hurdles, while Pipi alone negotiated two circuits, the first at half-speed and the second at a good striding pace. Gold Bangle and Trentbridge finished together at the end of a gallop over six furlongs.

Crespin appeared to be going better than Comfort at the end of a strong run, a mile and a half, which occupied 3min 2 1-5sec. Ia brushed over the last half-mile of two steady circuits, and Princess of Thule compassed two rounds at a leisurely pace.

Aka Aka, Tahae and Slow Tom were galloped a circuit which occupied 3min 52sec. The three kept together until half-way down the straight. Aka Aka finished particularly well, and greatly pleased the onlookers.

Haydn, Kaitere and Ranana traversed a circuit at half-speed, and then went on for another round at a good striding pace, finishing together. Merry Boy, who had done half-pace over two rounds, joined the three down the straight, and finished with them.

Zealous and Graduated Tax gave a creditable display in a schooling task once round over the hurdles, and afterwards cantered on the course proper, and brushed home down the straight.

Moccasin did half-pace work over two rounds, and Cremona was ridden out over six furlongs. Carlo and Bayonet galloped six furlongs in 1min 25sec, and Manjess traversed a mile at three-quarter speed.

Kremlin and Lady Sout were associated over one mile and a half, the former going in an attractive manner.

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