

## CRICKET.

(Continued from page 13.)

The Grafton-Eden game played on the Domain provided one of the most interesting finishes seen so far this season. For, though in the end the Graftonites won comfortably with 341 against their opponents 214, the result was kept in doubt until C. Hay, the ninth man in, joined Clayton, and Eden's total was passed.

During the afternoon three really good stands were made. The first, between Jones and D. Hay, produced well on to 100 runs; the second, between Clayton and Forster, another 60 odd, and the last, during which the runs required were knocked off between Clayton and C. Hay, over 100 before Clayton was well caught off a lofty on drive in the deep field.

With 45 on for two wickets, Spense and D. Hay, the two not outs from last Saturday, opened the afternoon for Grafton. Unfortunately Spense, a junior, who has shown great promise with the bat, was suffering a recovery after a week's illness, and shortly after commencement of play he returned one to H. B. Lusk, who was on at the pavilion end. The catch was a fairly hot one, and was well taken. Strange to say two balls earlier he had returned quite a soft one to the same bowler, which was not taken. As often happens with a straight return, Lusk thought it was coming much faster than it naturally did, and consequently mis-timed the catch.

Jones was the next man in, and with his advent runs began to come steadily from both batsmen. At this stage of the game the light was anything but good, a misty rain falling all the time. Fortunately, however, this state of things did not last long, and when the sun made its appearance from behind the clouds the wickets were soon dry and the light good.

With the runs coming surely and steadily the Eden skipper bethought him of the last stand of the two Graftonites at the Shore, and fearful of their getting again well set he made a double change in his bowling.

Smith replaced Clarke, who had kept a good length up till then, but was beginning to tire, and Stenson went on at Lusk's end. The latter move was, in my humble opinion, a grave mistake, for, though Hay seemed to find little difficulty from Lusk's end, Jones was anything but at home to his deliveries, and runs were not coming freely from either batsman. The wicket was not hard, and was doing a bit and Lusk was pitching both his breaks well.

Generally speaking, it is a good rule against good bats to change your bowling if the wickets are not coming; but when a batsman is obviously uneasy to a particular bowler, the object of making a change is absolutely lost. Many times I have long ago chuckled to myself when some captain, whose observation was not too keen, had taken off the only man in his team that was at all puzzling.

Jones' 30 was an extremely useful innings, but his batting was not of the order that he displayed in the previous match, when he made 156 not out against Shore. On that occasion he never once looked like getting out. The same cannot be said of his Saturday's effort. No doubt the difference in the wicket had something to do with it. He was clean beaten by one of Stenson's slow deliveries.

As often happens after a good partnership, Hay did not outlive his partner more than a few overs, putting one back easily to Lusk, who had come on again at the far end.

With both Jones and Hay gone, five wickets down, and still 80 or 90 runs to get, the game was anybody's, and the excitement from this point on until Eden's total was passed was keen on both sides.

An extraordinary thing happened during Hay's innings. In playing back to one of Smith's balls a somewhat bumpy one, Hay hit the ball hard on to the ground. It rolled quickly back and lodged between the off and middle stump, but unluckily for Eden did not dislodge the bails.

The latter portion of Grafton's innings must have been exceedingly gratifying to the team and its supporters. Clayton's innings of 77, C. Hay's 70, and Forster's 31 were all the more welcome because they were to a certain extent unexpected. Not that they have not before shown as good cricketers, but because they have lately been manifestly out of form. Clayton's innings was one of the best I have seen him play. His defence was sound and his strokes well timed and forceful.

Perhaps the brightest display of the afternoon was C. Hay's 70. This player came in at a very critical moment, when runs were badly wanted, and the decided way he went for and banged the Eden bowling was greatly appreciated by the spectators. One off drive just as Eden's score was being approached was an especially fine stroke.

Forster's 31, too, was a most useful contribution, and very much better than anything else he has shown this season.

Stenson and H. B. Lusk were the most successful of Eden's bowlers, getting three for 75 and three for 77 respectively.

Afternoon tea was given by the ladies and greatly appreciated by all present.

## LAWN TENNIS.

The second round of the inter-club matches was played last Saturday. The weather was better than the previous Saturday, although the wind was rather too high for successful lobbing. Eden and Epsom won against Parnell, West End against Onehunga, and Devonport against Auckland.

The following are the points scored to date:—

Eden and Epsom	...	...	48
West End	...	...	48
Parnell	...	...	19
Auckland	...	...	16
Devonport	...	...	8
Onehunga	...	...	5

The next round will be played on the 13th of January, sufficient time being allowed for the return of local competitors at the New Zealand meeting in Wellington, which starts on the 28th inst.

During the progress of these matches it has been noticeable that few of the umpires seem to realise that the scores should be announced loud enough to permit the onlookers to know the state of the game. Umpires should call the score immediately before each serve, and the games, with the name of the leading players, should be called distinctly.

Parnell have a large membership, and there seems to be a number of young players, who should bring up the strength of this club if only they will practise with the idea of improving their play and not simply have a game for pure amusement.

With such a membership, and with lawns so handy for practice, Parnell should be able to place a much stronger team in the field than that picked last Saturday.

I think this club should play more practice singles. Nothing improves the play so much as a good hard single of three sets once or twice a week if possible.

About ten local players will attend the Wellington meeting. None of these are likely to bring championship honours to Auckland, but I hope some handicap trophies may return with them.

A. S. C. Brown is playing a strong game in singles, going up to third place on the Eden and Epsom ladder by beating Billing 6-4, 6-4.

W. A. Brown is also in good form, but does not seem to have got further than his best last season. Plays a good volley game in doubles, and should have some success with Miss A. Stewart in Wellington.

Miss A. Nicholson is playing steadily at West End, and no doubt intends to regain the ladies' championship, which went to Miss D. Udy last year. Miss Udy is getting into form, and with a little more practise will be in a good position to defend her last season's success. Her serving is very strong, as also her cross-court and side-line driving.

There seems little chance of any change in the men's singles, Grossman and Dr. Keith being some distance ahead of all others.

It is to be regretted that for some seasons past—in fact, not since Peacock came to the front—we have not seen any young players make a bid for championship honours. Every succeeding season seems to show the same players in the same position, and playing the same strength of game.

Unfortunately Norman Brookes was unable to make arrangements to be present at the Wellington tournament, so that the field is clear for Parker to once again scoop the pool.

Have seen no reports about Miss Nunneley, but presume she will be at the meeting.

## FOOTBALL.

At last, after playing twenty-eight matches, the New Zealanders have met with a reverse, having been beaten on Saturday by Wales by three points to nil. There were 40,000 people on the Cardiff ground to see the match, and one can well understand that there was a scene of tremendous excitement at the close. The one score was a try by Morgan, which was not converted, but there does not seem to have been much fluke about the win, for on the whole the Welshmen would appear to have had very slightly the best of the game. Reading between the lines, it would seem that the absence of Smith as centre three-quarter was severely felt, for the cabled account of the match says that several of Roberts' passes were badly missed by the three-quarters, and the offender would probably be Deans, at centre. Wallace got to within a yard of the line on one occasion, and later on the three-quarters got right down to the Welsh goal, but Bush saved the position and then nearly succeeded in dropping a goal. Just before time the defeat might have been averted but Deans passed forward and spoilt it. One can easily imagine the enthusiasm of the Taffes when the whistle finally sounded.

## CYCLING.

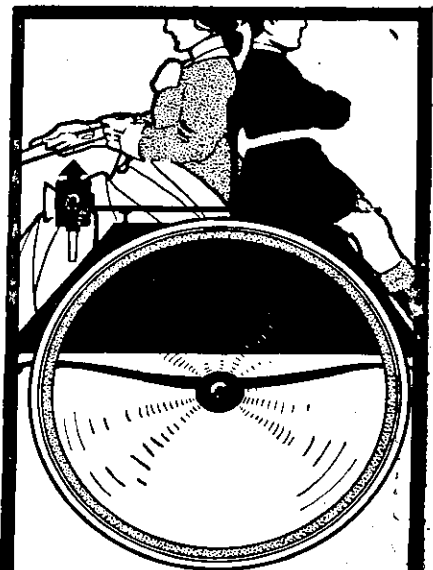
(By "PETROL.")

The final of the Austral Wheel Race gave rise to a good finish and an unfortunate incident. At the last lap Victory and Freyon were in front, with Megson last. In the straight Levey and Sandberg drew out, and a great race home resulted in the former beating Sandberg by a length. Levey was disqualified for running Sandberg up a bank, and Megson, who came with a great rush, was placed second, with Freyon third. Levey has appealed against his disqualification.

An idea of the tremendous use of the cycle in the Old Country can be gathered from the fact that over 15,000 cycles were manufactured and sold by one of the leading English cycle manufacturers during their last trading year. This means practically an output of 1000 cycles a week.

Huret, the famous old French rider, has announced his intention of going for the twenty-four hours' record. It will be remembered that Huret's unparalleled career came to an abrupt end about three years ago, when he met with a bad fall

on the Parc des Princes track, in Paris, and broke his left ankle. After remaining in the hospital for over three months, he came out, but it was then understood that he was never to ride a bicycle again. However, Huret now states that it is his intention to train again with a view of attacking the twenty-four hours' record, and putting up a ride which will "surprise the world." The trial would take place early next season, motor-pacing being employed. The figures with this style of pacing now stands at 634 miles, to the credit of A. E. Walters (England), and Huret's aim is to endeavour and cover about 750 miles.



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