

Noble is one of the finest points ever seen, and those who would send the ball to him and not retire would do well to see that it reaches him along the ground.

Mackay we have not seen in New Zealand, and until this season have heard little about him, but if half we read of him be true he is indeed a second Trumper come to light. Such a brilliant debut in inter-State cricket is unparalleled in the records of Australian cricket. He played six innings, scoring 194, 90, 105, 102 not out, 18, and 50, and not only topped the list with an average of 111.86, but created a fresh record by putting in the double century, 105 and 102 not out at Sydney against South Australia.

Noble's figures read: 281, 27, 43, 37 not out, 0, and 123, average 102, an excellent record, but nevertheless not so consistently good right through as Mackay's.

Another comparatively new name is that of Diamond, also a New South Welshman, who finished third in the list with an average of 76.

Little wonder is it then that with five such batsmen on their side as Noble, Trumper, Duff, Mackay and Diamond, with the Waddy Brothers to back them up, the mother State has beaten all previous records in run-getting.

Then, too, the bowling, though not so formidable, was not to be despised. With Garnsey and Cotter in the van, New South Wales was always sure of a good attack. The latter has improved wonderfully during his trip Home, and capable critics on the other side are hopeful that he may still be a star among international bowlers. In the Kelly benefit match he kept a good length, and maintained his pace throughout New South Wales long innings in a manner equal to Jones or Richardson at their best.

As he is still but a boy and has a splendid physique, there is no reason why he should not be a power on the Australian side for many years to come.

Another very fine average is that of McAlister, of Victoria. He is an inter-State batsman of some years' standing, and has this year been in exceptionally good form. His figures read: 157, 128, 56, 53, 40, 13, and 0, average 64. He comes fourth in the list.

Armstrong, who made himself famous during the English tour, is not far away either in bowling or batting.

After being so thoroughly beaten during the last tour in England, it is gratifying to all followers of the game in this side of the world to see such brilliant performances by the younger Australian players. During last year it was quite evident to all who watched the games at all closely that there was more than one back number on the Australian side, and their signal defeat makes the advent of such batsmen as Mackay and Diamond doubly welcome.

The following list gives a few of the best batting and bowling averages for 1905-6:—

BATTING.			
	In.	T.R.	Ave.
Mackay, N.S.W.	6	559	111.80
Noble, N.S.W.	6	511	102.20
Diamond, N.S.W.	4	229	76.33
McAlister, Vic.	7	450	64.28
C. Gregory, N.S.W.	2	127	63.50
Gehrs, S.A.	4	178	59.33
Armstrong, Vic.	5	275	55.
Claxton, S.A.	8	347	49.58
Warne, Vic.	6	293	48.83
C. Hill, S.A.	4	191	47.75

BOWLING.				
	Balls.	Rns.	Wkts.	Av.
Garnsey, N.S.W.	906	490	24	20.41
Armstrong, Vic.	914	282	13	21.69
Cotter, N.S.W.	1,144	566	24	23.58
Saunders, Vic.	1,190	687	27	25.44
Wright, S.A.	701	399	15	26.60
O'Connor, N.S.W.	757	365	14	26.71
Reedman, S.A.	779	375	12	31.25

Note.—Wides and no-balls are included in runs.

The final amount of the Kelly benefit is £1398 (says the "Referee.") The New South Wales Cricket Association paid expenses of the match, which amounted to £76. The Association executive made a suggestion to the beneficiaries with respect to the investment of the money—or a large portion of it—in one of the Trustee companies. But Kelly was reasonably averse to the proposal. He desired it to be handed over to Mr. Philip Sheridan and Mr. John Portus as trustees for investment in property. The two gentlemen named were primarily responsible for Kelly's originally settling down in Sydney, Mr. Sheridan at that time being managing trustee of the ground and Mr. Portus hon. sec. of the association.

AQUATICS.

(By "THE REEFER.")

A novelty is to be introduced next Saturday by the Power Boat Association, when all the competitors for the Whitney Cup must be steered by either the wife, sister, daughter, sister-in-law, or fiancée of the owner. This should cause a lot of additional interest in the race. In Melbourne the other day a very successful race of the kind was held, the competitors being sailing yachts, Sayonaca beating Hurrica by 15 seconds. It remains to be seen whether the power boats cannot beat this.

There are plenty of launches in process of construction at the various yards, and business all round is brisk.

At Logan Bros. there is a 30ft cabin launch being built, which should be ready by the 21st of the month for shipment to Fiji. An 8 h.p. Union engine will be the propelling power.

The same firm have just finished a 30ft launch for Mr. Banks, of Waihi. She is a very shapely little vessel, and is driven by an 8 h.p. Blake engine. A 26ft boat with an 8 h.p. De Dion for Mr. Prosser, of North Shore, and a 26ft boat with a similar engine for Mr. Roche, of Waihi, are also well advanced.

Charles Bailey, jun., has just built two fine surf boats for the Union Company, and two boats for the Melanesian Mission. He is finishing off a very handsome 35ft pleasure boat for a local owner. She will be driven by a 10 h.p. Standard engine. A 33ft launch with an 8 h.p. engine is also in course of construction for a Picton owner.

Messrs. Montgomery and Alexander's new 48ft cruising power launch was put afloat last week, and has been out for some preliminary spins. She has a 35 h.p. Union engine, which drives her at a speed of about ten knots per hour. In addition to a handsomely-finished saloon, there are two large cabins and a small cabin forward. When afloat the launch shows a high side, and looks like being a fine powerful seaboat. It is, however, possible she would have looked better with two masts with a nice rake instead of the one perpendicular stick, but the former would have meant the foot coming through the saloon. Now that the Queen of Beauty has left Auckland the Raroro is beyond question the finest power launch on the Waitemata.

Yachtsmen have had good reason to complain of the weather this season; in fact, many projected cruises have had to be abandoned unconditionally. It is curious how each week-end the wind veers to the westward and the familiar thick bank of cloud-wrack hurries up to blot out the landmarks and send a slur of white caps from Kauri Point to the Thames. Each Sunday afternoon lately has seen the straggled fleet thrashing home with storm jibs and two or three reefs in the mainsails. You can run up against a nasty joggle off Rangitoto and North Head occasionally.

Motor launch skippers should keep a weather eye raised when cruising among the wharves. One launch full of sports got a scare recently, their boat being filled with water and somewhat damaged in a collision with a steamer just off the end of the wharf. The other day the writer witnessed a near thing between a ferry boat and the Grey Witch. The latter shot out unexpectedly right athwart the bows of the ferry steamer, and but for the prompt action on the part of the ferry skipper, the Grey Witch would have tried a small submarine trip. As it was, the ferry steamer pulled up in a smother of foam within a couple of feet of the launch with nothing to spare, and a little comment on the ferry skipper's part closed the incident.

The old Halcyon, one time well known in Auckland yachting circles, still lies high and dry on the coast north of Auckland. She was one of the old school of yachts, deep and narrow, and was amateur built.

The race between Bona and Rawhiti ended in defeat for the latter, though the new boat hung close to

her antagonist throughout the race. We should like to hear how Rawhiti would perform in a good stiff breeze.

A cruise to Kawau, undertaken recently in the Mavourneen by some North Shore sports, turned out all right, though a nasty sea was met with on the run home. They reported passing the fine American ship Tillie E. Starbuck off the coast under a cloud of canvas, and say the sight was a very fine one. Unfortunately there wasn't a camera on board to record this all to rare spectacle.

The Togo has lately blossomed out in a new form of distinct taniwha pretensions. She is no longer a thing of beauty, but romps about the harbour like a thing possessed, and is calculated to curl the hair of the average Maori into knots. Rumour has it that there is method in the madness of her disguise.

LA WN TENNIS

(By "VOLLEY.")

Owing to the bad weather the inter-club matches were postponed last Saturday until March 24. The Parnell Club have invited the Papatoetoe Club to play a friendly match next Saturday. These two clubs have met several times during the last few seasons.

The Taranaki Association are suggesting a match to be played against a representative team on March 17. The Eden and Epsom Club have kindly consented to the use of their lawns for this purpose. The visitors will probably include Messrs. Dickie and Wallace and Miss Powdrell, all of whom distinguished themselves in the recent tournament at Wellington.

It is proposed to play eight men's singles and two or more ladies' singles, according to the number of ladies able to come to Auckland, and to follow these events with men's doubles, ladies' doubles, and combined doubles, according to the time available.

It will be interesting to watch the games of our local men, especially those of Keith and Grossman, who will probably have to face Dickie and Wallace.

Miss D. Udy will also have an opportunity of testing her strength against Miss Powdrell.

Final notice of the ability to send this team should be received any day from New Plymouth, and if arranged the Auckland Association will arrange a return match against the visitors next season.

Why not arrange a meeting with Hawke's Bay; if too late this season the Auckland team might go on to Napier after New Plymouth next season.

Secondary schools' tournament starts at once, and will be played on the Eden and Epsom lawns on Saturday mornings, as last season.

The following matches have been played at Devonport during the week:—

Men's Doubles: Warner and Rishworth (scratch) beat Francis Brabant and White (receive 15), 6-3, 6-2.

Combined Doubles: Redman and Miss Alison (scratch) beat K. Howarth and Mrs. Swan (owe 316 15), 6-4, 6-2.

Ladies' Singles (semi-final): Mrs. Cooper (owes 40) beat Miss D. Metcalfe (receives 3-6 15), 6-3, 6-2.

In the ladies' singles Mrs. Cooper (owes 40) plays Miss T. Alison (receives 30) for the final. With the aid of this handicap Miss Alison should win, but a close struggle may be expected.

Several championships were to have been played on Saturday, but unfortunately were stopped by the rain.

The Devonport Club hold a progressive tennis tournament at their lawns on Saturday next, March 3. Members of outside clubs are cordially invited to compete. Those intending to compete should hand in their names to Mr. F. Brabant, care of the Bank of Australasia, as early as possible. The entrance fee is 1s, admission to gate 6d. A large number of gate tickets have already been sold, and the committee is confident of a good attendance.

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