

top-scoring with a good 37. Of the others F. Taylor, who has a nice style, shaped best.

A gang of men has been at work for the last few days taking up and relaying the drains in the Domain—a much-needed improvement, as the old drains were so badly put down that they took away very little water. The one at the hospital end was completely blocked up. I understand the work will be pushed on so as not to interfere with the games next Saturday.

The City Council are to be commended for their decision not to allow winter games on the central and northern portions of the ground this year. I hope the caretaker will take the opportunity to improve the fielding ground as well as the wickets. Some parts cannot have had the roller on them for many a day.

The methods of putting down the Bulli soil at the Domain and at Victoria Park vary considerably. At the new ground the turf has been taken out to a depth of 2in and filled in with Bulli, while on the Domain the new soil is being put on top of the turf. I am informed that Mr. Yates says there will be 2in of Bulli on his wickets, but it is noteworthy that the same amount of soil that has done only one wicket in Freeman's Bay has been sufficient for three on the Domain.

The Otago Cricket Association has asked the umpires for an official explanation of the incident in the Melbourne C.C. v. Otago match, when the stumps were drawn five minutes before time. The reason given at the time was that the captains had agreed to follow the Australian custom, but the construction they put on this custom is not supported by some of the best authorities on the other side. "Not Out" and "Shorts" both think that the custom applies to an adjournment only, and not to the conclusion of a match. In any case I cannot understand why the laws of the game, which are perfectly clear on the point, should not be followed. It will be remembered that the Melbourne team had lost eight wickets, and as one man was away they had only one wicket to go. What custom would have been followed had only a few runs been required, I wonder?

BILLIARDS.

(By "PYRAMID.")

[The writer of this column will be glad to answer any questions on the game.]

WHERE TO PLAY BILLIARDS.

B. FORD'S Waitemata Billiard Club, Custom-street, Auckland. Open to play all-comers on 100 Break.

METROPOLITAN HOTEL BILLIARD SALOON, Queen-street, Auckland. Billiards, Snooker, etc.—A. J. WOODLEY, Manager.

BARTON, MCGILL AND CO., Billiard Table Manufacturers (Gold Medalists), 422 Queen-street, Auckland. Requisites always in stock.

VULCAN LANE BILLIARD SALOON. Proprietor: R. J. HAMILTON (late of Metropolitan Hotel). Billiards, Pyramids, Snooker, or Pool.

Owing to the very fine spell of weather and the plethora of other amusements, billiards have been very quiet locally, and although there has been no lack of games, yet nothing of note has been registered.

M. Inman is still leading in the big international tournament now proceeding in England. So far he has not been defeated, having won all six games. In his latest match played at the beginning of March, he beat T. Reece after a most exciting finish by 8 points. Both were on the receive 2500 mark, and first one led and then the other. At the close of the last but one session, the scores read Reece (in play) 7916, Inman 7612. Sticking to it with great pertinacity Inman went to the front right at the end and won as above. The winner's best breaks were 239, 201, and 190, while Reece had runs of 254, 244, and 184.

A. E. Williams (receives 3500) fairly outplayed C. Harverson (receives 2250) in the great Manchester tournament now proceeding in England. The final scores read: Williams 9000, Harverson 7444, and the latter never looked to have a chance at any period of the game. The order in this tournament so far is Weiss, Stevenson, Inman, Dawson, Reece, Williams, and Harverson.

BOWLING.

(By "The Skip.")

A.P.B.A. EASTER TOURNAMENT.

AUCKLAND WIN THE CHAMPION FOURS SHIELD.

CARLTON WIN THE INVITATION FOURS.

TOURNAMENT A PRONOUNCED SUCCESS.

Splendid weather favoured the bowlers for the opening of the tournament on Saturday last. Carlton, Rocky Nook and Devonport greens were used for the champion fours contest, Onehunga green for the Invitation Fours, and Ponsonby green for the Pairs' matches. The rinks were somewhat sodden with the heavy downpour earlier in the week, yet most of them played true, especially so at Devonport and Onehunga. The matches were played in sections, winners of sections to play in final.

"A" Section, at Rocky Nook.

First Round.

Grey Lynn—W. Mills, V. Casey, Geo. Baildon, C. P. McMaster (skip)—14, v. Onehunga—J. Robb, G. Vause, A. McKaill, W. H. McIntosh (skip)—20.

Auckland—J. M. Mennie, J. D. Perrett, A. H. Brooks, J. V. Dingle (skip)—25, v. Whangarei—C. H. Culpan, V. R. Beeston, J. Donaldson, C. H. Chissell (skip)—13.

Ponsonby—R. Quinn, A. Sneddon, J. Veale, J. Kirker (skip)—18, v. Carlton—Otter, Nixon, Wrathall, Laurie (skip)—21.

Second Round.

Carlton (Laurie), 20, v. Onehunga (McIntosh), 23.

Ponsonby (J. Kirker), 27, v. Auckland (Dingle), 20.

Grey Lynn (McMaster), 20, v. Whangarei (Chissell), 20.

Third Round.

Grey Lynn (McMaster), 14, v. Ponsonby (Kirker), 27.

Auckland (Dingle), 19, v. Carlton (Laurie), 18.

Whangarei (Chissell), 36, v. Onehunga (McIntosh), 22.

Fourth Round.

Ponsonby (Kirker), 27, v. Whangarei (Chissell), 16.

Auckland (Dingle), 24, v. Onehunga (McIntosh), 18.

Carlton (Laurie), 31, v. Grey Lynn (McMaster), 24.

Fifth Round.

Carlton (Laurie), 12, v. Whangarei (Chissell), 27.

Ponsonby (Kirker), 25, v. Onehunga (McIntosh), 19.

Auckland (Dingle), 28, v. Grey Lynn (McMaster), 9.

Kirker's (Ponsonby) team and Dingle's (Auckland) team tie in this section.

"B" Section, at Devonport.

First Round.

Mount Eden—Brown, Hooper, Martin, Rankin (skip)—17, v. Devonport—Glenister, Mitchell, Harvey, Harrison (skip)—24.

Rocky Nook—Dutton, McLeod, Rathbone, Butler (skip)—17, v. Carlton—Rowe, Maguire, Curteis, Kilgour (skip)—18.

Ponsonby—Jones, Coutts, Langsford, Ballantyne (skip)—17, v. Onehunga—W. Court, Shaldrick, Wright, F. Court (skip)—15.

Second Round.

Mount Eden (Rankin), 23, v. Onehunga (F. Court), 14.

Carlton (Kilgour), 22, v. Devonport (Harrison), 9.

Rocky Nook (Butler), 19, v. Ponsonby (Ballantyne), 24.

Third Round.

Carlton (Kilgour), 22, v. Ponsonby (Ballantyne), 16.

Rocky Nook (Butler), 9, v. Mount Eden (Rankin), 26.

Onehunga (Court), 13, v. Devonport (Harrison), 27.

Fourth Round.

Ponsonby (Ballantyne), 9, v. Devonport (Harrison), 32.

Rocky Nook (Butler), 15, v. Onehunga (Court), 22.

Carlton (Kilgour), 23, v. Mount Eden (Rankin), 16.

Fifth Round.

Carlton (Kilgour), 20, v. Onehunga (Court), 18.

Rocky Nook (Butler), 15, v. Devonport (Harrison), 20.

Ponsonby (Ballantyne), 18, v. Mount Eden (Rankin), 15.

This section was won by Carlton's (Kilgour) team.

"C" Section, at Carlton.

First Round.

Auckland—Craig, Woodhead, Thornes, Easton (skip)—21, v. Mount Eden—Gill, Hudson, Burns, Brookes (skip)—20.

Rocky Nook—Hodgson, Ellisdon, Haselden, Cutler (skip)—20, v. Devonport—Grattan, Armstrong, Eyre, Rolfe (skip)—17.

Mount Albert—Garlick, Coyle, Harrison, Ashton (skip)—30, v. Whangarei—Hill, Carruth, Dee, Massey (skip)—22.

Second Round.

Whangarei (Massey), 11, v. Mount Eden (Brookes), 25.

Auckland (Easton), 17, v. Rocky Nook (Cutler), 20.

Devonport (Ralfe), 23, v. Mount Albert (Ashton), 10.

Third Round.

Rocky Nook (Cutler), 26, v. Mount Eden (Brookes), 20.

Whangarei (Massey), 21, v. Devonport (Ralfe), 20.

Auckland (Easton), 21, v. Mount Albert (Ashton), 23.

Fourth Round.

Mount Albert (Ashton), 14, v. Mount Eden (Brookes), 27.

Auckland (Easton), 18, v. Devonport (Ralfe), 17.

Rocky Nook (Cutler), 27, v. Whangarei (Massey), 14.

Fifth Round.

Auckland (Easton), 5, v. Whangarei (Massey), 14.

Rocky Nook (Cutler), 8, v. Mount Albert (Ashton), 15.

Mount Eden (Brookes), 15, v. Devonport (Ralfe), 6.

As time was too short to play a full game, the skips agreed to stop play at 5.45 in this round.

The section was won by Rocky Nook's (Cutler) team.

Invitation Fours.

These games were played at Onehunga, and resulted in wins for Ponsonby (Brown) in "A" section, and Carlton (Holmes) in "B" section.

Pairs Competition.

Davis and McGregor (Mount Eden) win section "A."

Harty and Eagleton (Devonport) win section "B."

Simpson and Surman (Mount Eden) win section "C."

Tie in "A" Section.

Auckland (Dingle) 20, v. Ponsonby (Kirker), 14.

Semi-final.

Winners of sections "A" and "B." Carlton (Kilgour), 21, v. Rocky Nook (Cutler), 18.

Final.

Auckland (Dingle), 25, v. Carlton (Kilgour), 13.

Final Invitation Fours.

Carlton (Holmes), 25, v. Ponsonby (Brown), 12.

Semi-final Pairs.

Devonport (Eagleton), 19, v. Mount Eden (Surman), 17.

Final.

Devonport (Eagleton), 14, v. Mount Eden (McGregor), 7.

There are still nine heads to play. The game will be finished on the Devonport green on Saturday.

The final for the first year's players' shield is to be played off between Carlton and Rocky Nook.

Harrison, skipping for Devonport, is at top form, and he has a strong combination to assist him, D. Harvey being particularly helpful.

A bit of a surprise came off at Carlton green when Mount Albert (Ashton) beat Auckland (Easton), and Whangarei (Massey) did likewise against Devonport (Ralfe). The games were fine exhibitions of bowling, and both teams thoroughly deserved their wins.

Harrison, as third for Ashton (Mount Albert), and Garlick on the lead, were particularly good on Monday. The way Ashton drew his shot in the last head against Auckland was quite a treat.

Easton (Auckland) and his team played a splendid head in their finish against Mount Eden. Requiring five to win, the team added three and the skip two, thus pulling a lost game out of the fire.

Grattan (Devonport) on the lead, was a hard nut to crack. Ralfe knows his worth.

Cutler (Rocky Nook) was playing one of the best skipping games of those engaged at Carlton. He certainly got his team out of many tight corners. Hodgson was leading in fine style.

Laurie had hard luck in losing his game with Dingle, the latter fluking the game after hitting a short ball.

Brookes, as third for Dingle, was playing a deadly game.

Chissell's Whangarei team are a fine combination, and on play, with the exception of their match with Grey Lynn, should have just about won their section.

Auckland team, skipped by Easton, simply fell to pieces in their concluding games.

Much to the surprise of bowlers on Carlton green, the Mount Albert four, skipped by Ashton, fairly romped over Cutler's Rocky Nook team, and gave them their only loss in the section.

In the third and fourth rounds of the "B" section a "rot" set in Ballantyne's team, and they lost their chance of a position.

The way Devonport's four, skipped by Harrison, opened out in the first round, it was looked upon as the best of good things for them in the "B" section.

The final of the Mount Eden Club's pairs is to be played between Kissel and Ross v. Simpson and Ferguson. The first-named pair are the favourites.

The visiting teams from Whangarei at the Easter tournament are a jolly fine lot. They play a good game, too, but find the rinks here totally different to what they have been used to.

President Carruth (Whangarei Club) is a fine sport. Win or lose he has the same genial manner, and always ready with conversation on any topic.

The visiting teams from Rotorua and Whangarei were taken for a drive by the Association on Sunday afternoon. They thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

Rocky Nook's team were unfortunate in losing the services of Haselden as third in the semi-final for the shield. Small played as lead and Hodgson was taken from leader to third man, thus disorganising the combination. Haselden took bad on Monday afternoon and was compelled to take to his bed. It is to be hoped he will soon be right again.

Auckland played powerful games against Ponsonby and Carlton. In the first-mentioned match Brookes was particularly good in attack. The drawing of Mennie and Perritt was first-class, while Dingle was very consistent in saving when the heads were laying bad against him.

The Pairs match, between Harty and Eagleton and Simpson and Surman, was the finest exhibition of bowling shown throughout the tournament. The Mount Eden pair had hard luck in not scoring the win. Eagleton was particularly deadly in taking out the shots.

A word of praise is due to Secretary Osmond for the excellent manner in which the details of the Easter tournament were arranged and carried out.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENT.

Fair Play.—I fail to see the reason for asking me the question. It would be better for you to write to "Ditcher," under which head you say the paragraph appeared in the paper mentioned. I have not seen it, but judge from your remarks that such a slur and insinuation was certainly unwarranted. I am personally and well acquainted with the gentleman you say it was meant for, and all I can add to your remarks in defence of him is "that he has always had the courage to express his convictions when right needed defending. He has on more than one occasion exposed informalities and 'shady' work, no matter what the standing or the social position of the parties in the blame." True: "The truth doth cut deep." Yes, he is one of the most popular men in his club from enquiries made. I can see no reason for publishing your letter in full, but trust these few remarks will meet with your approval. Skip.