



RACING.



RACING CALENDAR.

SEASON 1907.

FIXTURES.

Jan. 25, 29, Feb. 1—Takapuna J.C. Summer
 Jan. 15 and 16—Tuapeka County J.C. Annual
 Jan. 18, 22 and 25—Wellington R.C. Summer
 Jan. 21 and 22—Wairoa County R.C. Annual
 Jan. 22 and 23—Foxton R.C. Annual
 Jan. 22 and 23—Gore R.C. Summer
 Jan. 29 and 30—Pahiatua R.C. Annual
 Jan. 30 and 31—Tapanui R.C. Annual
 Feb. 6—Karloi J.C. Hack
 Feb. 6 and 7—Manitoto J.C. Annual
 Feb. 6 and 7—Gisborne R.C. Summer
 Feb. 6 and 8—C.J.C. Summer
 Feb. 8, 12, 15—Otahuhu Trotting Club
 Feb. 12 and 13—Egmont R.C. Summer
 Feb. 13 and 14—Poverty Bay T.C.
 Feb. 19 and 20—Woodville J.C. Autumn
 Feb. 19, 20, and 22—Dunedin J.C. Autumn
 Feb. 22—Wellington Pony Club
 March 5 and 7—Wanganui J.C.
 March 6 and 7—Westport J.C. Autumn
 March 13 and 14—Toioga Bay J.C. Annual
 March 25 and 26—Taranaki J.C. Autumn
 April 18, 20, 21—Auckland Racing Club Autumn

NOMINATIONS.

January 24—Wanganui J.C.
 Jan. 24—Otahuhu Trotting Club
 Feb. 5—Wellington Pony Club
 Feb. 13—Taranaki J.C. Autumn
 March 13—Auckland Racing Club (special events)
 March 14—Taranaki J.C. (hack events)
 March 27—Auckland Racing Club (general entries)

WEIGHTS ARE DUE.

Jan. 18—Gisborne R.C. Summer
 Feb. 7—Poverty Bay T.C.
 Feb. 10—Wellington Pony Club
 February 15—Wanganui J.C. (special events)
 February 22—Wanganui J.C.
 March 9—Taranaki J.C. Autumn
 March 23—Auckland Racing Club (special events)
 April 3—Auckland Racing Club (first day)

ACCEPTANCES.

Jan. 17—Takapuna J.C.
 Jan. 28—Gisborne R.C. Summer
 Feb. 8—Poverty Bay T.C.
 February 28—Wanganui J.C.
 March 14—Taranaki J.C. Autumn

ALLEGED CROOKED RUNNING AT ELLERSLIE.

There is an old saying that there is no smoke without fire, and the truth of it may be accepted as an axiom. Whether, however, the many rumours current as to much alleged crooked running at Ellerslie during the recent meeting have any basis of fact remains to be proved. That such rumours are current cannot for a moment be gainsaid, but their origin is difficult to trace. Among those owners, the doings of whose horses have been questioned by these unknown critics, is Mr. James Roulston, who, however, refuses to sit down under the gratuitous insult put upon him, and in this issue writes offering his detractor £20 to come forward and prove the truth, if it exists, of the accusation. He is also courting an enquiry at the hands of the A.R.C. committee. The particular race in question is said to be the Glasgow Handicap, which was won by King Billy, in which some critics appear to consider the way was paved for Mr. Watt's horse. Now, we fully believe that Mr. Roulston is far too straightforward a sportsman to do other than try to win, and the only pity is that the popular black jacket and maroon sash is not more often in the van. Still, if Mr. Roulston desires an inquiry, it should be granted him, because there may be happenings of which he is totally ignorant, and, as he puts it, if such a state of affairs really exists, it would be money well spent in finding it out. Quite apart from the case of the Pukekohe sportsman, there are rumours of other happenings at the meeting, which, even at this late hour, might form the subject of enquiry, though we fear it is too late to really discover the exact state of affairs.

The stewards have been accused of blindness, weakness, and all sorts of objectionable things, but we think the leaven of truth in this respect is very small indeed. Where the stewards are tremendously handicapped is in the position of their stand, from which it is impossible to see what is happening in the straight. This is

the reason keen punters often notice queer tactics on the part of horse-men, the same being unseen by the ruling powers. One of these days, when the committee take our advice and erect a skeleton steel structure near the bandstand from which the stewards can really see a race, we shall not have so much said about unchecked crooked running. But at the present there is no disguising the fact that these nasty rumours are being freely bruited about, and we think the A.R.C. might do worse than look into the matter and thus allay public uneasiness.

THE RECENT A.R.C. MEETING.

Ever since the recent A.R.C. meeting was held the air has been thick with rumours of alleged crooked running at Ellerslie. Among those who one would have thought were quite exempt from suspicion is that good sportsman, Mr. James Roulston, of Pukekohe. Evidently this has not

Now, "Mr. Keen Observer," to show you that I am in earnest, I shall place a cheque for twenty pounds in any respectable trainer's hands at Ellerslie, and if the opinion of the stewards of the A.R.C. you prove a case of corrupt practice against either of the boys riding for me, or myself, the money will be yours.

Surely this twenty pounds will compensate you for the few hours you spent at the investigation, as well as pay you back the few shillings you lost on my horses, which you assert were running stiff.

If you succeed in proving your case I consider the twenty pounds I am paying you has been the best investment I have made for many years inasmuch as it will be an eye-opener to myself and every horse-owner throughout New Zealand. In conclusion, "Keen Observer," it will be for you to intimate your willingness through the press to accept this challenge, otherwise we cannot go on. Prove yourself a man for once and

consideration of owners, all classes of horses being catered for, while the prize money is liberal. On the opening day the chief items are the Otahuhu Trotting Cup of 100sovs, two miles, and the Otahuhu Pony Cup of 50sovs, 6½ furlongs. On the second day the Summer Trot of 50sovs, 2 miles, and the High-class Trot of 40 sovs, are the best-endowed events. On the concluding day the Criterion Trot of 50sovs, 2 miles, the February Trot of 40sovs, one mile, and the Dash Trot of 40sovs, one mile, carry most money. The programme in full will be found in our advertising columns. Mr. Fred. Yonge, the secretary, notifies those interested that nominations for all events close at the office, Durham-street, on Friday, January 24, at 9 p.m.

THE WELLINGTON PONY AND GALLOWAY RACING CLUB.

This newly-formed club will hold its inaugural meeting at Miramar on Saturday, February 22. The programme will consist of six events, these being the Initial Scurry of 20 sovs, 4 furlongs; Maiden Pony Race of 18sovs, 5 furlongs; Miramar Cup of 40sovs, 6 furlongs; Kilbirnie Handicap of 20sovs, 6 furlongs; Tradesmen's Handicap of 15sovs, 5 furlongs; and Farewell Handicap of 25sovs, 4 furlongs. The doings of the club will be watched with considerable interest in all the centres, because, if a success is made, it is fairly certain that others will follow suit. Just at first there may be a shortage of ponies, but the demand will soon bring about the supply. Owners who intend giving the new club a good send-off should bear in mind that Mr. P. P. Bigwood, the secretary, will take nominations up till 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5.

MR. N. A. NATHAN.

In this issue we publish a recent portrait of Mr. N. A. Nathan, one time part owner of the famous Sylvia Park Stud. Some years ago the pale blue colours of Messrs. L. D. and N. A. Nathan were well known at all the meetings round Auckland, their horses being trained by the late George Wright. Possibly the best to carry the colours were Rosella, an exceptionally good mare when really well, and that great horse St. Hippo. With the latter the Messrs. Nathan won the Northern Champagne Stakes, Hawke's Bay Guineas, N.Z. Cup, G.N. Derby, A.R.C. Handicap, and other races. Explosion, whose memorable duel with Major George's Seahorse will long be remembered by all who saw it, was another good one to carry the light blue banner, while others to distinguish themselves were Three Star, Beddington, Miss Emmy, Miss Rose, Northumberland, Laetitia, Hastings, and others of lesser note. Although not taking quite such a prominent part in racing as his brother, the late Mr. L. D. Nathan, Mr. Alfred Nathan was always present at the meetings when the stable had horses running, and it was a great loss to the Auckland turf when the racing establishment was given up. As breeders of high-class stock the Messrs. Nathan were highly successful. They owned the Whitford Park Stud and afterwards the more famous Sylvia Park Stud. With such grand sires as Seaton Delaval and San Francisco and many beautifully bred mares it is not to be wondered at that many winners first saw the light at this well known breeding establishment. The stud was broken up in 1903, a greatly to be regretted fact. Horses bred there have had a great innings lately. A few names which readily occur are those of Apologue, winner of the Melbourne Cup, Master Delaval, winner of the Auckland Cup, 'Frisco, winner of the N.Z. Cup, and Elevation, a winner over all distances, and which some writers consider to be the best colt bred in New Zealand since Carbine's day. If only Mr. N. A. Nathan could be induced to race a few horses again his return to the arena would be heartily welcomed by all.



MR. N. A. NATHAN, A WELL-KNOWN AUCKLAND SPORTSMAN.

been the case, as the following letter from Mr. Roulston will show:—

To the Editor.

Sir,—As some very unfavourable comments have been made on the running of my horses at the recent summer meeting, I think it is only fair to myself and the public that it should be inquired into.

One of the croakers has written me an anonymous and scurrilous letter to the effect that both my horses were deliberately pulled in some of their races at Ellerslie, and if I was a party to it I should be disqualified for life. In the latter instance I am with him, but as we live in an English colony we do not hang people before being tried. In the present instance I court an inquiry, and further, I am prepared to pay one hundred pounds to any charitable institution in Auckland if any boy who has ridden for me can prove that his instructions were any other than "Win if you can." Surely this man who signs himself as "Keen Observer" will be manly enough to come forward and substantiate the vile assertions he has made against the boys and myself,

give me a chance to vindicate my character to the public. At your instigation I shall ask for a meeting of stewards of the A.R.C. to hear the case, when I hope every opportunity will be given you to prove it.

I should really ignore any writer who has not the backbone to sign his name, but the foregoing reply is an exception to the rule.

Anticipating an early reply from "Keen Observer" through the medium of your columns, thanking you for the insertion in your paper.—I am, etc., JAMES ROULSTON.

Belmont, Pukekohe, January 11, 1908.

P.S.—Should "Keen Observer" not be man enough to come forward, the offer I make him will hold good to any other person who can prove the charge.

THE OTAHUHU TROTting CLUB.

The summer meeting of the Otahuhu Trotting Club will take place on Saturday, Wednesday, and Saturday, February 8, 12, and 15. A very good programme is put forward for the