



[BY SPINNAKER.]

The announcement published in a London exchange that the trustees of *The Sportsman* Challenge Cup had decided that in future the races for the championship and the possession of the trophy, shall be rowed over the Thames championship course, from Putney to Mortlake, has given the utmost satisfaction to oarsmen in the South, and particularly to those who use the Thames, an additional gratifying feature being the announcement in *The Sportsman* that James Wray (Australia) and his Newcastle friends had accepted the inevitable, and promptly issued a challenge to the champion under the new conditions. Already the match is the theme of general discussion along the river front, where preparations for the coming regattas are in full swing. It is very evident that the North country people mean business, and they will be readily accommodated, as the champion and his friends are very sanguine.

A representative of *The Sportsman* had an interview with George Towns lately regarding James Wray's challenge. The champion had been out rowing, and notwithstanding his recent severe illness, looked very well indeed. Unlike most champions, Towns is by no means a man of words; in fact, the contrary is the case, as he is particularly reserved, but on this occasion he seemed to be in the very best of humours with himself, and actually volunteered to talk. "Yes," said he, "I certainly was delighted with the decision of the trustees of *The Sportsman* Cup, and I shall be very glad to defend my title to it here, no matter who comes along. I am glad Wray has done the right thing, too, as we both had too much to say before this decision was come to. Now we are down to business at last. Of course, if it had been necessary, I would have gone to the Tyne, but why should two Australians row for the championship of England up there, when this course is in existence, eh?" You can say that I accept his challenge, and will row him for £200 a-side. I will be only too pleased to meet him or his representatives at *The Sportsman* office, where we can draw up articles and make a deposit. Any articles will suit me, as I want a race, and I think Wray wants one, too.

Subsequently the ex-champion, Tom Sullivan, the champion's fidus Achates, was seen. In the course of an interview, he said:—"Of course, we are all glad that the trustees have decided that the Thames will in future be the course for a championship race, and I may say that every oarsman I have spoken to is of the same opinion. Wray will have as good a chance here as on the Tyne, and he certainly will get fair play. Towns is in a very fair condition, and it won't take him long to tune up to concert pitch. I see by *The Sportsman* that Wray and his friends in Newcastle were taken by surprise at my statement that the Tyne is not a suitable river upon which to row a championship race. Well, the trustees of the cup were perfectly independent in the matter, and they thought as I did, and as everyone else around here would think if they looked into it. After all, it is a matter for the champion now, but I can say this—that there is a very great difference in the conditions of traffic and trade on the Tyne now from what they were when Ned Hanlan rowed the 6 in 1879. I know something about it because I rowed Harding there five years ago, and our race had to be postponed day after day for a week. You might as well row a championship race in best and best boats from London Bridge to Chelsea as row on the Tyne at the present."

The yachtsmen on the Clyde are organising a great international regatta, to be held in connection with the Exhibition in 1901, and have been trying to induce Sir Thomas Lipton to postpone his challenge for the America Cup till the following year. Sir Thomas as yet has given no definite reply, but he has promised that, under any circumstances, the Shamrock will be commissioned to take part in any international yacht race which may be held on the Clyde during the Exhibition year. He has also consented, with his usual generosity, to give a cup, or money, to the extent of 200 guineas, in conjunction with the £500 already promised in the shape of prizes. He added that, if he does not challenge for the America Cup next year, he will send the new challenger to the Clyde to take part in an international or other contest, provided a suitable date can be arranged.

The Committee of the Port Hunter Club will shortly issue the conditions of another handicap for a fairly liberal prize. It is expected that all the local scullers will take part, including Tressider and Worboys. These men have not yet come to terms for a third match, but if brought together on handicap conditions it is thought by those who ought to know that everything will be satisfactorily arranged for another contest. It is the intention of the Club to promote a big handicap in a few months' time on the lines of the carnival so successfully carried out at Coraki on the Queen's Birthday.

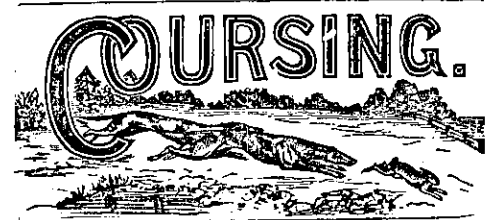
Says a Sydney exchange:—"Mr J. J. Daley, the amateur champion sculler of this colony, states that he means to get really well by the end of September, when the Rowing Association Regatta will, no doubt, be held, and the amateur championship form part of the programme. Mr Daley thinks it may be convenient for Mr Slack to come down for the race, and if he does our man will be pleased to meet him. Perhaps the Rowing Association might invite the Queenslander to compete."

The Committee of the Sydney Flying Squadron have drafted a comprehensive programme of 15 events for next season—10 events for prizes of £15 each on Saturday afternoons, and five races for £10 prizes on Wednesday afternoons. In addition an extra prize will be offered for one intercolonial event in January next, should any boats visit Sydney from the other colonies for the Anniversary Regatta.

The subject of our yachting picture this week is a crack 24-footer, the "Witch," who for the past three years has had the best record of any 24-footer on the Shannon Lakes. She proved herself a most successful boat in all weathers, and her owner, Mr G. T. Parsons of Athlone, has quite a collection of valuable trophies. Her best sailing is done in a light breeze, with sheets hauled home, and although she has been matched against newer boats of the same class, she is at least one minute per mile better than any of them with suitable weather conditions. Her entire displacement is about 19cwt, and, as her sail area almost reaches 500 square feet, it is easy to understand her great speed in a light breeze.

The North Shore Sailing Club had a very successful social in the Foresters' Hall, Devonport, on Friday evening last, a large gathering of members and friends being present. The first part of the programme consisted of a series of limelight views of yachts and boating pictures. Mr A. Alison, Commodore of the Club, then presented the trophies won during the past season as follows:—Second-class, silver cup, presented by Mr W. E. Bennett, Vice-Commodore, won by Mr W. A. Wilkinson's Rogue; third-class, afternoon tea set, presented by Captain Parker (rear-commodore), won by Mr F. H. Hunt's Freak; fourth class, Pataki, a salad bowl, presented by Mr P. Delaney, won by Mr

limit as to length imposed on this club's boats. The balance sheet showed the receipts, including a balance of £3 17s 5d carried forward, to be £29 5s 9d. The expenditure was £27 1s 9d, leaving a balance of £2 4s. The assets totalled £64 1s, and the liabilities amounted to £9 19s. The report and balance sheet were adopted. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr G. Humphreys; vice-presidents, Dr. Jennings, Professor R. J. Scott, and Messrs H. R. Webb, W. Rees, F. Waymouth, A. E. G. Rhodes, H. Wynn-Williams, J. Collins, Hadfield, O. Archer; commodore, Mr S. B. Seymour; vice-commodore, Mr K. F. England; secretary, Mr R. Nightingale; treasurer, Mr W. Garrard.



THE AUCKLAND COURSING CLUB'S JULY MEETING.

FIRST DAY, SATURDAY, JULY 14.

The above meeting was commenced on Saturday, when a good number of enthusiasts journeyed out to the Avondale Plumpton to see the sport. The coursing proved highly interesting, and as the hares ran very strongly they gave

Mr W. Turner's brdl d Solazzi beat Mr G. Brabant's brdl d Hempton.  
Mr A. Hooker's wh and blk d Highwater beat Mr G. Philpot's brdl d Siege Tr.in.  
Mr J. Homan's brdl d Dragoon beat Mr G. W. Stevens' fn and wh d The Gale.  
Mr C. Edgar's brdl and wh b Miss Flirt beat Mr E. O'Hare's rd d Payboy.  
Mr J. Appleby's fa and wh b Sweet Packet beat Mr M. Graham's blk and wh d Tam o'Shanter.  
Mr W. Turner's fn d Firelock beat Mr B. Buttimore's brdl and wh d Hector McDonald.

SECOND ROUND.

Sweet Briar beat Admiral Dewey.  
Frisco beat Solazzi.  
Dragoon beat Highwater.  
Sweet Packet beat Miss Flirt.  
Firelock a bye.

WAITAKERI CUP. Winner £7 10s and a trophy presented by Mr F. W. Coombes; runner-up £3.

FIRST ROUND.

Mr G. W. Stevens' wh and brdl d The G ft beat Mr Chilcott's (ns) fn b Lavender Water.  
Mr B. Buttimore's rd d Rory O'More beat Mr G. W. Stevens' (ns) fa and wh b Gobb.  
Mr J. Appleby's brdl and wh d Picklock beat Mr H. Barton's brdl and wh d Waltzer, after an undecided.  
Garfield, a bye.



[BY STONEWALLER.]

In *Chats on the Cricket Field* ("Cricket") the following occurs concerning Robert Peel:—"So many brilliant performances have been done by Peel that it would be hard to say which was the best. He would himself, perhaps, place first his six wickets for 23 runs in the third and final match between Australia and England at the Oval in 1896. Of this match he says: 'The Australians, with nearly all the third day before them had to make 111 runs. I went down to the nets to have a little practice, and bowled a few balls to Mr Jackson. On our way back he asked me what I thought about the result, and seemed quite surprised when I said that if the bowling was managed all right they would not get the runs. In the pavilion Lord Sheffield said to Shaw: 'They can't help getting the runs without any difficulty at all,' to which Alfred replied: 'Well, they're going to get 75, unless some awful mistake is made about the bowling—you'll see.' Richardson began with a maiden, and Jack Hearne bowled at the other end, getting Joe Darling in the first over. After his first over, Richardson, not being able to get a foothold, was taken off, and I took his place. Jack Hearne took the next two wickets, the next six fell to me, and the last to him. They only made 44 runs. It was the biggest match I ever played in during my career, and it was exciting to the last, for anyone might have knocked up runs quickly.'"

In the match at Cambridge, Cambridge University v M.C.O. and Ground, the Club scored 213 in its first innings, and the "light blues" 285. In the Marylebone second innings, with the score at 64 for two wickets, Mr L. T. Driffild, a freshman, from St John's School, Leatherhead, in seven overs took seven wickets for seven runs. The innings closed for 102, leaving Cambridge 31 to get to win, which they did without the loss of a wicket. Driffild is one of the most promising of young English amateurs. Playing for his school last year his averages were:—Batting: Innings 24, runs 910, most in innings 167 not out, times not out 6, average 50.55. Bowling: Overs 407, maidens 101; runs 1041, wickets 97, average 10.73. In the Cambridge match Mr Driffild went in last and made 4 not out.

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24 footer WITCH.

A. Matheson's Rita; fifth-class, pair of carvers and pickle stand, presented by Mr A. Alison (commodore), won by Mr S. Phipps' Rewi; first prize, general handicap, a silver cup, presented by Mr J. Dunning (president), won by Mr Murdoch's Ida; second prize, pair binoculars, presented by Mr Dunning, won by Mr Wilkinson's Rogue; third prize, photo enlargement, presented by Mr H. G. Holland, won by Messrs Stevenson and Frater's Alma. Yachts' dingey race, prize a silver matchbox, won by Mr W. Oliver, Ladies' dingey race, gold brooch, won by Miss E. Alison. An excellent concert programme was rendered, which was greatly appreciated. Refreshments were then partaken of, and the hall cleared and dancing indulged in until a late hour. Mr W. A. Wilkinson, the popular Secretary of the Club, did everything in his power to make the function a success.

The yacht Windward has again changed hands, and has become the property of Mr A. Buchanan, her former owner, Mr C. B. Stone, having purchased the Ngaru.

The annual meeting of the Christchurch Model Yacht Club was held on Saturday, July 7th. The Commodore of the Club, Mr S. B. Seymour, occupied the chair. The secretary, Mr W. Garrard, read the report and balance sheet. The report stated that the growth of weeds in Victoria Lake had prevented the race for the Commodore's prize being completed. Financially the club was fairly satisfactory, and especially in view of the fact that they had paid up a good sum of last year's arrears and paid off the builders of the pavilion. Competitions had taken place with the Wellington and Dunedin Clubs, and the club had held its own considering the

the dogs plenty of hard work. Two rounds in the Bracelet Stakes and one in the Waitakeri Cup were decided during the afternoon, and in both events some capital courses were witnessed. The go between Mr Homan's bridled dog Dragoon and Mr Stevens' fawn and white dog The Gale was a splendid one, while in the Cup Mr Buttimore's Rory O'More and Mr Stevens' Gobo fought out a desperate battle. The latter pair had a very gallant hare, and she gave the dogs a rare smelling. Puss travelled over the Plumpton at a great pace, and seemed to enjoy the contest highly. She ran in all directions, and alternately got away from the dogs, who were quite done up. Gobo was the first played out, and Rory O'More received the judge's verdict. Mr F. W. Coombes, the judge, gave his decisions promptly and accurately throughout the afternoon, and Messrs J. O. Evelt (slip steward), M. Foley (flag steward), Mr Burke (call steward), and D. Brennan (as slipper) performed their various duties in excellent style. Mr Hay's arrangements for the meeting were, as usual, quite up to the mark, and the general opinion was that Saturday's gathering was one of the best of the season. The details of the coursing are as follows:—

BRACELET STAKES. Winner, £10 10s and £5 donated by Mr H. H. Hay; second dog, £6; third, £3; and two dogs at £1 10s.

FIRST ROUND.

Mr J. Taylor's wh and blk b Sweet Briar beat Mr B. Buttimore's rd and wh b Juanita.  
Mr J. Appleby's blk and wh d Admiral Dewey beat Mr G. Homan's fn and wh d Reprive.  
Mr G. Brabant's brdl d Frisco beat Mr R. J. Elliot's blk and wh d Ballance II.