



**FINAL MATCH FOR THE AUCKLAND GOLF CLUB'S CHAMPIONSHIP.**

The final match for the Auckland Golf Club's Championship took place on Saturday, at the Cornwall Links, the battle between Hooper and Colbeck attracting quite a large number of spectators who watched every stroke with keen interest. It was generally expected that Hooper would win, but Colbeck gave him a good run for it, especially in the first round, which he finished with one up, but fell away somewhat during the concluding stages.

Both players led off with good drives. Colbeck carried the plantation with his second, but resulted in a half in 6. The second hole fell to Hooper in 6 to 8. The third was halved in 4, Colbeck just failing to get a 3. The Ringrox hole fell to Hooper in 5 to 6. The Onehunga fell to Colbeck in 4 to 5, and thereafter he had a run of four successive wins. A well-played 4 by Colbeck at the Elbow just headed off Hooper's 5, and the match was all square. The Catacombs hole fell to Colbeck in 5 to 6, who also secured the 8th hole in 4 to 5, which increased his lead to 3 up. At Jacob's Ladder, Hooper was on the green off the tee, and he holed a fine putt, and got down in 2, his opponent holing in 4. Colbeck's tee shot at the Pah lay on the green, and two putts gave the hole to Colbeck in 4 to 5, and a 5 to 6 gave him the Ramparts hole. The match was now 4 up in Colbeck's favour. At the Amphitheatre, Hooper's drive reached the green, and he won the hole in 3 to 5. The 14th also fell to Hooper in 4 to 6. At the 15th Hooper reduced the lead to 1 up holing in 4 to 5. An indifferent 6 to 7 gave the 16th to Colbeck, and left him downy two on the first 18 holes. Both players were on the 17th green in two, but Hooper holed in 4 to 5. The 18th was splendidly halved in 5.

On resuming, both players had good drives, Hooper being slightly off the line, his tee shot lying on the road. Neither of the players were dead with their approach putts. Colbeck was left with a putt of 18in to win the hole, but he lost it and seemed to be too nervous, poor golf being shown by both men. The second hole was halved in six. Both had good drives at the third, Colbeck's second being on the green, and won the hole in 6 to 7. Hooper played the Ringrox hole perfectly, and won by 5 to 6, Colbeck's approach putt being short. In different play resulted in Hooper winning the next hole, Hooper being one up. The Elbow was halved in five. At the eighth Hooper had a pulled drive of poor length, but Colbeck made a very fine tee shot. He topped his iron shot, and a poor half in six resulted. Colbeck's drive at the ninth was very fine, but it found a bad lie, and the hole was halved in four, both players holding excellent putts. Colbeck had the advantage off the tee at Jacob's Ladder, and lay on the green, Hooper being beyond it, and the hole was halved in three. At the next hole Colbeck lost his ball off the tee. This was hard luck, as it left him three down and seven to play. However, Colbeck won the Ramparts in 4 to 5, but at the Amphitheatre, Hooper managed to get down in three, Colbeck just failing. Colbeck should have won the next, but accidentally moved his ball when right on the hole. Although Colbeck had a great chance of a four at the fifteenth, he overran the hole and took five, Hooper being dead in his fourth. The match ended four up and two to play, Hooper being cheered at the finish.

Mr Muir Fergusson, who is well known amongst golfers as Harry Vardon, is described in "Vanity Fair," which publishes a cartoon of him, as follows:—"Born and bred in Scotland, he has been settled in England long enough to be known as a surprising combination of the characteristics of the two nationalities; for he became a hard-headed Scot 48 years ago, and he is now a downright Englishman, who makes friends and enemies by his straight speech. He played golf at St. Andrew's at fourteen, and it is nearly thirty years since he first won the medal there, which he has carried off half-a-dozen times since. He has played on most links, he has twice been in the final of the amateur championship, and once all his medals were stolen. He runs the New Zealand Golf Club; he has a boy who has nearly beaten him, and has played in the Eton eleven; and he can

play billiards. In London he is well known in the Stock Exchange, where he made more money if he made fewer enemies, for he speaks very readily and without circumlocution. An interesting analysis of Henry Vardon's play for the open championship during the last ten years, and young Tom Morris's play for same from 1868 to 1872, is a guide to the respective play of then and now. It shows Tom Morris to be better than Vardon, as Morris's average is 78.25 per round, as against Vardon's 79.68. Vardon, it must be remembered, has all the advantage of Haskell balls, improved clubs, vastly improved links and greens, and yet his average is a stroke higher than young Tom. Of course, as they were not contemporaries, it is impossible to have an exact comparison, but this is as near as it can be got.

Whyte. Rankin, Luxton and Ford became prominent in a forward Canterbury rush. Some pretty give-and-take play followed, Canterbury making frequent attempts to score, the Auckland defence being too strong for them. The Red and Blacks had several free hits at this stage of the game. Finally, Canterbury made a hot attack, and from pressure near Auckland's goal Luxton shot a beauty. Auckland, 1; Canterbury, 1.

On resuming the forwards were twice within an ace of scoring. Then Canterbury led off down the field, and transferred play to their opponents' quarters. After a lot of give-and-take play, Rankin got in front, and managed to shoot a goal. Canterbury, 2; Auckland, 1. After being penned within their own territory for a time Auckland rallied, and from a forward rush Matthews came near equalising the score. A little later Mason and Matthews headed another Auckland forward rush, but the Canterbury blacks relieved. No further score resulting, Canterbury won by 2 points to 1.

**HOCKEY.**

**CANTERBURY DEFEATS AUCKLAND.**

Attracted partly by seeing a representative hockey match and partly by the beautiful weather a very large crowd, estimated at two thousand, visited the Auckland Domain on Saturday to witness the match between Canterbury and Auckland. The fair sex were especially very strongly in evidence, and they seemed to understand the intricacies of the game far better than the average man present, the number of ladies' hockey clubs in Auckland being, of course, the reason for this. The teams were as follows:—Canterbury (red and black): Goal, Smith; fullbacks, Campbell and G. Ford; halfbacks, Maher, Oram and Rogers; forwards, Rankin, Millichamp, Luxton, Jacobs and E. Ford. Auckland: Goal, Dr. Neil; fullbacks, H. Whyte and G. Court; halfbacks, Broadfoot, Brown and Sheriffs; forwards, Mason, Miller, Barry, Matthews and J. Lepine. Canterbury won the toss, Barry and Luxford bullying off. Soon after the start Matthews nearly scored for Auckland with a pretty drive. The Canterbury forwards rushed down the line, but Whyte relieved with a strong stroke, and Lepine shot first goal for the home team. Auckland, 1; Canterbury, nil. The Red and Blacks renewed the attack, Broadfoot, Matthews and Lepine showing good defence. A free hit to Auckland was given for charging from the left, but the advantage was neutralised by

Taken as a whole the game was very even. The visitors used their sticks better than the Auckland men, and played more to each other, but the locals were superior in their dribbling rushes. The latter had hard luck not to make a draw of it, for two goals shot by them were not allowed, the first for being from outside the circle, but the reason the other was not granted did not transpire. Mr Ruddock acted as referee, and working very hard to give satisfaction, missed but few breaches of the rules. Photographs of the rival teams appear in this issue.

The United Club plays both senior and junior matches against the Thames on Thames on Saturday, the game taking place at the Thames.

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