

**BILLIARDS**

Though this is the off season for billiards, many interesting games have been got through at the Amateur Sports Club. Owing to his being on holidays Ern Burke and H. Cooke have not played off the final of the Ayre Snooker Tournament, but this function is set down for decision this week. Entries are now being made for the second series of the Ayre tournaments, which promises to be even more successful than the first one.

W. E. Stephenson, the well-known billiard and snooker player, is again in Auckland. "Steve," though rather out of practice, is still a force to be reckoned with on the cloth of green, and snould opportunity offer will settle in Auckland. In addition to being a really fine player, Stephenson is specially capable of conducting a billiard room, and the hope is expressed that an opening will be found for him in this city.

Arrangements are practically completed for a series of exhibition games in the concert hall at the Exhibition by Miss Kady Roberts, champion lady player of the world, and Alec Taylor, the renowned billiard and trick and fancy-shot player. The meeting of two such magnificent performers should prove a decided draw, and playing in such environments will undoubtedly add to the attractions of the Exhibition. A Standard match pocket table will be specially erected by Messrs. A. Cook and Co., Ltd., and crystal ball tables will be used.

Alec Taylor has been doing a round of engagements in the Wellington clubs and meeting with much success.

The present billiard season in England has been wonderfully good for the professionals, and the popularity of the game grows greater day by day. The young players Newman, Falkiner, Reall and George Gray have caused a "starkie" in the billiard arena that was just the thing to win public interest. At many of the matches recently decided big attendances have been recorded, and doubtless the "serious" and "all-out-to-win" tactics displayed are much appreciated.

The controversy about the limitation of the red ball as a scoring force still keeps on its weary way. Any tinkering with the losing hazard was never thought of until George Gray proved his excellence, and it is safe

to say there will be a big fight before any interference with the fundamental basis (because the fundamental basis of English billiards) is in any way altered. The monotony of the red ball loser is a pet theme with players who could not make 100 consecutive losers under any circumstances. But is the losing hazard more monotonous than top of table play? I do not think so, as it is common remark at a billiard game when one of the best professionals is playing at top of table, "Why it is so easy, I wonder he ever breaks down." Of course, top of table work is not easy and requires years of practice, but it is not much more difficult than the red loser, and while only two balls have to be controlled in the one case, the three must be in top of table play. But with the red loser there is no sport to help the player, who must get the red in position every time for the next stroke. In a break of 800 at the top of table there is certainly a variety of positions and a lot of strain, but it must not be forgotten that in a break of similar dimensions off the red there are 100 different positions which require accurate spotting and perfect strength.

The second meeting of Newman and George Gray is being eagerly awaited. The start conceded Newman (4000 in 18,000) is big, taking into account the skill of John Roberts' protegee. It is certain Gray will have become more accustomed to the ivory balls and make a great effort to win the second game so that a third game will be necessary, and a really strenuous contest seems assured. It is always under pressure that George Gray gives the best that's in him. The "gate" should be a record.

The committee of the Amateur Sports Club has decided that all games in the club shall be played strictly under rules of the British Billiards Association. This is as it should be, as, being affiliated with the B.B.A., the Auckland Sports Club must lead the way in playing the game under strictest conditions.

Mr. Jack Tuck, a top notch New South Wales amateur, was on a visit to Auckland last week. Owing to poor health, Mr. Tuck did not cross cues with any of the Auckland cracks, but returns home in much improved health.

Mr. Jack Hooper has been transferred from Newcastle to Sydney. This wonderful fine amateur made

hosts of friends in the Coaly City, and in business circles is very popular. Doubtless, now that Mr. Hooper is on the spot he will take part in some of the amateur championship events in which case the Sydneysites will see the world's best amateur. As an attractive, beautifully accurate cueist J. H. is in a class by himself, and Messrs. Snailer, Beauchamp and Co. may look out for a saltry time when Hooper is in opposition.

**FEILDING JOCKEY CLUB.**

**EASTER MEETING,  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY,  
APRIL 13 AND 14, 1914.**

**FIRST DAY,**

**MONDAY APRIL 13, 1914.**

1. WAIATA HACK OF 100sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. For two-year-olds and upwards that have never won a race exceeding 30sovs in value at time of starting. Weight, 8.0. Nom. 1 sov, accept. 1sov. Five furlongs and a-half.
2. MANGAONE STAKES (HANDICAP) of 30sovs; second 50sovs, third 20 sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 3sovs. Six furlongs.
3. KAWA KAWA HURDLES (HANDICAP) of 175sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 2sovs. About two miles.
4. TAONUHI HACK HURDLES (HANDICAP) of 100sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 1sov. One mile and three-quarters.
5. FEILDING CUP (HANDICAP) of 500sovs; second 75sovs, third 25 sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 5sovs. One mile and a-half.
6. ONEPUHI HACK WELTER (HANDICAP) of 100sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Min. weight, 7.11. Nom. 1sov, accept. 1sov. One mile and 54 yards.
7. ONGO HACK (HANDICAP) of 100 sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 1sov. Five furlongs and a-half.
8. HALCOMBE WELTER (HANDICAP) of 200sovs; second 35sovs, third 15 sovs out of the stake. Min. weight, 7.11. Nom. 1sov, accept. 2sovs. Seven furlongs.

**SECOND DAY,**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1914.**

1. AWAHURI HACK WELTER (HANDICAP) of 100sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Min. weight, 7.7. Nom. 1sov, accept. 1 sov. Seven furlongs.
2. DENBIGH STAKES (HANDICAP) of 200sovs; second 35sovs, third 15 sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 2sovs. Six furlongs.
3. KIMBOLTON HURDLES (HANDICAP) of 150sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 2sovs. One mile and three-quarters.
4. OROUA HACK HURDLES (HANDI-

- CAP) of 100sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 1sov. One mile and a-half.
5. EASTER HANDICAP of 300sovs; second 50sovs, third 20sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 4sovs. One mile and a-quarter.
6. REWA HACK HANDICAP of 100 sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. Nom. 1sov, accept. 1sov. Six furlongs.
7. MAIDEN SCURRY of 100sovs; second 20sovs, third 10sovs out of the stake. For two-year-olds and upwards that have never won a flat race exceeding 30sovs at time of starting. Weight, 9.0. Nom. 1sov, accept. 1sov. Five furlongs and a-half.
8. MAKINO WELTER (HANDICAP) of 150sovs; second 20sovs, third 10 sovs out of the stake. Min. weight, 7.7. Nom. 1sov, accept. 2sovs. One mile and 54 yards.

**PENALTIES.**

FLAT RACES.—The winner of any flat race exceeding 30sovs in value after declaration of weights to carry a penalty of 10lb, and of every additional race a further penalty of 5lb. Horses handicapped at 8.10 or over to carry only half the above penalties.

HURDLE RACES.—The winner of any hurdle race after the declaration of weights to carry a penalty of 10lb in the hurdle races, and for every additional race 7lb extra. Owners are responsible for all penalties and allowances.

DATES OF NOMINATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES, WITH AMOUNTS TO BE TRANSMITTED THEREWITH.

N.B.—All Entries, Nominations and Acceptances close at the Secretary's office, MacArthur Street, Feilding, at 8.30 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20.**

NOMINATIONS.—Waiata Hack 1sov, Mangaone Stakes 1sov, Kawa Kawa Hurdles 1sov, Taonui Hack Hurdles 1 sov, Feilding Cup 1sov, Onepuhi Hack Welter 1sov, Ongo Hack 1sov, Halcombe Welter 1sov, Denbigh Stakes 1sov, Awahuri Hack Welter 1sov, Kimbolton Hurdles 1sov, Oroua Hack Hurdles 1sov, Easter Handicap 1sov, Rewa Hack Handicap 1sov, Maiden Scurry 1sov, Makino Welter 1sov.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4.**

ACCEPTANCES.—Waiata Hack 1sov, Mangaone Stakes 3sovs, Kawa Kawa Hurdles 2sovs, Taonui Hack Hurdles 1 sov, Feilding Cup 5sovs, Onepuhi Hack Welter 1sov, Ongo Hack 1sov, Halcombe Welter 2sovs. Also for Maiden Scurry (Second Day) 1sov.

ACCEPTANCES for Second Day's Events as under will close on the night of the First Day's Races, with the Secretary, at his Office, Feilding, at 9 p.m.:

Denbigh Stakes 2sovs, Awahuri Hack Welter 1sov, Kimbolton Hurdles 2sovs, Oroua Hack Hurdles 1sov, Easter Handicap 4sovs, Rewa Hack Handicap 1sov, Makino Welter 2sovs.

HANDICAPS will be declared as follows:—First Day, Saturday, March 28; Second Day, Monday, April 13.

N.B.—The Committee reserve the right to alter the dates of entry, acceptance, etc., prior to closing, also the dates on which handicaps appear, should they deem fit to do so.

EDMD. GOODBEHERE, Secretary.



THE TURNING OF THE FIRST SOD IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAIUKU RAILWAY.—1. A portion of the crowd. 2. Hon. W. F. Massey performing the opening ceremony. 3. Mr. Barriball (Chairman) welcoming the guests. 4. The Premier addressing the farmers and Railway League at Patumahoe.