



# RACING NEWS

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## RACING FIXTURES, 1918.

June 1, 3—Dunedin J.C.  
 June 1, 3—Auckland R.C.  
 June 3 & 4—Otaki Maori R.C. Autumn.  
 June 13, 15—Gisborne R.C.  
 June 21, 22—Napier Park R.C.  
 June 28, 29—Hawke's Bay J.C.  
 July 10, 13—Wellington R.C.  
 July 25—South Canterbury H.C.  
 Aug. 29—North Taranaki Hunt

## EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

**Wednesday, May 29.**  
 Handicaps first day Gisborne R.C. steeplechase meeting.

**Saturday, June 1.**  
 Handicaps second day Auckland R.C. winter, at 8 p.m.  
 Acceptances second day Auckland R.C. winter, by 9 p.m.

**Friday, June 7.**  
 Acceptances first day Gisborne R.C. steeplechase meeting, at 9 p.m.

**Thursday, June 13.**  
 Weights second day Gisborne steeplechase meeting, at 8 p.m.  
 Acceptances second day Gisborne steeplechase meeting, at 9.30 p.m.

**Friday, June 14.**  
 Nominations Hawke's Bay J.C. winter, at 9 p.m.  
 Nominations all events except Trial Plate Wellington R.C. winter, at 9 p.m.

**Monday, June 24.**  
 Handicaps Hawke's Bay J.C. winter.

**Wednesday, June 26.**  
 Acceptances Hawke's Bay J.C. winter, at 9 p.m.

**Monday, July 1.**  
 Handicaps first day Wellington R.C. winter.

**Friday, July 5.**  
 Acceptances first day Wellington R.C. winter, also entries Trial Plate, by 9 p.m.

**Thursday, July 11.**  
 Handicaps second day Wellington R.C. winter, in morning papers.  
 Acceptances second day Wellington R.C. winter, at 12.30 p.m.

## A PROGRESSIVE CLUB.

### MARTON J.C.'S SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS.

At the annual general meeting of the Marton Jockey Club, held at Marton last week, and presided over by Mr. R. E. Beckett (chairman), the report and balance-sheet disclosed a highly satisfactory state of affairs, the club having good reason to rejoice at the results which have attended their whole-hearted efforts during the past year. Both their spring and summer meetings met with wide patronage, and the bank balance for the period ending March 31, 1918, stands at £588 4s. 6d. The club's assets amount to £975 18s. 8d., the chief items being: Land, £1616 19s. 2d.; buildings, improvements and additions, £7115 1s. 3d. (less 10 per cent depreciation, £711 10s. 3d.—£6403 11s.); while their liabilities are nil.

In regard to patriotic donations from the club, a motion, proposed by Mr. J. H. Miles, was carried to the effect that it be a recommendation to the committee that the money to be set aside should be allocated between the different societies in existence as in the past.

The question of improvements to the racecourse was introduced by the chairman, who stated that the present position of the buildings had proved inadequate for the growing prosperity of the club, and the committee had had under consideration several plans for their improvement. With the assistance of Mr. J. M. Johnston, secretary of the Manawatu Racing Club, who has a practical knowledge of the requirements of an up-to-date racecourse, and Mr. W. T. Higgins, architect of Marton, several schemes had been devised, and it was generally considered that the purchase of 30 acres at the back of the course and the re-erection of all buildings on the new site was the most acceptable, although there were several roading difficulties to contend with. However, he was pleased to state that after the last committee meeting he was struck with an idea that leaves very little doubt is the correct one for the extensive improvements contemplated. The new plan meant the partial formation of new racing tracks

running due north and south, with the buildings erected on the western side in front of the present plantations and facing the east. The property would thus have road frontages on three of its boundaries. If they purchased the land at the back of the course they would be in a position of having one of the best-appointed courses in the Dominion.

Mr. S. J. Gibbons opposed the alteration of the racecourse after so much money and labour had been spent on its preparation. Mr. F. Brice advocated the adoption of the new scheme of improvements as being necessary to keep abreast of the progress of the club, maintaining that even at present the buildings at Marton were too closely packed together, causing a congestion on race days.

Mr. J. H. Miles favoured the adoption of a definite plan for future improvements, being of the opinion that the last scheme was undoubtedly the best submitted and should be proceeded with by the committee.

Mr. H. McManaway also supported the scheme submitted by the chairman, venturing the opinion that if carried out there would not be another course in the Dominion possessing the same approaches, while the course would be still closer to the railway station.

## WELLINGTON RACING CLUB.

### WINTER MEETING.

The Wellington Racing Club have drawn up a particularly attractive programme for their winter meeting, which is to take place at Trentham on Wednesday and Saturday, July 10 and 13. This important jumping fixture is being eagerly looked forward to by sportsmen in both Islands, and being the last of the 1917-18 season's fixtures is certain to attract a very liberal nomination. The chief event on the opening day is the Wellington Steeplechase, of 1000sovs., about 3¼ miles, and a first-class field of 'chasers' should be on hand to contest this valuable stake, including a number of contenders for N.Z. Grand National Steeplechase honours the following month. The Wellington Steeplechase now ranks as one of the most remunerative handicaps in the Dominion, and can be relied upon to attract the attention it so richly merits. The First Hack and Hunters' Steeplechase, of 200sovs., 2½ miles, will also come up for decision the same afternoon, and in view of the large number of hacks and qualified hunters eligible for cross-country events the field should be well up to

being the final cross-country event of the present season special interest will be attached to this important contest over the obstacles at Trentham. The lesser lights in the 'chasing ranks' will be seen out in the Second Hack and Hunters' Steeplechase, of 200sovs., 2½ miles, when another spectacular event should be provided racegoers. The hurdle horses will be given a further chance to demonstrate their prowess in the Final Hurdle Handicap, of 350sovs., 1¾ miles, while the hack hurdlers will be occupied with the Talavera Hurdle Handicap, of 150sovs., 1½ miles. The Winter Oats Handicap, of one mile, which has been raised in value from 250sovs. to 300sovs., is sure to attract a very substantial entry, and will be of wide interest as likely to throw some light on the Winter Cup which is to be run at Riccarton during August. The Liverpool Handicap, of 200sovs., six furlongs, the Crofton Handicap (hack conditions), of 150sovs., one mile, and the Kia Ora Handicap (hack conditions), of 150sovs., six furlongs, complete a first-rate second day's attraction.

Nominations for all events with the exception of the Trial Plate (first day) close with the secretary, Mr. A. E. White, on Friday, June 14, at 9 p.m.

## RACING AT NIGHT.

Although we have witnessed cycle racing at night in New Zealand, no attempts have yet been made to run a race meeting with the aid of artificial light, while there is little likelihood of the movement ever being adopted in this country. In Queensland, night racing is very popular, and the following impressions of a sporting writer who recently attended an electric light race meeting at Perth will be read with interest by New Zealand turf enthusiasts:—"The night trotting as carried out by the West Australian Trotting Association—a non-proprietary body—was a revelation to me," he remarks. "They race on Saturday nights once a fortnight. The attendance averages anything between 2500 and 4000. The grounds are magnificently lighted—so well, in fact, that it came as a complete surprise to learn from the secretary, A. R. Flint, that the lighting only costs about £10 a night. The track is about three and a-half furlongs in circumference, and from the splendid stand accommodation there is an admirable view of the racing. There were no less than 121 starters for six events. Twenty-five started in one race, and 23 in another—saddle and in harness, mixed. The going is perfect, the formation being made of a judicious mixture of sand and broken oyster shell. Bookmakers bet in opposition to the totalisator. The machine is a 'Julius,' with the quick delivery ticket issuer. The face of the machine is brilliantly lighted, exposing the names of the horses and riders, and alongside it is an index board, with lights disappearing from the numbers as the horses are scratched or as events are run. For the benefit of those who are badly vantaged and cannot 'read' the board, results, etc., are thrown on a screen in the centre of the course. Red lights flash into view in front of the totalisator as an indication that there is a limited time left in which to make investments. The handicapping is done on the yards system, and the success of the starting of horses spread over 150 yards may be accepted as an indication that the officials are very alert. It is most exciting sport. The night's entertainment revealed some capital trotting. The shortest race was over a mile and a-half, and the fact that Consul won a mile and a-half race in a field of 18 from 135 yards behind scratch suggests that the track is quite wide enough to give the back makers every chance."



A HIGH-PRICED YEARLING COLT PURCHASED BY WELL-KNOWN WAIRARAPA SPORTSMAN.—VASILKOF (Autumn—Ukraine), bred by "Mr. Lance Wood," of Wellington, and purchased by Mr. W. R. Kemball, of Masterton, for 1000 guineas.

Mr. G. Morris also voiced his approval of the chairman's plan, which was by far the most practical, and he moved that the committee be asked to favourably consider the scheme, to purchase the land and proceed with the new work as soon as possible. Mr. J. H. McLean, in seconding the proposal, stated the plan was a revelation to him and should be adopted.

The motion was carried unanimously, and will no doubt mark an epoch in the annals of this go-ahead racing body.

The following officials were all re-elected unopposed:—President, Mr. R. Aldworth; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. E. Beckett, D. G. Riddiford, and Drs. Bennett and Skerman. hon. judge, Mr. R. H. Aldworth; handicapper, Mr. H. Coyle; starters, Messrs. C. O'Connor and A. Keith; clerk of course, Mr. W. E. Gibbons; hon. clerk of scales, Mr. F. L. Young; hon. assistant clerk of scales, Mr. J. H. C. Broad; hon. timekeeper, Mr. R. F. Wood; hon. treasurer, Mr. D. G. Riddiford; secretary, Mr. Arthur Way; auditor, Mr. R. J. Sladden. Stewards and committee (four vacancies): Messrs. K. W. Deighton, J. McDonell, L. H. Richards and Brigadier-General Robt. Young.

the standard of previous years. Two hurdle races are included on the first day's programme, the Winter Hurdles, of 600sovs., two miles, and the Victoria Hurdle Handicap (hack conditions), of 150sovs., 1¾ miles, both of which events will be welcomed by owners of jumpers who wish to capture a stake at the last of the season's fixtures. The big flat event is the Parliamentary Handicap, of 400sovs., 1¼ miles, with a view to competing in which a large number of leading performers will undoubtedly have their preparations persevered with during the next six weeks. The Stewards' Handicap, of 200sovs., six furlongs, and the Te Aro Handicap (hack conditions), of 150sovs., seven furlongs, also offer opportunities to owners of flat racers, while an event of special interest is the Trial Plate, of 150sovs., six furlongs, for horses that have never won a race of the value of 50sovs. at the time of nomination. Two-year-olds will be required to carry 9.3, three-year-olds 10.0, and four-year-olds and upwards 10.2 in the last-named event, while an allowance of 3lb. will be made for mares and geldings.

The July Steeplechase, of 500sovs., about three miles, will occupy most attention on the concluding day, and