



RACING NEWS

RACING FIXTURES, 1919.

May 31, June 3, 5—Auckland R.C.
 June 3, 5, 7—Dunedin J.C.
 June 3, 4—Otaki Maori R.C.
 June 12, 14—Gisborne R.C.
 June 13—Poverty Bay H.C.
 June 20, 21—Napier Park R.C.
 June 27, 28—Hawke's Bay J.C.
 July 8, 10, 12—Wellington R.C.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

Friday, June 6.

Handicaps third day Dunedin J.C. winter, in morning paper.
 Acceptances third day Dunedin J.C. winter, at noon.

Saturday, June 7.

Acceptances first day Gisborne R.C. winter, at 8 p.m.
 Acceptances Poverty Bay Hunt Club, at 8 p.m.

Monday, June 9.

Weights first day Napier Park R.C. winter.

Thursday, June 12.

Weights second day Gisborne R.C. winter, at 8 p.m.
 Acceptances second day Gisborne R.C. winter, by 9.30 p.m.

PROPOSED RACING CLUB FOR ELTHAM.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

A meeting was held last week in the Town Hall at Eltham with the object of considering a proposal to form a racing club in Eltham. The Mayor (Mr. G. W. Tayler) presided, and there was a large and representative attendance. The chairman, in his opening remarks, said he had thought for some time Eltham was entitled to a racing meeting, sandwiched as it was between two other towns that both held good meetings. He referred briefly to the history of racing in Eltham, where he said they had held two very successful meetings. He thought that they would easily obtain at least 150 members for the club should it be formed, and, further, he believed that the present was an opportune time to apply for a permit. He did not think that the question of procuring a racecourse need prove any great difficulty—they could if necessary obtain the use of the Stratford Club's course for the first year or two, until they could obtain one of their own nearer the town.

Mr. John Campbell said the chief difficulty would be to obtain a permit, but he believed they could do so. The least they could do was to try. Many much smaller towns than Eltham held very successful meetings, and there was no doubt they could do the same if they used their best efforts. A number of racehorses were owned by people living in the district, and there were a large number of people in the district interested in the sport.

Mr. W. J. Tristram proposed the following motion, which was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting is in favour of the formation of a racing club in Eltham, and that a committee of five members be set up to carry out the preliminary arrangements, suggest possible racecourses, and report to a subsequent meeting." The following were then appointed to the committee:—Messrs. G. W. Tayler, John Campbell, W. J. Tristram, J. Briscoe, and A. E. Smalley.

The committee has been instructed to obtain information regarding possible courses, membership, guarantees, etc., and this information will be submitted at a meeting to be held on June 16. A canvass was made among those present for prospective members, and no less than 50 names were obtained.

The decision of the meeting held at Eltham to form a racing club in that town is a step that will be heralded with the greatest satisfaction in sporting circles throughout the North Island. There is no gain-saying the fact that a vital need at present exists for extra permits being granted for race meetings, for since the unwarranted curtailment made after the 1910-11 season the position is now entirely different to that period, there being far too few meetings to meet the requirements of the greatly increased number of horses in training throughout the Dominion and the enormous number of followers of the sport at the present time

compared with the attendances of eight years ago. Allowances should certainly be made in racing and trotting, as in other branches of sport, for the growing needs of a greatly increased population, and it is undoubtedly time that Cabinet gave serious consideration to the subject of racing permits with a view of having a revision made so that the dates can be arranged by the New Zealand Racing Conference at the annual meeting for the 1919-20 season. The claims for a race meeting at Eltham should meet with a favourable decision, as the district is fully entitled to an annual gathering. Without extra permits the Conference is faced with an impossible task, and pressure should at once be brought to bear in the right quarter with the object of securing the additional permits for which a vital need unquestionably exists if the requirements of owners, trainers, racing clubs and the great army of patrons are to receive just recognition.

"CRIBBING" POSITIONS AT THE BARRIER.

LEADING VICTORIAN JOCKEY DISQUALIFIED.

Commenting upon the recent disqualification of Victoria's leading jockey, F. Dempsey, for two months for "cribbing" post positions, the Melbourne "Age" says:—"This case is the outcome of special supervision which has been exercised at Moonee Valley for months, with a view to ascertaining whether complaints that

substantial fine might have met the case. The decision to disqualify him was not announced until after the last race, in which he finished third on Lord Liddell.

MARTON JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual meeting of the members of the Marton Jockey Club was well attended, and the chairman, Mr. R. E. Beckett, presented the following report on behalf of the committee:—

Your committee have again the pleasure of presenting a most satisfactory balance sheet for the year ending March 31, 1919.

The War Regulations again curtailed their operations, but both the spring and summer meetings were most satisfactory, resulting in substantial balances, which have allowed them to proceed with the alterations, etc., outlined at last annual meeting. By the balance sheet it will be seen that £1016 has been expended in acquiring land, and a further sum of £1875 is still owing on mortgage. This will give all the land required for laying out what they venture to think will be one of the best courses in the Dominion. During the past months £498 has been spent in forming the new track, and nearly £400 has been given away for patriotic purposes.

A contract has been let for the erection of 44 loose-boxes, feed rooms, etc., on Marton racecourse for the convenience of visiting owners

phones and telegrams £41 10s. 11d., labour and maintenance £294 6s. 7d., insurance £38 14s. 4d., luncheons and refreshments £94 14s., donations to war funds £397 5s., rates and taxes £32 9s. 10d., music and rent £40, forming new course £498 11s., printing and advertising £226 11s. 3d., New Zealand Racing Conference £57 11s. 7d., charges and sundries £162 14s. 10d., depreciation £684 7s. 9d.; total, £10,814 2s. 6d.

Totalisator £7233 17s. 1d., gates £1537 18s., entries £1084 10s., members' subscriptions £103 5s., training permits £25, grazing fees £71 10s., privileges £322 14s., sundries £136 11s. 6d., balance March 31, 1919, £298 16s. 11d.; total, £10,814 2s. 6d.

BALANCE SHEET.

Assets—Land £4508 7s. 4d., buildings and improvements £6403 11s. (less 10 per cent. depreciation, £640 6s.—£5763 5s.), plant account £407 4s., additions £33 6s. 9d.—£440 10s. 9d. (less 10 per cent. depreciation, £44 1s. 9d.) £396 9s., sundry debtors £50 10s., bank balance March 31, 1919, £1039 5s. 4d.; total, £11,757 16s. 8d.

Liabilities—Mortgage on land £1875, balance of assets over liabilities £9882 16s. 8d.; total, £11,757 16s. 8d.

In moving the adoption of the annual report, the chairman referred to the success of the past year. Although one day had been taken away they had been in a position to expend £2394 16s. 9d. Over £1000 had been expended in land. They had finished up with £452 to the good, and had improved on the season by £2000. This was particularly satisfactory.



THE OPENING RUN OF THE 1919 HUNTING SEASON IN TARANAKI. Group of followers of the hounds photographed at Mr. Leslie Birdling's homestead, "Kainganui," on the occasion of the opening meet of the members of the North Taranaki Hunt Club.

all was not fair in the draw were justified. It directs attention to the paramount necessity for placing an effective supervision over the draw by responsible officials at all courses. Nobody with any knowledge of racing needs to have emphasised the importance of the barrier position, especially in the shorter sprint races. If the system of conducting the draw were to lend itself to trickery it would be manifestly placing a temptation before jockeys, many of whom are mere boys, anxious to do the best for their employers and for themselves. At Flemington the draw is conducted with the aid of a machine, and there seems no reason why all clubs should not adopt a similar system.

The Melbourne "Age" points out that jockeys not unnaturally are tempted to do the best for themselves if possible. This Dempsey frankly admitted he had endeavoured to do. There is no blinking the fact that the changing or manipulation of the marbles used in connection with the drawing for places has been a subject for discussion since long before Dempsey ever learned to ride, and he is decidedly unlucky in being the first victim of the stipendiaries' alertness. The punishment, taking all the circumstances into consideration, is severe to a jockey of Dempsey's ability, and for the first offence a

and trainers, and it is probable that an accommodation house will be erected before the spring meeting. An up-to-date jockey's board is also under construction.

Mr. R. Aldworth retires from the position of president, Messrs. D. G. Riddiford, S. Skerman, T. Bennett, and R. E. Beckett as vice-presidents, Mr. D. G. Riddiford as treasurer, Mr. Arthur Way as secretary, and Messrs. S. J. Gibbons, F. L. Young, I. Jefferson and F. R. H. Brice retire by rotation from the committee, and, being eligible, all the above-named officers offer themselves for re-election.

Your committee particularly desire to tender their most hearty thanks to all holding honorary positions, who so efficiently carried out their duties during the past 12 months.

The annual balance sheet disclosed a highly satisfactory state of affairs, the bank balance for the period ending March 31, 1919, being £588 4s. 6d.

The profit and loss account showed that after allowing for depreciation (£684 7s. 9d.), the profit for the year's racing amounted to £298 16s. 11d., details being as follows:—Stakes £3275, salaries and wages £670 13s., Government tax £3136 8s. 6d., amusements tax £98 14s., bank charges and interest £14 15s., purchase of land £1016 8s. 2d., purchase of plant £33 6s. 9d., stamps, tele-

He explained the position in regard to the erection of 44 loose-boxes and provision for an accommodation house, and stated that satisfactory arrangements had been made for the completion of these for the next meeting. Mr. F. R. H. Brice seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously. The meeting agreed to the adoption of additional amendments to the Gaming Act.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Election of officers resulted in the unanimous re-election of the following:—President, R. Aldworth, Esq.; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. E. Beckett, D. G. Riddiford, and Drs. Bennett and Skerman; honorary treasurer, Mr. D. G. Riddiford; secretary, Mr. Arthur Way; 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; assistant, Mr. J. H. C. Broad; hon. timekeeper, Mr. R. F. Wood.

The ballot for committeemen and stewards resulted:—Messrs. F. R. H. Brice, I. Jefferson, F. L. Young (retiring members) and J. Brice.

The chairman moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. S. J. Gibbons, a retiring committeeman, who had been a most useful man.