

CONTROL OF RACING.

DECISIONS OF CONFERENCE.

ALTERATIONS TO RULES.

The New Zealand Racing Conference was held at Wellington on Thursday last, when the president (Sir George Clifford) delivered his annual address, which is fully reported on page 16 of this issue. Several important alterations to the rules of racing were decided upon as a result of the various remits which came up for discussion, the decisions of the conference being as follows:

It was resolved to amend the rules by providing that "winning" includes dead-heat for first place.

The president moved: "The programme of every meeting at which the totalisator is used shall include not less than one steeplechase or hurdle race, or jumpers' flat race on each day, unless otherwise authorised in writing by the president." The president said this had been suggested to him by a deputation of jockeys, and he thought it would be a good idea. The intention was to provide employment for steeplechase jockeys. The motion was amended as follows and carried: "The programme of every meeting at which the totalisator is used shall include on each day at least one steeplechase or hurdle race or a jumpers' flat race—that is to say, a flat race confined to horses and jockeys who have at time of entry completed three times a steeplechase or a hurdle race."

It was also resolved that programmes shall include: "if the meeting extends over two or more days, at least one race (not a maiden race, or a race for two-year-olds, or a race for less distance than six furlongs) in which only apprentice jockeys shall be eligible to ride."

Mr. T. E. Coates (Greymouth) moved to give district committees greater discretion in the matter of their approving programmes. Mr. Coates said that at present the letter of the law could be complied with and the spirit of it broken. As far as he could see, the only thing the district committee had to look to now was that there was a mile and a-quarter event, that the stakes were right, and so on, and there was nothing to prevent about three trotting races being included in the programme. The proposal was agreed to.

At the request of a deputation of jockeys, the president moved that at no race meeting from May 7 to August 31, inclusive, should the last event for the day be fixed for later than 4 p.m. The president said the idea was to do away with racing in the dark, which was dangerous. The punctual starting ensured by the electrical totalisator would go a long way in the same direction. The motion was seconded by the Hon. O. Samuel. The time was altered to 4.15, and the proposal was carried.

As anticipated, the proposal of the Dunedin Jockey Club to have the minimum weight raised from 6.7 to 7.0 was the subject of considerable discussion. The mover (Mr. A. S. Orbell) went over ground that has been covered on previous occasions, claiming that the scheme would benefit the breed of horses and be humanitarian, as it would reduce the amount of wasting done by jockeys. He said, also, that the boys who could ride 6.7 were not numerous. Dunedin had tried the 7.0 minimum, and was satisfied with the result. With the 6.7 minimum, many boys had to declare overweight. The motion was seconded by Mr. W. T. Hazlett, who said that in Southland the 7.0 minimum had been tried, with the result that they had had better racing, and had made more money. Mr. J. G. Duncan (Wellington) opposed the motion. His chief objection was that it would raise the maximum weight, and thus penalise the best horses. John Porter, probably the greatest authority on the subject, had said that the reduction of the minimum weight had been largely responsible for deterioration in horsemanship. He favoured leaving the matter optional, as at present. The motion was lost. The ayes were 12 and the noes 18.

Rule 10 was amended to read as follows: "At no race meeting shall there be more than eight races included in any day's programme, exclusive of matches or private sweepstakes to which no prize is added by the club, provided, however, that with the object of preventing accidents by limiting the number of starters, the stewards or committee of any club may, if there are less than eight races on the day's programme, with the previous approval of the president, divide any race into two races, and the stewards or committee of the club holding the race meeting at which such race shall be divided and run shall provide as prize money an amount equal to the original advertised amount for such race."

The proposal that all licenses should be granted by a committee of the conference was again defeated. The voting was ayes 19, noes 12.

Mr. J. H. Perrett (Wanganui) moved that no assumed name should be used in any entry. He said that though some thoroughly representative men raced under assumed names, there were others who were not reputable, and who used assumed names to hide identities that were not a credit to the turf. Few, if any, except these latter would object to the motion. The second (Hon. O. Samuel) said it was necessary in the interests of good sport to pass the rule. We should in this follow the example of England. The remit was carried unanimously.

Rule 6, concerning programmes, was amended so that programmes shall include a mile and a-quarter flat race, not more than one six furlong race for horses three years and upwards, and in the winter a maiden or hack steeplechase. It was resolved that before publication copies of programmes of meetings shall be forwarded to the secretary of the Racing Conference.

The matter of the well-known "Entente Cordiale" case was mentioned. Interested parties wrote asking the conference to reopen the matter and remove it to the Supreme Court, but the suggestion was not accepted after a very brief discussion.

The president submitted a report giving the reasons why the Opanake, Marton, and Canterbury Jockey Clubs were granted permission for a less sum to be given in stakes than the net amount derived by such clubs from the use of the totalisator during the previous years. The report was unanimously adopted.

DATES COMMITTEE.

The Dates Committee, in its report, stated that the Stipendiary Stewards Committee had brought under its notice the following list of clubs having racecourses not completely railed on the inside of the racing track: Tolaga Bay, Hororata, Cheviot, Beaumont, Lake County, Tuapeka, Vincent, Opanake, Opanake, Kawakawa. The Dates Committee accordingly recommended that the clubs having racecourses not completely railed on the inside of the racing track be notified that unless the inside railing was completed to the satisfaction of the president by next year their licenses might be withdrawn. The report also pointed out that application for additional or new totalisator licenses could not be granted, as there were no totalisator licenses or days of racing available. Touching objections to dates, the committee recommended: "that the time for lodging objections to dates be fixed at not later than July 1 in each year, and that when an objection is made it shall be forwarded by the objecting club to the club objected to, and to the district committee, as well as to the secretary of the conference. It is also recommended that, in the event of any clubs in the same district applying for dates which clash, the district committee approve the dates which in their opinion should be allotted."

It was further recommended that the certificates of registration of the following clubs be cancelled, there being no record of their having held meetings during the preceding four years: Alford Forest Racing Club, Geraldine Hunt Club, Pine Bush Hack Racing Club, Inter-Wanganui Racing Club, Petane Racing Club, Whakataki Hack Racing Club; also that the following clubs having held race meetings during the current season, and not complied with the provisions of Part XXIII, Rule 13, the district committee be instructed not to approve of any further programmes until the provisions of the rule had been complied with: Whatawhata Racing Club, Bengerburn Jockey Club, 1916-17.

The report was adopted, and the present committee was reappointed to hold office for the ensuing year.

STIPENDIARY STEWARDS' REPORT.

The report of the stipendiary stewards on racing generally for the 1919-20 racing year mentioned that the control and management of meetings during the season now about to close had, in the majority of cases, shown decided improvement, more especially with regard to the supervision of the bird-cage and paddock, and control of the jockeys' rooms. Ambulance and first-aid appliances were still inadequate on many racecourses. Efforts should be made by country clubs to combine and obtain the use of proper ambulance appliances and attendants for their meetings. In some instances, a medical man was not available at meetings; this was a matter that should receive attention from all racing clubs. No decided step had yet been taken to adopt a uniform style of starting gate. Some of the barriers in use were obsolete. In the committee's opinion, all cords or tapes used in a starting gate should be of an easily breakable material. Unnecessary delay was still caused by unruly horses at the starting post. Starters should be compelled to carry out strictly the provisions of Rule 6, Part XXV, of the Rules of Racing. Seeing that clubs still persisted in accepting the entry of horses known to be vicious and unruly at the starting post, the conference should take steps to remove this blot on the conduct of racing. Adequate accommodation for the public was still a very urgent need on many of the racecourses in the Dominion, and it was to be hoped that clubs would take the necessary steps to provide the improvements and enlargements so manifestly needed at the earliest possible moment. A good standard of racing had been maintained during the season just past. Class generally had improved, more especially with regard to jumping horses. Fields had been large during the year in many handicap events, so much so that in some cases it had been necessary to run events in two divisions. It was hoped that the proposed rule dealing with this matter on the order paper for the ensuing meeting of the conference would be given effect to. Many of the courses were not suitable for large fields, and it was not a desirable thing to run fields of more than 25 on any course. Very few serious, and no fatal accidents to riders occurred during the past year. Interference of an intentional nature had not been strongly in evidence, but some of the rough riding or bumping witnessed had been due to incompetency or carelessness on the part of the riders concerned—the former predominating. Attendances of the public at most meetings throughout the Dominion had been phenomenal, and the popularity of the sport still increased in a remarkable manner.

The report also stated: "The list of licensed jockeys still contains the

names of many who are in no way qualified to hold a jockey's license; a large number of them get few, if any, mounts. The conduct of most of the jockeys who have come under our notice has been quite satisfactory, but there are others whose conduct both on and off the racecourse we cannot consider satisfactory. The positions of judge and clerk of scales remain in many instances of an honorary nature. We cannot too strongly urge upon the conference the desirability of insisting that the posts in question be filled with paid officials."

The report was received, and the following were appointed the Stipendiary Stewards Committee: Sir George Clifford, Hon. E. Mitchelson, Hon. O. Samuel, M.L.C., Messrs. W. E. Bidwell, E. A. Campbell, P. Miller, and O. S. Watkins.

NORTH TARANAKI HUNT.

THIRD TOTALISATOR MEETING.

To be held on the Taranaki Jockey Club's Racecourse.

(By kind permission.)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1920.

OFFICERS.

Patron: Hon. O. Samuel. President: Colonel C. H. Weston. Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. Alexander, A. W. Budge, E. P. Blundell, A. H. Halcombe, W. T. Jennings, M.P., N. King, L. A. Nolan, S. Pitt, F. H. Sampson, S. G. Smith, M.P. Stewards: Messrs. A. Alexander, L. Birding, H. Brookman, B. H. Chaney, R. D. Climie, J. Cole, G. Foreman, G. Fraser, N. Fulton, W. T. Hookham, A. L. Humphries, A. H. Halcombe, N. King, H. Linn, J. B. Martin, W. McKenzie, L. A. Nolan, W. Newman, R. H. Pepperell, A. R. Standish, C. Stockman, P. Sampson, E. Sole (Band), G. N. Skelton, F. Watson, E. P. Webster, E. W. Wheatley, C. Webster. Judge: Mr. J. R. L. Stanford. Starter: Mr. C. O'Connor. Hon. Timekeeper: Mr. J. Bennett. Handicapper: Mr. H. Coyle. Hon. Surgeons: Drs. Leatham, Fookes, Home and Brewster. Hon. Veterinary Surgeons: Mr. B. R. Wood, M.R.C.V.S.L., F.V.M.A., and Mr. E. Mason. Hon. Clerk of Scales: Mr. W. C. Weston. Assistant Clerk of Scales: Mr. L. B. Webster. Totalisator Stewards: Messrs. W. L. Newman, G. Fraser. Clerk of Course: Secretary: Mr. E. L. Humphries, Box 105, New Plymouth.

PROGRAMME.

THURSDAY, August 26, 1920.

To start at 11.45 a.m.

- HUNTERS' HANDICAP FLAT RACE** of 80sovs; second horse to receive 20sovs, and third horse 10 sovs from the stakes, and a trophy valued at £5 5s., donated by the President (Colonel C. H. Weston) to the rider of the winner. For qualified hunters, season 1920. Gentlemen riders. Minimum weight 10.0. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. One mile and a-quarter. To start at 12.30 p.m.
- URENUI HACK HANDICAP** of 95 sovs; second horse to receive 15 sovs, and third horse 10sovs from the stakes. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. Six furlongs. To start at 1.10 p.m.
- LADY'S BRACELET MAIDEN HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE** of 100 sovs; second horse to receive 20 sovs, and third horse 10 sovs from the stakes. For qualified hunters, season 1920. Minimum weight, 10.0. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. About two miles. To start at 1.30 p.m.
- STRATFORD HANDICAP (Open)** of 150sovs; second horse to receive 25 sovs, and third horse 10sovs from the stakes. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 30/-. Six furlongs. To start at 2.30 p.m.
- NORTH TARANAKI HUNT CUP HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE** of 200sovs, and a cup to the value of 20 guineas; second horse to receive 30sovs, and third horse 20sovs from the stakes. For qualified hunters, season 1920, that have never won a race exceeding in value 150sovs to the winner at time of entry. Minimum weight 10.7. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 2sovs. About three miles. To start at 3.15 p.m.
- WAIHI HACK HANDICAP** of 100 sovs; second horse to receive 15 sovs, and third horse 10sovs from the stakes. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. Seven furlongs. To start at 3.50 p.m.
- LEPPERTON HUNTERS' HANDICAP HURDLES** of 95sovs; second horse to receive 15sovs, and third horse 10sovs from the stakes. For qualified hunters, season 1920. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. One and a half miles. To start at 4.35 p.m.
- OPUNAKE HACK SCURRY** of 90 sovs; second horse to receive 15 sovs, and third horse 10sovs from the stakes. Open to horses that have never won a race on the flat at time of starting. Weight 9.0. Nomination 1sov, acceptance 1sov. Five furlongs.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Qualified Hunters are those that have qualified in compliance with Part V. of the New Zealand Hunts Association Rules. Masters' certificates of qualification must be produced at the scales. The winner of any race after the declaration of weights may be re-handicapped.

Owners are responsible for all penalties and allowances.

N.B.—The foregoing programme is subject to revision by the committee prior to closing, as to date of entry, acceptances, etc.

The committee reserve the right to alter the date on which handicaps appear should they deem it fit to do so.

No entry will be received after the hour named under any pretext whatever.

All nominations and acceptances made by telegram must be confirmed by letter immediately afterwards.

Definition of a hack, as per Rules of Racing Part XI.

NOMINATIONS will close at the Secretary's office, Egmont Street, New Plymouth, on SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, at 9 p.m.

WEIGHTS will be declared on SATURDAY, AUGUST 14.

ACCEPTANCES will close at the Secretary's office, Egmont Street, New Plymouth, on FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, at 9 p.m.

Subject to revision pending alterations of Rules of Racing by the Conference.

E. L. HUMPHRIES, Secretary.

Box 105. Phone 642. New Plymouth.

Approved this 6th day of July, 1920, by the Taranaki District Committee—E. P. Webster, Secretary.

THE IMPORTED TROTTLING STALLION



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Full particulars in future issue.

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