



RACING NEWS

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The following report is to be presented to members by the Hon. E. Mitchelson, chairman of committee, at the annual general meeting of the Auckland Racing Club, on Monday, August 2:—

"In presenting the attached statement of accounts for the year ended June 30, 1920, your committee have much pleasure in congratulating members upon the most successful season yet experienced by the club. During the year, the club had the honour of entertaining H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at a special race meeting, the gathering proving a success in all respects. The club also held its usual meetings, covering 11 days racing, when stakes amounting to £49,825 were given, in addition to which the prize money at the Royal meeting amounted to £4500. On two occasions races were run in divisions owing to the large fields engaged, this club being the first to experiment in this direction in the Dominion, and the result was quite satisfactory. Prize money will be considerably increased for the ensuing season, and your committee confidently anticipate another successful year's racing.

"The various improvements at Ellerslie for ensuring greater comfort for the club's patrons have been put in hand as opportunity offered. The new Leger Stand is well forward, and it is hoped that a portion may be ready for use next season. The scarcity of labour and materials, however, has somewhat hampered operations, but the outlook for future supplies is now brighter. The improvements so far completed and in use last season met with much approval, especially the additional dining and tea room accommodation and terrace of concrete steps in front of the grandstand.

"The Hon. E. Mitchelson and Mr. H. T. Gorrie are the only nominees for the respective offices of president and vice-president, and will be declared duly elected.

For the five vacant seats on the committee the following nominations have been received: Messrs. S. Bradley, Fred Earl, K.C., M. M. McCallum, O. Nicholson, H. O. Noian (retiring members), and A. E. Tattley. Messrs. G. Hodgson, J. D. Jones, M. J. Lynch, A. E. Tattley, and G. A. Wynyard have been nominated for the three seats on the stewards."

TRYING OUT THE NEW TACKLE.

INTERESTING INNOVATION AT GISBORNE.

A new departure so far as Gisborne is concerned which augurs well for the coming racing season in Poverty Bay was recently carried out at the Gisborne Racing Club's course, Te Hapara, when in the presence of several hundred enthusiasts a series of three heats, confined to youngsters and maiden performers, were decided. Three "scampers"—two over a couple of furlongs each and one over three furlongs—were held, the riders sporting the colours of the respective owners of the contestants. The interesting try-out of these equines who are destined to grace the turf at future meetings at Gisborne was principally brought about at the instigation of Mr. C. Morse, while the generous action of the Gisborne Racing Club in placing their course at the disposal of the promoters of the innovation was keenly appreciated by owners.

The first, a two-furlong sprint, was won by Mr. C. Morse's Unahi, a Mountain Knight—Baroa colt, with Percival up. A colt belonging to Mr. K. S. Williams, by Fort William—Osterland, and Mr. Lawrie's Merry Moment colt, with A. Nixon and H. Olive respectively in the saddle, filled second and third places.

In the second event, a three-furlong gallop for maiden performers, two and three years old, Mr. W. Olive's Prowler, ridden by H. Olive, won by a head from Ahura (R. Foote), owned by Mr. G. Murray.

Mr. W. Turnbull's Anxious Moments filled third place, being ridden by P. Sinclair.

The third event was of two furlongs, for yearlings, and was won by Mr. D. J. Barry's Heather Mixture—Edna May II. colt, with Tautau in the saddle, after a splendid finish, just beating Unahi on the post.

An equine which attracted considerable attention was a three-year-old chestnut gelding, Our Navy, belonging to Mr. W. Howard. The gelding stands 18 hands high, and is one of the biggest horses in New Zealand. Our Navy made a very good showing in the three-furlong event, but will probably not be heard of for another year. Stuart Howard rode the big gelding.

INCREASED REMUNERATION FOR JOCKEYS.

SCALE OF FEES ADOPTED BY RACING CONFERENCE.

One of the principal claims of jockeys, that of more remunerative riding fees, was dealt with at the New Zealand Racing Conference. It will be remembered that a deputation of jockeys recently waited upon the president (Sir George Clifford) in Wellington, when the matter of

The president commented that the conference would no doubt appreciate the fact that jockeys were entitled to participate in the general increase in wages obtaining throughout the Dominion. Personally, he had found jockeys to be absolutely fair-minded and reasonable, and they realised that it would be unwise in their own interests to tax the owners too heavily.

TRAINING OF HORSES BY OWNERS.

BETTERMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR APPRENTICES.

Among the important matters discussed at the New Zealand Racing Conference were the training of horses by their owners, and the betterment of the conditions in regard to apprentices.

After consideration, the following rule was substituted for Rule 3, Part 21, on the motion of the president: "Any owner who has never received payment for training or riding a horse may train his own horse without a trainer's license, provided such horse is trained under his personal superintendence, and that he has obtained from the district committee

RACING APPEAL DISMISSED.

The following judgment has been given by the New Zealand Racing Conference judges in the matter of the appeal by the Rangitikei Racing Club against the decision of the Wanganui District Committee in deciding: "That in the opinion of the district committee the Rangitikei stewards made an error of judgment in debarring the horses Yankee Jack and Hautawa from starting in the Maiden Hack Race at the club's meeting, held on March 25, 1920":—

The Rangitikei Racing Club prescribed the following special conditions in respect of the Maiden Hack Handicap: "A handicap of 130sovs, second horse to receive 20sovs, and third horse 10sovs from the stake. For horses that have never won an advertised stake exceeding 25sovs at time of starting."

Prior to the race, the judicial committee was asked to decide whether two horses—Hautawa and Yankee Jack—were eligible—neither of which had won an advertised stake exceeding 25sovs in a flat race, but both of which had won an advertised stake exceeding 25sovs in a hurdle race. The judicial committee decided that the horses were not eligible to start.

On the matter being referred to



The winner, BATTLE KNIGHT (L. Berry) and LISTOWEL (P. Rayner), who finished second, returning to scale after the Trial Plate (six furlongs) on the opening day of the Wellington R.C.'s winter meeting.

increased fees was considered. As an outcome of the hearing granted the jockeys by the head of the Racing Conference, the following recommendation of Sir George Clifford, that in the absence of any special agreement to the contrary, the fees payable to jockeys in relation to the net amount payable to the owner be as under, was affirmed during the recent sitting of delegates from the various racing clubs, in Wellington: For Flat Races.—To a winning mount, in no case less than £2; if the net amount exceeds £40, £5 per centum thereon. To a jockey of a second or third horse, if the net amount exceeds £100, £2s 10s. per centum thereon. To a jockey other than as above, in no case less than £1. If the net amount is £30, and does not exceed £100, £2 2s.; if the net amount exceeds £100, but does not exceed £150, £3; if it exceeds £150, £4.

For Hurdle Races and Steeplechases.—To a winning mount, in no case less than £4 if the net amount exceeds £40, £10 per centum thereon. To a jockey of a second or third horse, if the net amount exceeds £100, £10 per centum thereon. To a jockey other than as above, in no case less than £2; if the net amount is £30, and does not exceed £100, £4; if the net amount exceeds £100 but does not exceed £150, £5; if it exceeds £150, £6.

written permission to train such horse; and, further, that no trainer or an owner (who has obtained written permission from the district committee to train his own horse) shall, without the previous consent in writing of the district committee, employ any person whose last application for a license to train or ride has been refused by any district committee; such consent may at any time be withdrawn by the district committee."

A number of requests from the jockeys and from various clubs were considered relative to a betterment in the general conditions of apprentices.

Rules were amended making it no longer possible for apprentices to be apprenticed for more than four years without their full consent first being obtained to any extension; and, further, in order to protect the lads from unscrupulous trainers it was resolved that "after a lad shall have been apprenticed for his full term the right of the employer to retain one-half of his fees shall terminate." Provision was also made ensuring that in future all apprenticeships shall be subject to revision by the president, and may be cancelled at his option. At the instance of the Wanganui Jockey Club the conference adopted safeguards in order to ensure apprentices, on proof of ill-usage or neglect, securing redress and, if necessary, release from their obligations.

the Wanganui District Committee, this decision was reversed, the district committee holding that both horses were eligible, and this is an appeal by the Rangitikei Racing Club against that decision.

This was a hack race within the meaning of Rule 1 of Part XI., and the following words (in Rule 2) therefore apply: "The amount won by any horse in flat races, hurdle races, or steeplechases respectively, shall be estimated separately, and shall not debar such horse from entry except in the special class of race in which he has won the amounts."

Being a flat race, it follows that any stakes won in a hurdle race cannot be taken into account.

The judges, therefore, dismiss the appeal, and affirm the decision of the Wanganui District Committee. They direct that the deposit be refunded. (Signed) George Clifford, E. Mitchelson, Oliver Samuel, Judges.

James Clark, at one time the smart half-back of the Dunedin Rugby Football Club's fifteen, and lately first lieutenant to M. Edwards, has set up as a public trainer of trotters at New Brighton. His team will comprise: Leila Denver, an untried two-year-old by Harold Dillon—Miss Advocate; a three-year-old square trotter by Petereta—Miss Ngpara; and a two-year-old filly by Logan Pointer—Cappadocia.