

Two interesting developments in the athletic world are the decision of the International Amateur Athletic Federation to invite the Soviet Union to become a member, and the announcement that the giant Olympic Sports field at Berlin, where the 1936 Olympiad was staged, has now been completely repaired.

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Two of the world's most important golf fixtures, the British open and amateur championships, which drew the best players from Britain and the United States before the war, are to be resumed next year. The amateur event will be decided in May and the Open in July.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the American Open has been fixed for next June and the amateur championship for September. The United States Golf Association has also indicated its willingness to play the Walker Cup match—an annual fixture against Britain—at New York in August.

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Probably in no branch of sport is there so much activity apparent as in cricket. The last war-time season, brightened by the unofficial "Tests", has just concluded in England, and the Australian Services team is now in India. In reply to an inquiry from the M.C.C. the Indian Cricket Board of Control has indicated its willingness to send an Indian team to England next summer.

The resumption of England-Australia Test matches for the "Ashes" is set down to take place in 1946-47, the Australian Board of Control having invited the M.C.C. to send a team to Australia in that season. Australia is also prepared to send a team to England as soon as desired after the English side's visit to Australia.

As an experiment, it is likely, on the suggestion of Australia, that the playing time of Test matches in both of these tours will be limited to

thirty hours. This time limit will not apply to the fifth match, either in Australia or England, if the difference in matches won is not greater than one. The proposal is doubtless the result of the experiences with the "marathon" Test matches at the Oval in 1938 and at Durban in 1939.

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World's chief steeplechase event, the Grand National, which was last run in 1940, is expected to take place next spring at Liverpool, it has been announced by Lord Rosebery. The stands on the famous Aintree course have not been damaged to any great extent and, although there is some clearing up to do, there is a strong likelihood that everything can be got ready for the revival of the famous steeplechase at its usual time.

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Back home in New Zealand sport is steadily getting back to its peacetime status. Representative cricket this season is expected to be of a higher standard than at any time since 1939, while it will be surprising if the Ranfurly Shield is not back in circulation when next Rugby football season rolls around. Arrangements are also in hand for a visit to New Zealand by an Australian team.

Other branches of activity are also stirring. The national lawn tennis championships—last staged in 1940, when the Australian champion, John Bromwich carried off the singles title—are to be held this summer, while there is also a strong move to have the inter-provincial tournaments for the Wilding Shield and Nunneley Casket reinstated.

The New Zealand track and field championships were revived last season, and the next fixture is set down to take place at Wanganui in March, when it is hoped to follow the modified Olympic pattern adopted at Napier in 1939. It has also been decided to revive the national cycling championships this season, and this