

START OF THE REAL 'CHASING SEASON.

Interesting but Quiet Sport at Aldershot.

GREY FRIARS' SELECTIONS.

It fell to the lot of Aldershot to have the first steeplechase meeting beginning the season proper under National Hunt Rules. But as yesterday was the final settling day after the wind-up of the flat many of the usual visitors were perforce at home. Moreover, the military centre for jumpers has never quite caught on as a favourite place with the gambling fraternity. It is, indeed, more distinguished as a rendezvous for lovers of amateur sport, and this character sticks, though there may be any number of "open races" there.

The afternoon, though misty, remained fine, and as the hours wore on the mist got dissipated, and a good view all round was obtainable of the competitors over one of the prettiest courses in England. There was present a very strong contingent of the military, and, as usual, at such gatherings, large numbers of ladies were present. The course was a bit sticky in places, and there were several spills. Lord Gerard came a cropper on the chance Periwinkle, leaving Mr. de Crespigny to finish alone on Manister Gate. However, the only injury suffered by a rider occurred when Hubert Woodland after falling on Bush Rose had his right hand trodden on by another horse.

The fortunes of the game varied very much among spectators, but the sport, good all round—save in two instances—led to several excellent finishes, and in one or two apparently ludicrous cases the humour of the crowd expressed itself in loud cheering and general merriment.

SELECTIONS FOR ALDERSHOT.

- 1.13.—Long Valley Steeplechase—BUSH ROSE.
1.45.—Pavilion Steeplechase—CLANDON LAD.
2.15.—Open Hunters' Hurdle—CROWN RECEIVER.
2.45.—Winchfield Hurdle—SILVER FERN.
3.15.—Past and Present Chase—OLD FAIRYHOUSE.
3.45.—Ewshot Hurdle—BOLTED.

SPECIAL SELECTION.

CLANDON LAD. GREY FRIARS.

ALDERSHOT RACING RETURNS.

- 1.15.—RAGSNOT SELLING STEEPLECHASE. Two miles.—GRINKLES, 4-10-5 (E. Driscoll), 1, 8-11-9 (B. Gordon), 2; APPELEY, 4-11-9 (M. O'Connor), 3. Also ran: Assam, Bower, Bush Rose, Option, and Fashion III. Betting—4 to 6 Bush Rose, 5 Appeal, 7 Bower, 100 to 12 Sight, 10 Grinkles, and 20 others. (Gore.)
- 1.45.—CAMP STEEPLECHASE. Three miles.—VEGIO, 5-11-12 (Cawley), 1; PIONEER III, 6-10-5 (J. Barrett), 2; JACK TAR II, 2-10-5 (Mr. Sydnell), 3. Betting—1 to 10 Vedio, 100 to 6 Pioneer III, and 20 Jack Tar II. (Harrigan.)
- 2.15.—NOVEMBER HANDICAP HURDLE. Two miles.—ST. CYPRIAN, 4-11-3 (Burrell), 1; NIGHT STAR, 4-11-2 (A. Parker), 2; SCYTHE, 3-10-9 (Driscoll), 3. Also ran: Junas, Mysterious, Arion, and Tattus. Betting—7 to 4 St. Cyprian, 3 Scythe, 4 Mysterious, 5 Arion, 6 Night Star, 10 Junas, and 20 Tattus. (Gully.)
- 2.45.—CAMBERLEY SELLING HURDLE. Two miles.—SILVER FERN, 4-11-3 (Rollason), 1; COMRADE, 5-10-5 (Gilligan), 2; BEL OR, 4-11-8 (R. Gordon), 3. Also ran: Exhilaration, Usher, Atreous, Fitzroy, Vonetta, Little Garston, Aggie, and Song King. Betting—Evens Usher, 6 Bel Or, 8 Exhilaration and Song King, 10 Little Garston, Silver Fern, and Comrade, and 100 to 8 others. (Woodland.)
- 3.15.—OPEN MILITARY STEEPLECHASE. Two miles and a half.—MANISTER GATE, 4-11-0 (Mr. C. de Crespigny), 1. Also ran: Periwinkle. Betting—9 to 4 on Periwinkle, who did not complete the course. (Private.)
- 3.45.—THREE-YEAR-OLD HURDLE. One mile and a half.—BLACK PASSION, 10-5 (M. Walsh), 1; LE VISO, 10-12 (Cawley), 2; LADY ARTIST, 10-5 (W. Kingston), 3. Also ran: Myne, Thatcham, Copper Ore, Lady Lonely, Stone Carlow, and Rhineanna. Betting—4 to 6 Le Viso, 3 Lady Artist, 8 Lady Lonely, 10 Black Passion and Myne, and 100 to 8 others. (Goby.)

ALDERSHOT PROGRAMME.

- 1.15.—LONG VALLEY HANDICAP CHASE, 50 sovs; 2m. Hartsborn II, 4-12-7; Pain-Dis II, 5-11-10; Storm King, 4-12-6; Bush Rose, 4-12-4; Suspension, 4-11-7; Heronide, 6-12-4; What's Up, 4-11-5; Kentbridge, 6-12-2; Whole Truth, 6-11-1; Assam, 6-12-0; Option, 6-10-10; Palmerston, 4-11-12; Apollon, 4-10-4.
- 1.45.—PAVILION HANDICAP CHASE, 70 sovs; 2m. Delany, 4-12-7; Countenance, 4-11-6; Geoff, 4-12-6; Solim, 6-11-5; Orangeville, 6-11-1; Bruidh III, 4-11-4; Cont Heath, 4-11-8; Clandon Lad, 4-11-4; Irish Poplin, 6-11-7; High Step, 4-11-0; Spotted Lady, 6-11-7; Limestone, 6-10-10; Doggie, 6-11-6.

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2.15.—OPEN HUNTERS' HURDLE, 40 sovs; 2m.			
Furzey Common, 4-12-0	Tattus, 4-12-0	ys st lb	ys st lb
Crown Receiver, 6-12-10	Last Attempt, 6-12-0		
Sweet Peach, 4-12-6	Subdued, 6-12-0		
Kilsby, 6-12-6	Fitzroy, 6-12-0		
Adonis III, 6-12-6	Monica's Lamb, 5-11-10		
Adonis, 4-12-0	Scale 80s, 5-11-10		
Old Bazel, 4-12-0	Chalky, 5-11-10		
Stella VI, 4-12-0	Costly Lad, 4-11-0		
Alert III, 4-12-0	Clear Thinking, 4-11-0		
Uncommon II, 4-12-0	Vanity, 4-11-0		

2.45.—WINCHFIELD HANDICAP HURDLE, 40 sovs; 2m.			
Arizona II, 4-12-7	El Re, 5-11-10	ys st lb	ys st lb
Hartsborn II, 4-12-7	Prick Boy, 5-11-9		
Little Garston, 4-11-13	Theologic, 4-11-3		
Adonis III, 6-11-13	Silver Fern, 4-10-13		
Old Kildare, 5-11-11	Trapeze, 4-10-10		
Causeway, 4-11-11			

3.15.—PAST AND PRESENT MILITARY HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE, 60 sovs; 3m.			
Sprinkle Mo, 4-11-10	Pioneer III, 4-11-11	ys st lb	ys st lb
Old Fairhouse, 6-11-12	Menoken, 5-10-10		
Periwinkle, 6-11-10	Lord Schomberg, 5-10-9		
N.B., 4-11-6	Hallgate, 4-10-6		
Alert III, 4-11-5	Brantingham, 4-10-3		
Warner, 6-11-4	Kilsby, 6-10-3		
Kentbridge, 6-11-4	Lea, 6-10-0		
Peter the Great, 4-10-13	Prince Danilo, 4-10-0		
Manister Gate, 4-10-13			

3.45.—EWSHOT MAIDEN HURDLE, 40 sovs; 2m.			
Double Saint, 5-12-3	Bolton, 3-11-0	ys st lb	ys st lb
Glen Mazarin, 5-12-3	Aurelia, 3-10-7		
H.B., 4-11-12	Levekin, 3-10-7		
Reveille, 4-11-12	Lea, 3-10-7		
Wild Baron, 5-11-12	Black Passion, 3-10-2		
Congreve, 5-11-7	Merry Ida, 3-10-2		
Bumpkins, 4-11-7	Mabi, 3-10-2		
Costly Lad, 4-11-7	Olivarez, 3-10-2		

ENGLISH SCHOOLS SHIELD.

Last Season's Southern Finalists Beaten in the First Round.

With the exception of the match in which Southend are concerned, which has been delayed owing to the drawn match played by Tottenham and West Ham, the English Schools Shield ties are well up to date in the South.

It is quite in accordance with past experience that the games in the first rounds should produce some overwhelming defeats. There is no qualifying competition; the ultimate winners of the shield have to fight their way right from the first round to the final tie. Therefore in the earlier rounds the very weak and the very strong are occasionally drawn together, and the weaker go with a thud against the wall.

A qualifying competition is scarcely practicable, for the representative district teams so completely change in character from season to season that the task of discrimination would be an invidious one. And not infrequently it happens that the pigmies of a division in one winter are the giants of the following year.

The value of experience, however, is clearly demonstrated by the games in which West London have taken part. First they had to go to Brentford. Now Brentford during their last two or three seasons have been thoroughly drilled in the Corinthian Shield games, and, offering a resolute opposition, they were beaten only by a solitary goal. West London's next trip was to Henley. The riverside boys are comparative novices in the realm of representative matches, and they were quite outclassed by the West London "veterans," who ran out the easiest of winners by 13 goals to nil.

West Ham suddenly found their form when they re-played Tottenham. The first game was a draw of 1 goal each, but the second, which was played at Forest Gate, was won by West Ham by 4-0. During the next fortnight the winners will have to journey to Southend.

Willenden appear to be improving; playing together has, no doubt, benefited the team. For West Hamlets gave them a hard fight at Park Royal, and it was only by the odd goal in five that the East London lads were dismissed from the competition. Another good game was witnessed at Watford, where South London won by 1-0. Watford have never yet performed ignominiously in an English Schools Shield match, and their display against the powerful South Londoners did not tarnish their reputation.

Heavy scoring was the order of the day at Gillingham and Oxford. At the former town the locals met Chatham, whom they had beaten last season easily. The contest this time, however, was fast and furious, and the game at the finish was Gillingham 5, Chatham 4. Last winter Oxford reached the final tie, in which Derby beat them by 2 goals to 1. On their way Oxford defeated Reading by 4-3, and this winter the game between them was once more of an exciting description. But the tables were turned, for Reading were victorious by 5 goals to 3.

Woolwich had to battle vigorously against Gravesend, but they beat them by a goal; Walsall could only draw with North Staffordshire, each side scoring four times; but East Ham found Lewisham to be an easy prey.

In the two Southern Divisions the third-round matches will be as follows:—East Ham v. Southend or West Ham, South London v. Willenden, Woolwich v. Gillingham, Reading v. West London. DOMINIE.

COUNTY CRICKET MEETINGS.

MIDDLESEX.

Mr. A. J. Webb presided yesterday afternoon at the Charing Cross Hotel, at the annual general meeting of the Middlesex County Cricket Club. The balance-sheet shows a deficit of £140 8s. 8d. The club, however, has an invested capital of £4,500. Through pressure of business Mr. MacGregor, who could not play this year, has resigned the captaincy of the eleven and Mr. Warner has been appointed his successor. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. MacGregor for his long and valuable services.

Next summer Middlesex will play eleven of the first-class counties, adding Worcestershire to their list of opponents, and will also have a match at Lord's with the Australians.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

The annual general meeting of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club took place at Worcester yesterday. Lord Cobham, in moving the adoption of the report, explained that the whole of the debt was now paid off except £1,150, which was guaranteed by certain gentlemen, so that it was no longer a burden to the committee.

Lord Cobham was re-elected president, Mr. H. K. Foster captain, Mr. G. H. Simpson-Hayward vice-captain, Mr. A. W. Isaac hon. treasurer, and Mr. Jones Williams secretary.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

The balance-sheet of the Somerset County Cricket Club shows that a loss of over £400 has been made on the year. Members' subscriptions amounted to £800—more than £100 decrease on the previous season—and the gate receipts amounted to £750, against £1,042 in 1907. The expenditure has been much reduced, or the loss would have been considerably larger. Wages and expenditure on professionals are reduced from £1,054 to £910.

The balance of gate money over expenses at Bratton's benefit match at Bath was only £4 7s. 9d. The balance in hand of £153, with which the year was started, is absorbed, and the guarantors will be called upon for £279.

MAYO AND REID MATCHED AGAIN.

Yesterday C. H. Mayo intimated that he was willing to meet W. E. Reid in a seventy-two holes home and home match for £10 a side. Mayo, it will be remembered, wished to raise the stakes to £20, but to this Reid did not feel inclined to consent.

Now that Mayo has given way on the point, however, the match will probably take place at an early date. Indeed, Mayo suggests December 16 for the first thirty-six holes at Bursill, and December 18 for the second thirty-six holes at Bursill Downs.

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL.

'Spurs Beat Old Southern League Rivals in L.F.A. Cup.

OXFORD TOO GOOD FOR DUBLIN.

Some interesting football was played yesterday under both codes. In the London Football Association Challenge Cup the 'Spurs qualified for the third round by beating West Ham at Upton Park. Cambridge University beat the New Crusaders at Cambridge.

Under Rugby rules Oxford quite outplayed Dublin University at Oxford, winning by 29 points to 0. Dublin Wanderers, continuing their tour, defeated Rosslyn Park at Richmond after an exciting game, in which all the eighteen points were scored in the last ten minutes or so. Swansea proved too good for the local club at Plymouth. Below will be found reports of all yesterday's important football.

LONDON F.A. CUP.

WEST HAM UNITED, 0; TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, 2.—Unfortunately fog spoiled the enjoyment of the tie in the second round of the London F.A. Cup, played yesterday at Upton Park. From what could be seen a lot of the football was good, the defence on both sides being particularly strong. Tottenham Hotspur won by 2 goals to none, and deserved their success.

Strong teams took the field, and the crowd of 3,000 people was satisfactory considering the afternoon. The Tottenham scored their first goal ten minutes from the start, Taylor, in trying to clear, sending the ball to B. Steel, who shot through. Play was fast and even, with the Tottenham halves and backs, particularly Darnell, D. Steel, and Burton for the most part holding the home forwards. Shea once shot wide after most passing by the left wing.

The game was not much between the sides, but, forcing the pace, the visitors were most often dangerous, and Walton utilised an opportunity to put in a cross-which beat Kitchen, who apparently could not see the ball until too late. This occurred five minutes from the end, and the Tottenham experienced little difficulty in holding their lead.

WESTERN LEAGUE.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS, 6; READING, 1.—Queen's Park Rangers defeated Reading in decisive fashion at Park Royal yesterday, the margin in their favour being 6 goals to 1. The visitors scored a by no means exaggerated idea of the superiority of the home side, Reading being outplayed at all points. Indeed, had the Rangers taken advantage of all their opportunities they would have gained a still more overwhelming victory.

Splendidly supported by the halves, of whom Morris, in the centre, was the pick, the Queen's Park Rangers forwards carried on their attack with a perfect understanding, and passed with such skill that the Reading defence was quite incapable of holding them in check.

Early on, Crump, the Reading right back, had the misfortune to put through his own goal, and after Drake had put on two more points for the Rangers, Wilkes, the Reading left back, also turned the ball into the goal. Following change of ends the home side continued to hold the upper hand, and Cannon, as the result of capital individual efforts, added two more goals for them. Just before the finish Birch scored for Reading.

SOUTHAMPTON, 2; MILLWALL, 1.—Both sides included several reserves for this match at Southampton yesterday, yet the play was exceptionally bright from start to finish, and the Saints were a trifle lucky to win by 2 to 1.

The Southampton forwards played delightful football in the first half, and at the interval the home side led by two goals, scored by Costello and Jepp. After the interval, however, Millwall completely turned the tables, and were distinctly unlucky not to equalise after Hunter had reduced Southampton's lead with an excellent shot.

WESTERN LEAGUE TABLES.

SECTION A.	Goals.			
	Pld.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.
Brighton and Hove...	9	6	2	1
Luton	9	6	2	1
Exeter	9	5	1	3
Croydon	7	3	1	3
Reading	10	2	2	6
Crystal Palace	5	2	1	2
Queen's Park Rangers	5	2	0	3

SECTION B.				
Pld.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	
Millwall	9	6	1	2
Southampton	9	6	0	3
Plymouth Argyle	10	3	0	7
West Ham United	9	0	0	9
Portsmouth	7	2	1	3
Bristol Rovers	9	3	1	5
Brentford	9	1	1	7

MANCHESTER CUP.—Replayed Tie.

MANCHESTER CITY, 2; NORTHERN NOMADS, 2.—This Manchester Cup tie was replayed at Oldham yesterday, and resulted in another draw, each side scoring twice. Soon after the start Henderson opened the score for the City, and Webb added a second goal. Before the interval, however, Manchester reduced the lead, and the sides played out the amateurs on equal terms during the second half.

OTHER MATCHES.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, 4; NEW CRUSADERS, 0.—The New Crusaders proved no match for the University at Cambridge yesterday, and were beaten by 4 goals to 0. For some time there seemed little to choose between the sides, but settling down to excellent football the University forwards carried all before them. Goals were scored by Edwards in the first half and after the change of ends further points were put on by Edwards and Brisley.

At Woolwich: Woolwich Arsenal R. 2; Leyton R. 1. (South-Eastern League.)
At Clapton: Clapton O. R. 4; Hastings, 3. (S. E. League.)
At Leytonstone: Leytonstone, 3; Woodford Albion, 2. (West Ham Club Cup.)

UGBY RULES.

PLYMOUTH, 5 pts.; SWANSEA, 17 pts.—At Plymouth yesterday Swansea easily defeated the home side by one goal, one mark goal, and three tries (17 points) to one goal (5 points). Plymouth's side included Lieut. Tiliard, Lieut. Wilson, and Bugge, a brother of the injured Australian player. Bright weather prevailed, but the game was a little spoilt by the slippery turf.

Swansea obtained their first try after a quarter of an hour by Trev and Jones. Trev and Hayward soon followed with others. Hancock was successful with one place kick, and kicked another goal from a mark by Trev. Knight got over for Plymouth, and Lieut. Wilson placed a goal.

ROSSLYN PARK, 5 pts.; DUBLIN WANDERERS, 13 pts.—There was quite a crowd (for Old Deer Park) at this game at Richmond yesterday, when the Wanderers beat Rosslyn Park by 13 points to 5 after a bright and lively game, marked only by the inopportune of Rosslyn Park when the latter showed signs of their path.

Mainly on account of this most of the game passed without anything being scored, and a draw was the most likely thing in prospect. In the last ten minutes, however, there was a surprising change, and a scoring bout sufficient to take advantage of the Irish back's failure, ran in behind the posts for Rosslyn Park, and Harding (Anglo-Welsh) converted. In the last minute Deane scored a further try for the Irishmen at the corner, but this time Thrift failed to goal.

points, and won by four goals and three tries (29 points) to nothing. They made three changes in their fifteen. Hands and Blencowe taking the places of Thompson and Ormerod in the pack, and Parker (St. John's) partnering Gilray—playing inside—on the wing.

The Oxford three-quarters were seen to considerable advantage, and easily turned the game in favour of their side. Despite many fine efforts by the Irish forwards. In the first half tries were scored by Martin (two) and Parker, and after the interval Martin ran in twice more, and Buchanan and Cronje also got over.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY AT ETON.

It was St. Andrew's Day yesterday, and the usual football festivities took place at Eton. The Collegers followed up their victories of the last two years by defeating the Oppidians at the wall by one try to nothing. Collegers won the toss, and elected to kick towards back cake.

They gradually worked their way into camp, where Finlay scored a try just before the interval. After the tossing over the Oppidians got into camp, but Mathews made a long kick and the game finished in the centre of the field.

The victory of the Collegers was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm, and their captain, H. C. Prior, was carried off the field to the New Buildings amid shouts of applause.

Other games resulted as follows: Lower Boy House Cup (final): Mr. A. A. Somerville (holders) defeated Mr. A. Heygate by two goals and one rouge to a rouge. Old Etonians defeated Eton Masters by one rouge to nil.

AUSTRALIAN TACTICS.

Below will be found a further selection of letters sent to The Daily Mirror on the subject of the style of play adopted by the Australians.

"HARROWING TALES" FROM WALES.

Your Welsh readers cannot allow Citizen's remarks to pass without protest. As one who saw "one or two scrapping games," I should like to know what these harrowing tales are, and how they are harrowing about the Glamorgan, Penryn, and Neath matches. We grant there might have been at Llanelly. There is always something harrowing about defeat.

Unfold these harrowing tales. Again, "The Australians failed to differentiate between Welsh and English sides." What blindness on their part! The plucky, intelligent, intelligent Welsh player differs greatly from the "spineless" English specimen, as Dingy Bill so admirably puts it. We are sick in Wales of this idle talk from football gossipers. When Colonial tactics are not football tactics, when the purity, morality, and canons of the Rugby game are imperilled, let assuredly it is said about the W.U., the first to host the battle-axe. CYMRU.

Cwmprk, Rhondda Valley.

LLANELLY LADY DEFENDS AUSTRALIA.

A great deal has been written about the Australian tactics, and such remarks as "Did they really suffer defeat at Llanelly?" seem to crop up in every column. Any one with the least knowledge of football who saw the game (and most of those who write did not) would not ask such a question.

As for rough tactics the game was an ordinary one. Did anyone ever see a first-class match of football without a small amount of dash put into the play? The Australians were certainly cautioned in a few minutes from the start, immediately after Llanelly's try, and I was only a few yards from the referee at the time I distinctly heard him say: "Now look here, I don't want any of that, I can assure you." These words were loudly cheered by the spectators, and seemed to have the desired effect on the players. Why is it that English writers seem to run down Welsh play, thereby fostering a bad feeling in the sporting world between English and Welsh teams? If an English team had defeated the Australians they would be held up, but as they keep on winning, as a far superior side should, the unsportsmanlike critics try to attack their honour. It is as true as the English Union as it is said about the W.U., that they look down on Llanelly (as some remark, a tin-pot town) because they defeated the Australians, and the Welsh Union thought that the Scots should have left it to Wales to register the first defeat!

One of the writers remarked that the Australians clearly showed their superiority after the Llanelly match. Allow me to contradict this remark. They certainly did feel a little disappointed. Have you ever seen a team come up smiling after a defeat? As one of the Australians remarked: "Fancy travelling 15,000 miles to be defeated! Yes, they truly met their Waterloo at Llanelly. Do you see the English press closely watching the Australian, thereby refusing to see the errors of the English players? Do we understand Rugby football as played in Australia? I think not, and ask the visitors to remember that these outbursts are only from a few ungenerous sportsmen."

Llanelly. ANOTHER LADY ENTHUSIAST.

WELSH XV. AGAINST AUSTRALIA.

At Cardiff last night the Welsh Rugby Union selected the following team to meet the Australians at Cardiff on December 12:—H. B. Winfield (Cardiff); W. Trew (Swansea); R. A. Gibbs, J. L. Williams (Cardiff); J. P. Jones (Newport); R. Owen, R. Jones (Swansea); G. Hayward, Ivor Morgan, D. J. Thomas (Swansea); G. Travers (Pill Harriers); W. Evans, J. Watts (Llanelly); P. Waller (Newport) and W. J. Williams (Swansea). The players are J. P. Jones and P. Waller, of Newport, and Ivor Morgan, of Swansea.

SPORTING NEWS ITEMS.

Oxford University beat Old Rossallians at hockey yesterday, at Oxford, by 4 goals to nil.

Kent will meet Surrey at hockey at Beckenham to-morrow, instead of at Blackheath as previously announced.

The All England lawn tennis team commenced a match against Pietermaritzburg yesterday, states Reuter. Escombe met Duncan, and won by 2 sets to love.

At the annual general meeting of the Billiards Association, held at the offices in Buckingham-street, Strand, yesterday, Mr. Sydenham Dixon was re-elected president, and Colonel J. E. Atkinson hon. treasurer.

In the final round of the Sunningdale Golf Club's foursome competition the Founders' Cup, Mr. E. A. Snirkie (plus 2)