

ANNUAL BICYCLE RACE MEETING.

The annual race meeting in connection with the Hastings and St. Leonards Bicycle Club, which was postponed from July 29th, in consequence of the wet weather, came off under much more favourable circumstances on Wednesday afternoon last, in the Central Cricket and Recreation Ground. The various events were witnessed by a considerable number of spectators, and the proceedings were ably aided by the strains of the excellent band of the 1st Queens Foot Brigade Volunteers (under the conducting of Bandmaster Stanley), by whom the following programme was creditably executed:—March, "Simplotta," Wilson; polka, "Duck jump, duck," D'Albert; waltz, "Lola," Young; fantasia, "Golden star," Bennett; quadrille, "Autumn," Arnold; glee, "In the lonely vale of streams," Calcott; polka, "La fille du Tambour-Major," arranged by Stanley; selection, "La valise des deux," Dorian; waltz, "The engaged," D'Albert; bolero, "Juana," Newton; quadrille, "Le serpent du desert," Eager; pie, "Nursery Rhymes," Cook. The ground, although rain had fallen heavily during the preceding night and early morning, was pronounced to be in excellent condition for riding. The arrangements were under the immediate supervision of the energetic Secy. Secretary, Mr. F. Anson, and well performed his arduous task. Tests for the accommodation of members, and a large canvas enclosure for spectators, had been erected on the ground, and placards on the canvas announced "No betting allowed." In the absence of Mr. G. E. Treves, Mr. C. H. Gaudin acted as judge, and in the absence of Mr. H. E. Quack, Mr. J. W. Tait acted as starter. The competitions commenced a few minutes after three o'clock, and did not terminate until nearly nine. The following were the results:—

ONE MILE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.

First prize, value £2 10s., presented by Mr. G. E. Gatchell; second prize, value £1 1s., presented by Mr. S. Chester; third prize, value 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. F. W. Beck. There were three heats in this race, the results being as follows:—First Heat—A. W. Chesterfield, 1st; T. C. Boston, 2nd; A. E. Shortall, 3rd. Second Heat—F. W. Beck, 1st; E. C. Gilbert, 2nd; A. T. Lovett, 3rd. Final Heat—Beck, 1st; Gilbert, 2nd; Chesterfield, 3rd; Boston, 4th; Lovett, 5th; Shortall, 6th. The race was universally regarded as a test on the riders all starting at scratch point. Beck, who showed some splendid riding—a real improvement of his last exhibition in the ground—led round the first corner, but was soon passed by Chesterfield, whose form of riding was much admired. Gilbert, having detached Boston, was third in order, and at times somewhat closely pressed the second man. Beck, however, put on a spurt, which Chesterfield could not resist, and again headed the race. Gilbert also succeeded in passing Chesterfield, who it was clear would not be able to reverse his position. Towards the close there was a struggle between Beck and Gilbert, but the latter was not equal to the task, and Beck ran in at the head with a good lead.

PLANK RACE.

The competitor who rides the longest distance to complete in the least time. First prize, value £1 1s., presented by Sir Lightfoot Kay-Saundersworth, Bart., President; second prize, value 10s. 6d. There were five heats, the successful competitors being—First heat, A. W. Chesterfield; second heat, A. T. Lovett; third heat, F. W. Beck; fourth heat, J. N. Stewart. Final heat—A. T. Lovett, 1st; A. W. Chesterfield, 2nd. This race did not excite a great deal of interest, although it required a deal of skill to proceed far on the plank.

TWO MILE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.

First prize, value £3 1s. (£2 1s. presented by Mr. F. A. Indorwick, Q.C., M.P., Vice-President; £1 1s. added); second prize, value £1 10s.; £1 1s. added; third prize, value 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. Murray. First heat—A. W. Chesterfield, 1st; A. E. Shortall, 2nd; A. T. Elstoback, 3rd. Second heat—A. T. Lovett, 1st; E. Davis, 2nd. Final heat—A. W. Chesterfield, 1st; E. Davis, 2nd; A. T. Lovett, 3rd. This race was one of the most amusing. The strenuous efforts of some of the competitors to avoid the machines quickly causing runs of laughter. One or two, also, were placed here and there.

FIVE MILE NATIONAL RACE.

First prize, value £2 1s. (£1 1s. presented by Mr. C. J. Murray, M.P., Vice-President, with £1 1s. added); second prize, value £1 10s.; £2 1s. added; third prize, value 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. J. Davis; M.P. First Heat—E. C. Gilbert (scratch), 1st; F. W. Beck (2nd yards), 2nd; C. Shortall (300 yards), 3rd. Second Heat—A. W. Chesterfield (100 yards), 1st; S. Chester (200 yards), 2nd; T. C. Boston (300 yards), 3rd. Final Heat—Beck, 1st; Gilbert, 2nd; Shortall, 3rd.—In the final heat, Gilbert rode exceedingly well, but was unable to overtake Beck, who won a splendid race by about 50 yards; indifferent third.

ONE MILE CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.

First prize, value £1, presented by Mr. G. E. Treves, Vice-President; second prize, value 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. E. C. Gilbert, Captain; third prize, value 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. A. W. Chesterfield, Sub-Captain. Open to members riding in two of the previous races and not gaining a prize. There were six competitors in this race, the result being as follows:—1st, A. J. Elstoback; 2nd, T. C. Boston; 3rd, A. E. Shortall.

This brought the programme to a close, and the Club may be congratulated upon a successful meeting.