

PADDOCK CRICKET AND BOWLING CLUB.

SPORTS AND WALKING HANDICAP.

The officials of cricket clubs are often at their wits' end to devise means whereby the success of their annual sports may be assured. Ordinary flat and obstacle races have become somewhat stale unless some novelty is introduced into the programme to form a little diversion for the large number of spectators whose speculative faculties are not quite so keen as their desire to be interested and amused. The task is a comparatively easy one when there is a popular "craze" to take advantage of, but when this is lacking it is seldom that the inventive genius of officers and committee, or the advice of experts, rises to the occasion. This is no reflection upon the qualifications or abilities of those estimable and often misjudged gentlemen. They invariably do their level best, and frequently the attractions they provide are worthy of better patronage. It is the tastes of a fickle public which lie at the root of the whole matter, and, no doubt, this will continue to be so for some considerable time.

The fact that a few months ago certain members of the London Stock Exchange discarded the ordinary routine of their business for a short time and subscribed to a new form of speculation that is likely to prove of immense advantage to those interested in athletics as it is found at the various festivals promoted by cricket and athletic clubs and other institutions. As all events the walking craze thus instituted has been the means of replenishing the coffers of other organisations, and, as many claim that this is the best form of exercise—though it should be taken in moderation—and as it is also a form of sport, there is no reason why it should not find a place in the programme. Whether or not the officers and committee of the Paddock Cricket and Bowling Club argued in this way when making arrangements for their fifteenth annual athletic festival, which took place on the club's enclosure on Saturday, cannot be officially stated, but the idea of holding a walking competition found favour, being in accord with the spirit of the times. At the same time those zealous and hard working gentlemen are to be complimented upon their enterprise as well as upon being the first club in this district to take advantage of the craze in connection with their sports.

The arrangements had the desired effect. The competition aroused great interest, and, in spite of many counter attractions, the attendance of spectators was quite as large as usual, while the entries constituted a record, and were more in number than last year, apart altogether from the "walk." The county cricket match which was in progress at Fartown would, no doubt, under ordinary circumstances have been sufficient to divert the interest from Paddock sports, but the officials had even more than this to contend against. At the same time an attractive demonstration was being held at Milesbridge, and at Golcar it was "Derby Day," and the benefit of Peter Hall, the cricket club's professional. The walking contest thus served them in good stead—how good can

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At the same time an attractive demonstration was being held at Millasbridge, and at Golour it was "Derby Day," and the benefit of Peter Hall, the cricket club's professional. The walking contest thus served them in good stead — how good can easily be imagined from the facts already given. The weather also assisted towards the success of the event, for, although it was dull and ungenial for some time, it remained fine until about four o'clock, when the spectators found it very cold on the elevated enclosure.

There were fifty-three entries in the walking handicap, and forty-two competitors. The ages of the competitors varied considerably. There were a number of youths, several who have reached the age when the responsibilities of life begin to be felt, and a sprinkling of enthusiastic competitors of quite mature years. The latter were the objects of much interest and attention, particularly a local worthy in the person of David Hewison, who could not be far from the allotted span, and who exerted himself to the utmost to carry off one of the coveted prizes. Although he was outstripped by his juniors his was a creditable performance, and he was rewarded to some extent by the plaudits of the crowd. The distance covered was about seven miles, and all along the route large crowds assembled, evincing a lively interest in the competition. Starting about 1.35 from St. George's Square, where an exceptionally large number of spectators gathered, the route lay along John William Street and New Street, and down Chapel Hill to Lookwood. From there the competitors negotiated Swan Lane to Crosland Moor, and thence to Manchester Road, going as far as the Warren House Hotel, then turning down Whiteley Bottom, through Millasbridge and Lowergate to the top of Padleek. Luck Lane and Westbourne Road were travelled to Marsh, and then the route lay down Gledholt Road to the Triangle, and from there to the cricket field, the distance being completed by walking round the course six times. The first man in was A. Heap, of Huddersfield, who carried off a gold medal of the value of two guineas, being the first man in who did not win a prize in the sealed handicap. The results of the latter are interesting and somewhat curious. A. Clough, Huddersfield, with 8 minutes 32 seconds start, received the first prize (a marble clock given by Councillor B. B. Dobson), but he was the second man in. The second prize was gained by Fred Shaw, Lindley, who, with 8 minutes 30 seconds start, was the sixth man in, while the third prize was carried off by J. W. Madden, Huddersfield, who was the twenty-first man in, with a start of 8 minutes 30 seconds.

Of the other events little need be said. Generally speaking, they were of an average character. The heats of both the 100 yards flat races were, however, exceptionally close, inches only separating the winners in each case. For these events, as, indeed, for all, there was quite a remarkable turn up of competitors. In the local 100 yards race there was only one absentee, while in the open race of the same distance only six failed to put in an appearance, the entries numbering fifty and forty-four respectively. Despite the fact that the ground was somewhat heavy, owing to the recent rain, there were some creditable performances. The seventh heat in the 100 yards local was run in 10 1/5th seconds by Brook (Holmfirth), the second, fifth, and sixth heats in the open 100 yards were finished in 10 seconds by Richardson (Brighouse), Nelson (Huddersfield), and Beavers (Huddersfield), while in the 220 yards flat race Smith (Brighouse) ran the last heat in 23 2/5th seconds. The half-mile was won by G. Crowther, of Lindley, who led practically the whole of the way. There were only four absentees in the 220 yards race out of a total

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The arrangements were satisfactorily carried out by the following officials:—Referee, Mr. S. Foster; Judges, Messrs. E. Hoyle, Jas. Sykes, W. Drayton, J. T. Thornton, Councillor G. H. Holdroyd, and T. Wainwright; secretaries, Messrs. J. Schofield and Tom Schofield; handicapper, Mr. W. Hellawell; starter, Mr. J. H. Morfoot; timekeeper, Mr. A. Fattorini; prize steward, Mr. J. Pontefract; marksmen, Messrs. J. T. Bradley, W. Gill, M. Franca, J. Marshall, R. Waddington, W. Milner, E. Wilkinson, W. Kaye, and H. Sykes; and treasurer, Mr. J. S. Hilton.

Appended are the results of the various events:—

WALKING (SEALED HANDICAP).—Prizes: Marble clock, value three guineas, given by Councillor B. B. Dobson; dressing case, two guineas; portmanteau, and guinea. There were fifty-three entries and forty-two competed. Distance about seven miles. The start was made at St. George's Square, and the route was through the principal streets of the town to Lockwood, Crosland Moor, Milnsbridge, and Paddock, and the finish six laps of the course. The result of the handicap was—1 A. Clough, Huddersfield, 8mins. 32secs. start, time one hour 7mins. 44secs.; 2 Fred Shaw, Lindley, 8mins. 30secs., one hour 7mins. 58secs.; 3 J. W. Madden, Huddersfield, 8mins. 30secs., one hour 11mins. 50secs. The first man in was A. Heap, Huddersfield, 8mins. start, time one hour 7mins. 43secs., and he won a gold medal value two guineas. Clough, the winner of the handicap, was second man in—half a yard behind Heap. Shaw was sixth to finish, and Madden came in twenty-first.

100 YARDS (local).—Prizes: Silver plated tea urn, value five guineas; carved oak barometer and thermometer, 2l. 10s.; silver mounted umbrella, 10s. The race was open to amateurs within a radius of six miles from the Market Cross, Huddersfield. The entries numbered fifty, and forty-nine competed. The following won their heats:—L. Crowther, Huddersfield, 7 1/2 yards