

MEETING OF THE MELBOURNE BOWLING CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the above club took place on the ground, Chapel-street, Prahran, on Saturday last. The hon. Matthew Hervey presided. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed,

The CHAIRMAN called upon the hon. secretary to read the directors' report, which was as follows:—

The board of directors begs to congratulate the members on the very successful introduction of the ancient game of bowls into the colony, the institution of the club, and the liberal support with which it has been met. The green was opened for play upon the 22nd of October last; the list of members thereupon increased with great rapidity, and during the past year 182 gentlemen were enrolled. The green has become one of the favorite resorts near Melbourne, and has, with the exception of a few wet days, been played upon for eight months, being crowded on the Saturday afternoons and other holidays. During the season nineteen scratch matches have taken place, in which all members present joined. The prizes which have been competed for are as follows:—1. The President's Bowls, presented by the hon. Matthew Hervey, and won by J. C. Robertson, Esq. 2. The Vice-President's Gold Medal, presented by H. M. C. Gemmell, Esq., and won by George Young, Esq. 3. The Welsh Main Silver Cup, won by J. L. Clarke, Esq. 4. The Melbourne Bowling Club Champion Gold Medal, won by G. Y. Fishley, Esq., and to be competed for annually. 5. Messrs D. and E. Johnston's Presentation, S. M. Ebony Bowls, handicap match, won by W. Hick, Esq. 6. The Subscription Handicap for purses of £10, £5, £2, and £1, which is still unfinished. The attractive nature of the game, and the interest excited by the competitions for these prizes, have together conducted to a gradual and general improvement in the members' style of play. As the season advanced and the attendance increased, your directors determined upon adding to your grounds the new green, now in course of formation, and they trust that the increased facilities afforded players by this means will compensate for that raising of the subscription which was deemed the most advisable method of obtaining the required funds. Two leases of the grounds, terminating 11th April, 1874, have been obtained in the name of Mr John Campbell, who has executed and registered a declaration of trust of the same, for the benefit of the club. During the past year two vacancies occurred in your board of directors, the one occasioned by the resignation of H. Dyer, Esq., the other by that of P. Langwill, Esq., both of which resignations resulted from these gentlemen visiting England. Your directors elected John Everard, Esq., in the place of Mr Dyer; and as Mr Langwill's resignation did not take place till near the expiration of their term of office, they have not filled up that vacancy. Your directors have conferred on Mr John Campbell the right to provide refreshments for the club for three years, from the 11th of April last, at a nominal rental. An account has been opened at the Colonial Bank, and your directors recommend that, in future, payments be made by cheques, drawn by the honorary secretary, and two members of the existing directory. By the annexed statement of receipts and disbursements, it will be seen that the amount expended for rent, wages, and general expenses for the year, was £146 3s 11d, and for plant and various improvements, £229 11s 4d. The amount of liabilities on the 11th April stood at £72 16s, against which were the value of the lease and improvements and the cash balance, £17 9s 9d. Your directors have noticed, with much pleasure, the interest which has lately been taken in the game of quoits. The season opened with a match between eight members of the Burnes Club and an equal number of your club, resulting in the defeat of the latter. Since then, however, considerable improvement

number of your club, resulting in the defeat of the latter. Since then, however, considerable improvement is noticeable in the play of your members, and your directors recommend the voting of a sum of money to provide a champion quoiting medal and a handicap quoiting cup, to be competed for during the present season. Having now completed their labors, your directors retire from office with best wishes for the continued prosperity of the club.—Matthew Hervey, president; H. M. C. Gemmell, vice-president; J. S. Butters, John Everard, A. C. Fox, J. S. Miller, directors; John Campbell, honorary secretary.—Prahran, June 24th, 1865.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR YEAR ENDING 11th APRIL, 1865.

Receipts.—Loans £10, donation £1 1s, entrance fees £191 2s, subscriptions £191 2s; total receipts, £393 5s.

Expenditure.—Rent, wages and general expenses £146 3s 11d, improvements £229 11s 4d, balance £17 9s 9d; total expenditure, £393 5s.

Liabilities.—Sundry unpaid accounts for rent and general expenses £25 9s, do for improvements to green £37 7s, unpaid loans £10; total, £72 16s; less balance of cash in hand, as above £17 9s 9d; total liabilities £55 6s 3d.

Assets.—Ten years' lease and improvements on the bowling green.

Examined and found correct, signed, THOMAS DICKSON and FRED. BARRIS, auditors. Prahran, 16th June, 1865.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr WADSWORTH, seconded by Mr THOS. REED, and carried *sem. con.*

Mr RUSDEN then moved, and Mr MILLER seconded, a resolution to the following effect:— "That whereas, by the present rule of balloting three black balls exclude, which in so large a club is considered exceedingly stringent, it is desirable that the fourth clause of rule eight be altered to the effect that one black ball in five exclude, and that no ballot be taken unless fifteen members or more are present." Carried.

It was next proposed by Mr BUTTERS, and seconded by Mr C. BRIGHT—"That a committee of three be appointed to be called a match reference committee, to whom all disputes and differences in matches shall be referred. One to form a quorum." Carried.

On the motion of Mr BRIGHT, seconded by Mr RUSDEN, it was agreed that Messrs Fishley, Robertson and Campbell be appointed the above committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr THOMAS DICKSON proposed, and Mr WITHERS seconded, that the hon. Matthew Hervey be re-elected president for the ensuing year.

Mr HERVEY said he was glad to find that the meeting did not deem him unworthy of re-election; but he considered that in a club so extensive and influential the presidency should not be held more than one year by any gentleman, and he must positively decline.

It was then moved by Mr BUTTERS, and seconded by Mr RUSDEN, that the present vice-president, Mr H. M. C. Gemmell, be elected president. Carried unanimously.

Mr JAMES WILSON was unanimously elected vice-president, and returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him.

The meeting then proceeded to nominate gentlemen to fill up the five vacancies in the directory, caused by the retirement of five members. The following gentlemen were proposed:—Messrs J. C. Butters, G. Y. Fishley, J. Everard, J. C. Robertson, George Young, G. W. Rusden, T. Reed, G. Baillie, J. S. Miller, A. C. Fox and Charles

Baillie, J. S. Miller, A. C. Fox and Charles Bright.

It was ultimately decided, on the motion of Mr WITHERS, seconded by Mr THOS. DICKSON, that the ballot for five directors, from the foregoing list, commence on Saturday, the 1st July, at four p.m. Carried.

Mr DICKSON proposed and Mr WITHERS seconded, that the retiring board of directors make arrangements for a grand banquet, on an early day, to celebrate the close of the first bowling season, and that a list of subscribing members to the same be opened at once. Carried.

Mr John Campbell was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, on the motion of Mr BRIGHT, seconded by Mr WITHERS.

It was further agreed, on the motion of Mr J. EVERARD, seconded by Mr Fox, that it be an instruction to incoming directors that a suitable pavilion be erected on the club ground on as early a date as the funds of the club will permit.

Votes of thanks were unanimously accorded to the retiring president, Mr Matthew Hervey; to Messrs Thos. Dickson and Frederick Banks, for their gratuitous auditing of the accounts; the retiring directors, and hon. secretary.

The hon. M. Hervey then presented Mr W. Hick with a pair of silver mounted ebony bowls, the presentation of Messrs D. and E. Johnston, makers, and won at a handicap match of all the members.

The meeting was then adjourned until Saturday, the 1st July.