

# BILLIARDS FOR AMATEURS

## Five Players to Compete in the Leiderkranz Club Event.

### Knickerbocker Billiardists Encounter Trouble with Their New Club—Schaefer in Bad Condition.

There has been considerable activity within the past week among the billiard players, both professional and amateur. In the absence of any plans being formulated for the usual Amateur Athletic Union championship, Ferdinand Poggenberg, one of the leading amateurs, has arranged that the Leiderkranz Club will hold an amateur tournament the latter part of next month. This event will be in the nature of a metropolitan championship, and special trophies are to be awarded. This is the tournament that was talked of some years ago, but whose promises have never been fulfilled until now. Only five men will compete, and the tournament will last about two weeks.

In a measure the Leiderkranz tournament will be preliminary to the regular championship event of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players that is to be held in February at the Hanover Club, Rodney Street and Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. It is generally expected that almost the same men will play without change in both tournaments.

Another piece of news that has developed within the last few days is the fact that the amateur billiard club that was being promoted by Albro Akin and Dr. Miller of the old Knickerbocker Athletic Club has apparently fallen through. Their plan was to lease the quarters now occupied by the Metropolitan Billiard Academy at Sixty-sixth Street and Columbus Avenue. In order to accomplish this the promoters of the club decided to issue stock to 300 charter members at \$50 per share. At the present time only about one hundred subscriptions have been received, and it seems well nigh impossible to get more into the project. However, those who are interested in the idea have not abandoned it completely, as it is believed there is sufficient interest to maintain such a club were it started. There is nothing like such a club in any of the foreign cities nor in this country. The lovers of the sport contemplated making a billiard room that would be peerless in its appointments and also in the tools provided for those who wish to play the game. The ivory was to be of special quality, and experts were to be engaged, so that the cues might be of extraordinary proficiency. Another feature was to be the fact that it would only be frequented by members who were specially interested in billiards and pool.

From abroad comes the unwelcome news that Jacob Schaefer, who last year won the world's championship in the Madison Square Garden tournament, has had a disagreement with those who are about to give the championship tournament in Paris, that is to be held in the Grand Hotel beginning Jan. 12. The billiard firm that manages the upper-class professional billiard players said at their offices in this city that the high-grade billiard player was about as difficult to manage as a troupe of opera singers and they doubted if Maurice Grau ever had as much trouble with his prima donne as they had experienced with the billiard players under their control.

To some extent it seems probable that Schaefer is not in the best of physical condition. His hands have been growing worse for several years, and it seems now as if Schaefer the Wizard, the once peerless of all billiard artists, may have to forsake the fascination of the green-covered table and content himself as an onlooker. It has only been by extraordinary pluck and nerve that Schaefer has kept himself playing where other men would have given up. Experts who have examined his hands have been unable to give a name to the trouble otherwise than to say that it is a gradual hardening of the cords and muscles in the palms. The little finger on each hand has been broken, and as they healed the cords began to harden. Schaefer did not pay much attention to this at first, but soon the little finger began to draw up, and the swelling in the cords got harder. Not long ago the contraction extended to the next finger on each hand, and he is now unable to straighten four fingers, two on each hand.

His hands now give the appearance of suffering from aggravated and chronic rheumatism, according to the latest advices from Paris. To make matters worse, half of the forefinger of the left hand is missing, and he is compelled to make his bridge and his massé shots with the aid of two and one-half fingers on the left hand. On the right hand he has the use of three fingers. To add to his misfortunes a few years ago Schaefer broke his right wrist, and it has been crooked ever since. When he recovered he found he could no longer use his old stroke, and he was compelled to adopt a new one. He now finds himself in practically the same predicament as the result of his crippled hands, and often has to learn new strokes for favorite shots. While Schaefer is not given to crying about his misfortune, or making it any excuse for playing poor billiards, it has given him considerable anxiety during the past year. He has not saved anything from the fortune that he has made at the game, and should his malady prevent his playing he would be in financial distress. Should he not be able to play in the Paris tournament his loss to the competition will be keenly felt by lovers of the sport in this country.

Within a week George Slosson, the student billiard player and old-time rival of Schaefer, will sail for France, to compete with the French, German, and American players in the Parisian world's championship. Slosson has been arduously practicing of late in his Twenty-second Street academy, and has mastered many of the intricate angles of the eighteen-inch balkline game. As the game is to be played in Paris, two shots are to be counted within the balkline squares, and Slosson expressed himself as well satisfied with this arrangement, because it allows of careful nursing and general work in position play. Although it is true that to a large degree Slosson's playing is mechanical, when compared with the easy grace of Schaefer's delicate stroke, the deadly accuracy of his angle shots will count for much with any of the leading Parisian professionals, even including Maurice Vignaux. Slosson has pinned great hopes upon his ability to recapture the championship, which he lost last December by such a narrow margin to Schaefer.

There has been a great deal of talk recently as to what the Amateur Athletic Union would do for a place to hold its championship meeting should the event be held in this city. Ever since the old Knickerbocker Athletic Club closed its doors this has been an open question among amateurs. It is said that Dr. A. L. Ranney broached a project for leasing the club theatre, where the event was formerly held, and so bring the billiard players back to the scene of their former efforts. This does not appear to have met with favor, for the report now comes from Chicago that William Mussey is backing a scheme to secure the National event for that city and that the Chicago Athletic Club stands ready to open its house for the event should the officials of the Amateur Athletic Union decide to give the championship in the West.

Mussey has been negotiating with the foremost amateur players, and it is understood that several have promised to support the project. Among these are W. W. Kellogg of Houston, Texas; E. G. Schenkel of Mason City, Iowa; Charles T. Conklin, the Chicagoan who made such a wonderful showing in the last Class A tournament; Dr. Harley Parker, and Charles Norris, who formerly won the championship meeting at the Knickerbocker Athletic Club. Negotiations are also pending with Charles Threshie of the Boston Athletic Association, Arthur Townsend, who won the first championship of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players, and De Mun Smith of St. Louis. Wilson P. Foss has been communicated with, to ascertain whether he will defend the championship title in the event of a large entry list. As Foss became the possessor of the three-thousand-dollar Challenge Cup last year by virtue of his having won it three times, it is doubtful whether he will defend his title again this year, despite the offer to put up another valuable trophy emblematic of the amateur championship of this country.

### Cycling Association of Turners.

The National Turn Verein of Newark, N. J., has organized a cycling branch, to be known as the National Turn Verein Wheelmen, to consist only of members of the association. It is the object of the new branch to prepare its members for track work next season, and the large gymnasium will be used during the Winter for that purpose. Fifty wheelmen, among whom are some of the most popular riders in New-

ark, have joined, and many more are expected to be added to the membership lists.

## SHOOTING AT CRESCENT A. C.

### A. W. Palmer Wins Weekly Match for December Cup with Full Score.

A. W. Palmer won the third match for the December Cup at the weekly club shoot of the Crescent Athletic Club at its Bay Ridge grounds yesterday afternoon, making with his handicap of 10 targets he maximum score of 50. W. W. Marshall, with a handicap allowance of 6 targets, also made a full score, and the tie was shot off in a trophy match at 25 targets, in which Palmer scored 25 and Marshall 23. Palmer also won this match after a tie with R. I. Wigham.

The regular 100-target medal match, which is shot upon the third Saturday of each month, was won by H. M. Brigham, with a score of 95, J. S. S. Remsen being second, with 93. Brigham and Remsen also shot a dual match at 100 targets, the former winning by a single point. A trophy match at 15 targets, handicap, was won by L. C. McConville after a tie with A. W. Palmer, and another was captured by L. M. Palmer after a tie with A. W. Palmer and H. B. Vanderveer. The scores follow:

DECEMBER CUP, 50 TARGETS.

	H. B. T.	H. B. T.	Grand Total.
W. W. Marshall.....	10	20	25
A. W. Palmer.....	6	19	25
L. C. Hopkins.....	6	21	25
G. C. Stephenson, Jr....	2	20	22
D. C. Bennett.....	4	15	19
W. S. McConville.....	4	19	23
F. B. Stephenson.....	1	23	24
H. B. Vanderveer.....	3	12	15

TROPHY MATCH, 25 TARGETS; HANDICAP.

	H. B. T.	H. B. T.
R. I. Wigham... 6	20	25
A. W. Palmer... 10	25	25
W. W. Marshall... 6	17	23
H. M. Brigham... 0	22	22
L. M. Palmer, Jr. 2	20	22

TROPHY MATCH, 15 TARGETS; HANDICAP.

	H. B. T.	H. B. T.
W. C. McConville 3	13	15
A. W. Palmer... 5	10	15
W. W. Marshall... 3	10	13

TROPHY MATCH, 15 TARGETS; HANDICAP.

	H. B. T.	H. B. T.
L. M. Palmer, Jr. 1	14	15
H. B. Vanderveer 2	13	15
A. W. Palmer... 5	11	15
L. C. Hopkins... 3	10	13

Shoot Off.

	H. B. T.	H. B. T.
A. W. Palmer... 10	16	25
R. I. Wigham... 6	17	23

One hundred target medal match:

	1st	2d	3d	4th	Tl.
H. M. Brigham.....	23	24	25	23	95
J. S. S. Remsen.....	23	22	24	24	93
F. B. Stephenson.....	20	19	22	24	83
W. J. McConville.....	20	19	23	20	82
G. C. Stephenson, Jr.....	16	18	21	24	79
J. L. Keyes.....	17	18	19	..	..
L. M. Palmer, Jr.....	18	22	..	..	..

One hundred target medal match:

	1st	2d	3d	4th	Tl.
H. M. Brigham.....	21	22	21	22	86
J. S. S. Remsen.....	18	24	23	23	88

## COLLEGE GOLFERS MEET.

### Garden City Chosen for the Next Championship—Cornell Joins the Association.

Garden City was chosen as the scene of the next intercollegiate golf championship tournament at the annual meeting of the Intercollegiate Golf Association, which was held yesterday at the Holland House. The unanimous selection of Garden City came somewhat as a surprise, as it was expected that Harvard, inasmuch as she now holds both the team and individual championships, would make a fight for a Boston course, and Myopia had been regarded as the probable choice. H. B. Hollins, Jr., however, who was the only Harvard delegate present, was the first to suggest Garden City when the subject came up, and it met with unanimous approval.

All of the college golfers, except possibly some of the Harvard players, favor the metropolitan locality for their annual events, as it is more convenient and the choice of links is larger and better. The collegians have already held their annual meetings twice at Garden City, and they consider that it offers as thorough a test of golf as any course in the country. The date selected for the tournament was Tuesday, Oct. 20, the competitions to continue through the remainder of the week under the existing conditions.

An encouraging feature in college golf was the application of Cornell for admittance to the association. Its election was unanimous, making now six universities in the association. The former five colleges were represented as follows: Yale, Percy Jennings and Stewart Campbell; Harvard, H. B. Hollins, Jr.; Princeton, Percy R. Pyne, second, and L. H. Conkling; University of Pennsylvania, J. G. Lindsay and H. Kennedy Hill; Columbia, Stephen P. Nash and O. E. Stevens.

President Nash of Columbia presided at the meeting and the new officers elected for the coming year were: President—W. A. Murdock, Harvard; Vice President—Stewart Campbell, Yale; Secretary and Treasurer—L. H. Conkling, Princeton.

The association decided to add several more medals to the winners in the annual championship. In the future the player making the highest individual score in the championship event will receive a gold medal; each individual member of the winning team will receive a silver medal, and a bronze medal will be given to the player making the best gross score in the qualifying round of the individual championship. The runner up in this event will also receive a bronze medal.

In case a team is sent to this country next Summer by Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the American collegians want an opportunity to try their skill against the Englishmen. To this end a resolution was addressed to the Secretary of the United States Golf Association asking that an inter-university match be arranged should the Englishmen decide to come to America. The President of the association was empowered to appoint a committee of five to communicate with the Secretary of the United States Golf Association and arrange details for the proposed match. The committee will also have the power of selecting the team that will represent the American colleges, in case the proposed match is arranged.

### Columbia's Gymnastic Schedule.

Four meets have so far been arranged for the Columbia Varsity gymnastic team by J. W. Spencer, the manager. They are: Feb. 6, dual meet with Yale at the Columbia gymnasium; Feb. 27, dual meet with Pennsylvania at the Columbia gymnasium; March 7, dual exhibition with Pennsylvania at the Pennsylvania gymnasium, at Philadelphia; March 27, intercollegiate championships at the gymnasium of New York University, at University Heights.