THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE. "DESBOROUGH" "HABITATION. MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL. SPEECH BY LORD DESBOROUGH. GROWTH OF THE LEAGUE.

A largely-attended and very successful meeting in connection with the "Desborough" Habitation of the Primrose League was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening. It was honoured by the presence of the Chancellor of the League, Lord Desborough, who presided, and he was accom-panied on the platform by Lady Desborough (Dame President), Mr. H. Lancaster (Prov. Grand Secre-tary for Cheshire and Lancashire), Mr. J. W. Stone (Ruling Councillor). Mr. and Mrs. Graville Palmar (Ruling Councillor), Mr. and Mrs. Greville Palmer, Mrs. Miller, Mr. J. Chatterton, Mr. Gordon Hills, and Mr. F. J. C. Forss. Mr. E. Gardner, M.P., had promised to attend and address the meeting, but owing to his Parliamentary duties he was prevented owing to his rariationary duties he was prevented from fulfiling the engagement, and a telegram was read from him expressing his regret and wishing success to the Habitation. Several able speeches were delivered, and before and after these a quar-tette, termed the Wandering Glee Singers, treated the company to a high-class programme of vocal mension which days much enjoyment

Mr. J. W. Stone, in the course of a few introduc-tory remarks, made an earnest appeal to members to stand firm to the three great principles of the League, and to endeavour to obtain more mem-bers, remarking that "in these Socialistic and red-rag times" it needed all their efforts to keep the Constitution integt. Sneaking of the presence of Constitution intact. Speaking of the presence of the Chancellor, he said they were exceedingly lucky in being thus honoured.—(Applause.) Lord Desborough, who received an ovation, now

Lord Desborough, who received an ovation, now addressed the meeting. At the outset, he said it was with the greatest possible pleasure that he ac-cepted the invitation to come to the meeting and say a few words about the Primrose League, a League he had very near at heart. When the in-vitation was extended to him he was particularly requested to be brief, though at the same time he was informed that it would be of interest if he told them something about the objects and aims, and perhaps a little about the history, of the League. After having briefly referred to the period when the League was inaugurated, in 1883, his lordship said that the original idea was that the League shid that the original idea was that the League should not be a political organisation in the sense that it should be affiliated to either one of the two great political parties of the State. There was no reason when the League was started, nor for many years afterwards, why anyone who believed in the three great principles of it, if he were Conservative or Radical, should not become a member. The three great principles which the League stood for were Religion, Constitution and the Empire.--(Applause.) The religion was not, and need not be, any particular form of religion, but it was rather to express the gathering together of men who held by some common belief in the Divinity as against those who represented the Atheistic wave which was then, and is now, sweeping over the country. In sup-port of this, his lordship pointed out that the revered Vice-Chancellor, Mr. G. Lane Fox, was of the Roman Catholic persuasion. Not long ago he stood on a platform where the principal speaker was the son of a Bishop of the Church of Eugland, and one of the most energetic and useful workers they had was "Will Workman," of the *People*, the late Mr. Pettifer, who was a staunch and strict Nonconformist. They had very frequently those three branches of religious belief represented on the platform at one and the same time. It very those who represented the Atheistic wave which was the platform at one and the same time. It very often came up before the Grand Council whether a Radical at the present time could still belong to the League, and the answer to that always was that if League, and the answer to that always was that if he would support the three great principles he had just spoken of he would be wel-comed.—("Hear, hear.") But (his lordship went oni at the present time they saw by the whole trend of the activities of the Government that those principles upon which the League was founded were severally and jointly threatened and attacked. They had had Education Bills presented to both Houses of Parliament, which certainly did to both Houses of Parliament, which certainly did not promote any great belief in any particular principle of religion. As regarded the Constitution, at the present moment three estates of the Realm which had gone to make England what she was were being attacked, and as to their third great principle they all knew who took part in the General Election what strenuous efforts had to be put forward in order that the Government might realize that greater measures much be taken in the put forward in order that the Government might realise that greater measures must be taken in the matter of naval defence, so that the maintenance of their great Empire might be continued. He con-sidered that the Liberal party had gone far on the road towards the subversion of those great principles, and in the last few months the Primrose League had certainly drawn much closer to the other great party, the Unionist party-(applause) —and there was no doubt that in the hast election, and in the election to come—and they did not know how soon the next would be—the League would find itself in very much closer relation with the Unionist party that ever before in its existence. the Unionist party than ever before in its existence, so much so that it was absolutely essential that they should get into close touch and relationship with the heads and executive of the Unionist During the last election they found so cases of over-lapping when speakers were many cases of over-lapping when speakers were asked for, both from the Primrose League and from the Central Unionist Association, that they determined to place all their speakers at the dis-posal of the Unionist and Conservative Central Offices, so that this over-lapping and confusion might in the future be avoided. Speaking of the management of the League, Lord Desborough said that this was by a Grand Council in London. elected by delegates from the different habitations. That afternoon he attended two meetings of the Grand Council, and with the greatest possible pleasure he assured them that the league was pros-pering even more than its founder could ever have hoped at the outset. During the last six weeks there had been no fewer than 6,072 new members en-rolled and thirteen new habitations started, and that brought up the number of new members enrolled this year to considerably over 80,000, which was a record. Proceeding, his lordship said that in his humble opinion the real strength of the league lay in the fact that it was not one of those explicitly in the fact that it was not one of those ephemeral organisations which sprung up just on the eve of a political election and then disappeared; the Primrose League enrolled and enlisted the ser-vices of men and women—he was not at all sure the men were the most important of the two—who had the time to go about among their neighbours and argue out the various political questions before the storm and stress of an election, and at a time the storm and stress of an election, and at a time when people had infinitely more time to think over the great questions, fraught as they were with so much for good or evil to the people. He believed that the league was one of the most powerful organisations in the country. Since the last elec-tion they had had from almost every Unionist can-didate for a seat where there was a branch of the didate for a seat where there was a branch of the league most grateful letters, saying what help its members had been able to give. There was an army of something like 200,000 canvassers sent out throughout the length and breadth of the country, and 20,000 different removals were traced. A great deal of this work was done, and excellently well-done, by lady members of the league.—(Applause.) He heartily endorsed all that the Ruling-Councillor, Mr. Stone, said when he asked those present in the hall who had not joined the league, and who really believed in its principles, to take steps to immedi-ately enrol themselves; he was sure they would never regret it. If they had the time at their dis-posal they would find that by going among the less well-to-do portion of their fellow-citizens and by talking to them, and by entering into their point of view as well as the point of view from which they looked at the onestion themselves it would not looked at the question themselves, it would not only be an education to themselves, ht would do a great deal of good. Nowadays, there was much envy of those who happened to have acquired a better situation in life by those who happened to be less well situated, and very often it was founded on misconception. He was sure that the Unionist on misconception. He was sure that the Unionist Party was at least as alive to the deplorable poverty of large masses of the people, and were as determined to ameliorate their condition as any Radical who spouted on a public platform. There was certainly a difference in the method the problem was faced. He would go a step further and say that the House of Lords had shown in dealing with social ques-tions that it had at least as great a feeling of symof Lords had shown in dealing with social ques-tions that it had at least as great a feeling of sym-pathy with the poorer portion of the people as had ever been evidenced in the other Chamber.—(Ap-plause.) Continuing, his lordship said he had no intention of making anything like a political speech, but he could not help saying that at the present time they had got a Government which was somewhat extraordinary in its methods and was somewhat extraordinary in its methods and very uncertain in its aims. It was a Government full of resolutions, but at the same time it was full of what one might call "irresolutions." Where the Government was driving to it was very difficult to say. To his mind, as one who had served very nearly six years on Mr. Chamberlain's Tariff Commission, and who had the means of judging from the evidence brought before that Commission of the attrict we have the commission of the state of trade in the country, he could only say that he had come most firmly to the conclusion that they were wasting time as a country, time which might never be overtaken.—(Applause.) He firmly believed that if they did not secure a Government which would carry into effect all the recommendations which had been laid before th country for some time they might wake up one o these days and find that the time had gone and i was too late.-("Hear, hear.") When he was these days and find that the time had gone and it was too late.-("Hear, hear.") When he was speaking at Cambridge the other day, on the very morning of that day there came out the new tariff resolutions of a friendly country, France, whereby the duty which English importers into France would have to pay was increased in some instances up to 250 per cent. That new Tariff was passed by the French House of Representatives, and it then went up to the Senate to be ratified by the latter body. The Senate wanted to see how the elections in England turned on the fore ratification elections in England turned out before ratification and now it had become law and the increased

duties took effect as from the 31st March last. It was a lesson in Tariff Reform. They in England were absolutely helpless. The Chamber of Commerce and other bodies could only argue with the French Government, but these arguments were not effec-tive. In other countries when the new French tariff was brought in they said "If you raise the duty on certain things we'll do likewise," and they got concessions which they in England were power-less to extort. That was the indication of the absolute state of helplessness they were in when other countries made an alteration in their tariff. Furthermore, unless," England adopted similar measures it would become very difficult for this country to bring about that preferential treatment with the Colonies which was a part of the policy of Mr. Chamberlain. England could not expect her colonies to give her preferential treatment unless she herself gave some reciprocal advantages.— This concluded Lord Desborough's address, but be-fore resuming his seat his lordship said that he had a placeing teach to avertain the policy of fore resuming his seat his lordship said that he had a pleasing task to perform. While expatiating at the meeting of the Grand Council that afternoon at the filebiling of the Grand Council that afternoon on the extreme merits of the Desborough Habita-tion, he had the greatest possible pleasure in bring-ing to the notice of the Council two of its officers who had done so much to make it what it was. One of these was Mr. J. W. Stone, the Ruling Councillor, whom he recommended for the Diploma and the Grand Star of the League and the other and the Grand Star of the League, and the other was Miss Higgin, their able hon. sec., whom he recommended for a similar honour.—(Applause.) The Grand Council wore your pleased to the the The Grand Council were very pleased to grant the diploma and the decoration and it was now his asing duty to hand the same over to Mr. Stone

Amid much applause, Lord Desborough made Amid much applause, Lord Desborough made And much appause, ford bestorough made the presentations, and afterwards Mr. Stone, speak-ing on behalf of himself and Miss Higgin, thanked Lord Desborough for his kindness, and remarked that they would both value the presentation extremely

tremely. Mr. H. Lancaster now addressed the meeting. At the outset he remarked that it gave him great pleasure to renew his acquaintance with the mem-bers of the Desborough Habitation. He heartily congratulated the Conservative party of the divi-sion on the great victory they won at the last elec-tion—(applause)—and not only were they to be con-gratulated on that fact, but also on the fact that their Member was a good and worthy representa-tive of the Unionist party. He was retarned to Parliament in spite of the vile calumnies uttered in that constituency. He was a thorough English gentleman, and though not a professional politician, he was intimately acquainted with the rural inhe was intimately acquainted with the rural in-lustries. Mr. Lancaster went on to refer to the dustries. Mr. Lancaster went on to refer to the principles of the Primrose League, and said that he, too, recognised the fact that they were being assailed. During the election he was shocked to hear in the town of 200,000 inhabitants where he lived a number of children parading the streets singing a song which they had been taught in Socialistic Sunday Schools, one line of which ran "Why should we sing God save the King?" He did not so much object to a man standing up at a street corner and talking of Atheism, and attack-ing the Throne and Constitution and heim lising the Throne and Constitution, and being lis-tened to by any fools sufficiently ignorant or pre-judiced to swallow such ubbish, but he did object to the children of the nation, those small children in whose tiny hands was held the fate of the to the children of the nation, those small children in whose tiny hands was held the fate of the country, being taught such vile, atheistic and un-patriotic songs. He often thought it would be far better for their children if, instead of being taught so many extra sciences, they were taught a little of the history of their land and the way the great Empire had been founded, and of those great builders of Empire-such men as Chatham, Pitt, Wellington, Nelson, Drake, and others of all ranks —who were responsible for making the country the most democratic in the world. To-day things had changed, and no longer was the country governed by "builders," but by "destroyers." He remem-bered distinctly when the Primrose League was founded the doctrine preached on Radical plat-forms by men on whom had fallen the mantle of Cobdenism, that it would be far more glorious if the country were divested of its Colonies, those colonies on which had been spent not only British gold, but the lives of British heroes, of men whose names must live until the firmament was rolled up like a scroll. The Primrose League lived to hold tight the bonds between the Mother Country and the Colonies. The Colonies were England's commercial support, and more trade was done with them in 2's per head than was done in shillings per head with foreign countries. That was not all. What was commer-cial support compared to the fact that the Colonies had responded as one-man to the call of Empire? They had sent their sons to fight and to bleed and They had responded as one man to the call of Empire? They had sent their sons to fight and to bleed and die for them in Egypt; they sent them to fight shoulder to shoulder with the men of the Mother-land on the veldt, and in these days when they saw and on the velict, and in these days when they saw a powerful nation building a big fleet for service in the North Sea, the Colonies were preparing to build navies of their own with which to pro-tect the great Empire.—(Applause.) Passing on to deal with "the present political aspect of affairs," the speaker said they all knew how, in the course of the past four years, they had been mis-governed by a Radical administration, and how the Govern-ment had contrived to lose the confidence of the people. Before the last Radical Government came into power, wonderful promises were made by into power, wonderful promises were made by that party of cheap food, of a veritable Eldorado if only they were supported. It had, however, not turned out so, and the present position of the Radical party reminded him of a story he heard the other day. There was an old Irish woman and she was crossing from Ireland to America. In the course of the voyage she managed to lose her reference, and so she consulted a countryman as to what she should do. "Och! bedad!" said he, "It's meself as'll put you right in toime," and he took a piece of paper, and on it he wrote these lines: "This is to say that Betty Milligan left the ould country with a fone character, but she lost it intoirely aboard a ship."-(Loud laughter.) He ventured to say that during the time the Radical Government were in power they managed to lose their character entirely with the workingpeople of the country. Since they had been in power one of the most prominent features in their national life had been the large amount of unem-ployment. When in Penzance a short time ago he was informed that the number of casual travellers who passed through the County of Cornwall and were relieved by various charitable societies five years ago numbered 1,300, but last year that figure had increased to 20,000 ! That spoke for itself. The question needed immediate attention. It would never be solved by Labour Bureaux, though he did not altogether denounce them; but he would tell them what happened in Wales. Every tramp walking from door to door presented to the person who answered his call a red ticket, which he had received from a Labour Bureau, and which he purported to show that he was heppedty in which purported to show that he was honestly in search of work, when at the same time it had been proved that such persons would never work even when given the chance. Labour Bureaux did a lot to encourage vagrancy. Then, again, during the late four years' mis-government of the country by late four years' mis-government of the country by the Radical party a prominent feature of the national life had been the injury which the Govern-ment had done to national credit. National credit was of paramount importance. Hundreds of years ago a great orator, addressing a Senate, made the remark that "Credit had done more for the wealth of nations than all the gold and diamond mines ever discovered." When the Government started on its reckless career of Socialistic legislation, they were warned by that great financier, of world-wide repute, Lord Rothschild, that such a policy would injure the credit of the country, but no heed was paid to the warning and the country had was paid to the warning and the country had suffered. The speaker went on to condemn other parts of the policy of the present Government, and concluded by urging the members of the Primrose League to help make it a still greater fighting force, and to get their house in order, remarking that another general election was not far distant. Mr. Greville Palmer proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Desborough for his attendance and in-structive address, and to Mr. H. Lancaster also for is presence and address. Mr. J. W. Stone seconded the proposition, and ucidentally mentioned that he had a sister-in-law who married a German General. His wife visited Germany the other day and asked the General what he thought of the Dreadnoughts. He replied what he thought of the Dreadhodghts. The replicat that he was not acquainted with naval affairs, "but," he added, "I shall never feel satisfied till we walk in and garrison London." The vote of thanks was heartily accorded, and Lord Desborough returned thanks. The meeting then terminated. Wiss Higgin is to be congratulated on the success

MAIDENHEAD WANDERERS' OYCLING AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the above club was held at the "Prince Albert," King-street, on Thursday last, when there was a record attendance of mem-bers, upwards of 50 being present, including the following: Messrs. A. G. Matthews (hon. sec.), E. A. Keeble (assistant sec.), J. Bradley, J. R. Neeve, J. Gibson, E. Tyler, W. Hutchings, A. T. Leaver, A. R. Edwards, G. W. Hooper, J. Franklin, F. Singer, W. A. Walton, A. Allen, W. V. Woodley, L. G. Baylis, A. Smith, F. Bond, G. Neeve, J. P. Balson, E. B. Rogers, B. Smith, J. Wilder, G. Hedges, R. Tomblin, A. Adaway, E. Smith and A. Emberly. Emberly.

The popular president of the club (Mr. E. Gard-ter, M.P.) had promised to preside, but he sent the ollowing telegram : "Very sorry unable to attend; following telegram : "Very sorry cannot leave House of Commons."

Mr. F. Pitcher having been voted to the chair, the minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

THE REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET. The Secretary (Mr. A. G. Matthews) presented his annual report as under :---

I have pleasure in submitting to you the 30th annual re ort and balance-sheet.

During the pastice in stonnicting to you the soft annual re-port and balance-sheet. During the past season our active members have been suc-cessful in upholding the prestige of the club at various sports meetings, and prizes were awarded to J. P. Brill (flat) and F. A. White (cycle) for obtaining the highest number of wins in the respective sections. As first claim member of the club, F. A. White was successful in placing the 5-miles championship of Berks, Bucks and Oxon to his credit. This is the first occasion that a county cycling championship has been held by one of our members. In the quarter-mile flat championship of Berks and Bucks E. Smith finished second. One feature of the season was the increase in membership, and I trust this will continue during the coming year.

in membership, and 1 trust this will contain coming year. Your committee were again requested by the Mayor (Mr. D. Bidmead) to undertake the sports in connection with the Empire Day festivities, and the enjoyment and pleasure shown by the scholars amply rewarded them for their work. The evening meeting was postponed from the original date owing to the weather, rain making the track quite unsafe. On the second occasion the weather was more favourable, but, with the added expense consequent on postponement we lost over £15.

On the second occasion the weather was more favourable, but, with the added expense consequent on postponement, we lost over 215. The annual August Bank Holiday meeting again proved a great success, and is fast becoming one of the best meetings in the South. Although the gain from a financial point of view was not so good as in previous years, this is accounted for by an increased prize fund, and the introducing of addi-tional events, notably the hurdle handicap, which attracted good entries. The club is again indebted to the Marchioness Townshend for so graciously presenting the prizes to the successful competitors on that occasion, and also for her gift of a Club Challenge Cup to be competed for annually. On numerous occasions your committee and myself have assisted in carrying out the programmes of neighbouring clubs, and the committee esteem it a pleasure to help in any way the furtherunce of pure anateur sport. To our President the club is indebted, and I am sure that one and all recognise that the club is extremely fortunate in having such a good sportsman at its head; also to Mr. E. Tyler I tender the club's sincere thanks for his valuable assistance during the year, particularly on the occasion of our road events.

during the year, particularly on the occasion of our road events. The club's grateful thanks are offered to our honorary subscribers for their support, and I trust we may again en-joy their continued favour, and to those who kindly gave us special prizes I am also grateful. The thanks of the club are also due to those gentlemen who voluntarily assisted at our Sports' Meetings and to the Press for their excellent reports of our doings. I should also like to take this opportunity of tendering my thanks to the assistant hon, secretary, the committee, and the audi-tors for the valuable and hard-working efforts on behalf of the club during the past season.

the club during the past season. In conclusion, I trust that the club may again be favoured with the support of its members to uphold the prestige of the club and to sustain its efficiency and the honour of true amateur sport.—A. G. MATTHEWS, Hon. Sec.

The general balance-sheet was next submitted The general balance-sheet was next submitted. This showed that the expenses amounted to £116 3s. 3d., including the following items:—Balance brought forward, 1908, £83 11s. 11d.; members' subscriptions, £15 7s. 6d.; sale of club badges, £1; entries for club events, £1 18s.; sale of dinner tickets, £5 1s. 6d.; interest on deposit account, £1 3s.; balance from Bank Holiday Sports, £7 17s. 10d. The expenses amounted to £51 18s. 5d., with a deficit on the Evening Meeting of £15 1s. 3d., making a total of £66 19s. 8d. The chief items of expenditure were: honorarium to secretary, £5 5s. making a total of 195. 8d. The chief items of expenditure were: honorarium to secretary, £5 5s.; auditors, £1 1s.; donation to Maidenhead Cottage Hospital, £2 2s.; affiliation fée N.C.U. and A.A.A., £1 4s.; printing, £2 14s. 6d.; dinner expenses, £8 10s.; prizes for club events, £8 9s. 6d.; N.C.U. delegates' expenses, £2 2s. The club has a balance in hand of £49 3s. 7d.

On the proposition of Mr. G. Neeve, seconded by Mr. Tyler, the report and balance sheet were adopted.

NEW MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS. The following new members, on the proposition of Mr. Adaway, were elected: Messrs. F. W. Ash-ley, R. A. Fletcher, H. Hickmott, A. Bidmead, H. V. Brill, T. Henwood, Lewis and G. Hedges, senr. The secretary remarked that at the present time they had 123 paid members on the books, which he considered most satisfactory.

considered most satisfactory. The Chairman: I can see we shall soon be want-ing a larger room. This is the largest meeting of the club I have ever seen.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO RULES

The secretary said that the committee had re vised the old set of rules and had considered in desirable to make a few alterations with the ad dition of two new ones as required by the A.A.A He would read the alterations suggested and then would be glad to know if the meeting approved of them or whether any improvement upon them was desirable. The chief alterations suggested were "that no member shall be allowed to compete in club events unless he has been a member for at least one month."

was losing the services of his assistant (Mr. Keeble), who was obliged to give up the duties chiefly on account of the doctor's orders. Last year Mr. Keeble rendered him great assistance, and he was very sorry to lose his services. He had pleasure in proposing Mr. E. Smith as his successor. Mr. Keeble seconded, and Mr. Smith was unani-mously, elected, and he promised to render Mr. Matthews all the assistance he could. On the proposition of Mr. G. Neeve, seconded by Mr. Tyler, Mr. Matthews was voted an honorarium of £5 5s. for services rendered as Secretary last season. Half - a - guinea each was voted as an honorarium to the auditors, Messrs. Gibson and Gibbons.

Gibbons. Mr. Matthews, in thanking the meeting for vot-ing him the honorarium, said that it was a pleasure to him to find that his services were appreciated. The club had grown so much of late that the work had considerably increased, but he managed to cope with it, and he had been well-backed up by a good working committee. But for the loss over the evening-meeting last year, which he regretted, their balance would have been larger; he hoped that with favourable weather on the occasion of their annual sports they would be able to show a larger balance this time next year. There were two nominations for the captaincy, Messrs_Hedges and Adaway. On a vote being

There were two nominations for the captainty, Messrs. Hedges and Adaway. On a vote being taken, Mr. Adaway was elected by 17 votes to 13. Two names were submitted for the position of vice-captain—Messrs. G. Hedges and B. Smith, and on a vote being taken the former was elected.

VARIOUS. On the proposition of Mr. Hedges, seconded by Mr. J. P. Balson, Messrs. G. T. Braxton and A. G. Matthews were chosen delegates in connection with the Berks, Bucks, and Oxon centre of the National Cyclists' Union.

It was decided, on the proposition of Mr. G. Neeve, seconded by Mr. Tyler, to hold the annual sports on August Bank Holiday. The fixing of the date for an evening sports meeting, which would be devoted solely to mem-bers and local events, was left in the hands of the committee. A suggestion made by Mr. A. B.

bers and local events, was left in the hands of the committee. A suggestion made by Mr. A. R. Edwards to include a Boys' Marathon Race in the list of events in connection with annual sports was also referred to the committee. As usual, much interest was taken in the election of the committee. There were 17 nominations for 11 seats, and it was decided to take the voting by ballot. This proceeding took a considerable time: The result was as follows:-Messrs. J. Neeve (27), E. Tyler (27), G. Neeve (26), E. A. Keeble (25), W. V. Woodley (25), P. G. Pearson (24), G. T. Braxton (24), G. W. Hooper (24), A. Smith (23), W. Hutch-ings (21), and B. Smith (20). The meeting terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman.

MAIDENHEAD CRICKET CLUB.

HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual meeting of the Maidenhead Cricket Club, which was founded in 1798, and has thus reached its 112th year, was held in the Small Hall, Town Hall Buildings, on Tuesday evening, under the chairmanship of the Mayor (Mr. F. W. Porter). There was a good attendance, amongst those present being Dr. E. C. Montgomery and Messrs. F. Steane, J. P. Davis, A. Bidmead, W. O. C. Stuchbery, W. V. Fuller, J. E. Mason, H. Waterall, R. P. Harker, L. Oldershaw and J. P. Balson and W. E. Barrett (joint hon. secretaries).

The minutes of the last annual general meeting Mr. Balson presented the annual report, which

was as follows :---The committee beg to present to the members and subscribers the 111th annual report and

balance-sheet. It is with pleasure they note the greater in-terest taken in the club during the past season. The numerous match fixtures passed off

pleasantly, the spectators witnessing some close

A good match-list has been arranged for the coming season, including a visit from the M.C.C. being on the home ground. The committee desire to thank the subscribers

and all who helped to contribute towards making the season 1909 so successful. All liabilities have been settled up to December 31st, 1909. The accounts and balance-sheet hav-ing been duly audited, shows a balance in the club's favour.

Everything points to a successful season in 1910, and it is hoped that both residents and visitors will join the club as playing or honorary mem-bers, and so ensure the continued success of both the First XI. and Thursday matches.

The balance-sheet was also presented and showed a sum in hand of $\pounds 12$ 0s. 10id., which is the first time for a number of years that the club has been able to wind up a season with a balance on the

right side. All heartily endorsed the Chairman's remark that it was a most satisfactory state of affairs. It ought to be a good club, the Mayor added, and if it showed any vitality at all it should go on and live for

another 100 years. The Mayor moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, which proposition, seconded by Mr. was carried ously



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IN THE LAUNDRY OPEN COMPETITION

HELD AT

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON,

April 2nd to 9th, 1910,

THE MAIDENHEAD DISTRICT LAUNDRY CO., Ltd.,

FURZE PLATT, MAIDENHEAD,

HAVE BEEN AWARDED-



AT THE

INTERNATIONAL LAUNDRY EXHIBITION.

Miss Higgin is to be congratulated on the success of the gathering. She made all the arrangements for the meeting, receiving much kind assistance

for the meeting, receiving much kind assistance from Mr. J. Mallett. As above stated, the programme of vocal music presented by the Wandering Glee Singers was a feature of the evening. The several glees, and also the solos, were excellently rendered, and gave much pleasure. The party comprises Messrs. Edward Way (alto), Henry Plevy (tenor), Leopold Glasspoole (baritone), and Charles Norman (bass).

CHESS.

MAIDENHEAD v. READING.

This match was played on Wednesday last, at the Bell Hotel, Maidenhead, and ended in a some-what easy victory for Reading. Score :--

8	What casy victory for fica	dung. beore.
-	MAIDENHEAD.	READING.
e	W. O. C. Stachbery 0 C. R. Snell 0 J. Flint 0 G. A. Relleen 0 D. Greenwood 1 A. D. Cottrell 0 O. Price 1 L. Rose 0 S. R. Thompson 0	L. H. Rumble
e	C. R. Snell 0	G. H. Kingham
1	J. Flint 0	S. G. Chamberlain
16	G. A. Relleen 0	G. Stannard
S	D. Greenwood 1	E. Royce
2	A. D. Cottrell 0	R. J. Allsopp
N	0. Price 1	E. P. Holloway
,	L. Rose 0	A. A. Atkins
0	S. R. Thompson 0	A. Watson
e		
S	2	

Maidenhead have been admitted to the Reading and District Chess League for next year. This will mean that there will be at least eight or ten matches certain

There was some exception taken to this on the part of one or two members, who did not think one

part of one or two members, who did not think one month long enough. Mr. G. Neeve pointed out that if they passed the rule suggested there was the possibility of outsiders becoming members just before the sports to take part in the members' races only. Eventually, it was decided to let the old rule stand, which reads that "no member be allowed to compete in club events unless he has been a mem-ber for at least two months." The Secretary explained that hitherto the head-ouarters of the club were at "The Grapes." Market-

quarters of the club were at "The Grapes," Market-street, but the committee thought, seeing that the club had now such a large membership, it was desirable to have headquarters with more accom-modation than that obtainable at "The Grapes," and it was suggested that they might fix upon "The Prince Albert." He had spoken to the proprietor (Mr. Walton) on the subject, and he was quite wil-ling for them to meet there and call his place their bardounters. Mr Walton was inclined to let them headquarters. Mr. Walton was inclined to let them have a meeting room without charge, but he thought they would agree with him that they should pay for the hire of the room considering that light and fire were supplied. Therefore he suggested that they should pay $\pounds 2$ per year for the accom-moduli on modation

modation. On the proposition of Mr. G. Neeve, seconded by Mr. G. Hedges, it was decided to move the head-quarters from "The Grapes" to "The Prince Albert." Mr. Matthews' suggestion as to the pay-ment to be made for the use of the room also met with the approval of the meeting. There was a good deal of discussion as to the sug-gested alteration of the rule relating to the special prizes offered by the club for the member winning

prizes offered by the club for the member winning the most number of open races. It was pointed out that in several instances some of their members belonged to other clubs, and ran under two or more club names. The secretary stated that the rule as printed was not quite clear enough, and the com-mittee thought it was necessary to alter it. By the alteration suggested, members competing in open races elsewhere must give "the Maidenhead Wan-derers' Cycling and Athletic Club first place." That meant that a member could not claim points for the special prize unless he ran or rode at any sports meeting under their club's name.

The suggested rule, with a slight alteration, was ultimately accepted, and, on the proposition of Mr. G. Neeve, seconded by Mr. Hedges, the whole of the rules, with the alterations, were passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The next business was the election of officers. Mr. J. Neeve said that it had been his pleasure and privilege for several years to propose the election of their President, and it gave him very great pleasure to propose that Mr. E. Gardner, M.P., be re-elected. since Mr. Gardner had occupied that position he had taken the keenest interest in the club and its loings.

The proposition, which was seconded by Mr. Adaway and supported by Mr. Keeble, was carried v acclamation.

Most of the Vice-Presidents were re-elected, and Most of the Vice-Fresidents were re-elected, and it was decided to ask the following gentlemen to become Vice-Presidents: Mr. E. Dunkels, Mr. E. A. Myer, Canon Drummond, Major Litkie, Mr. V. Litkie, Col. Bagot-Chester, Sir Charles Boxall, and Admiral Seymour.

Admiral Seymour. On the proposition of Mr. Bond, seconded by Mr. A. Smith, Messrs. S. Gibbons and J. Gibson were re-appointed auditors. In proposing the re-election of Mr. J. Bradley as hou. treasurer, Mr. J. Neeve said they could not have a better man to look after their money. Mr. Bradley had rendered the club valuable service for years past and deserved their best thanks. The Chairman: Yes, he looks well after our money, and tries to keep it.—(Laughter.) Mr. Smith seconded the proposition and Mr. Bradley was unanimously re-elected. Mr. Bradley, in accepting the office for another

Mr. Bradley, in accepting the office for another year, said that he would do his very best for the

club. Mr. Bond said he had very great pleasure in pro-posing the re-election of Mr. A. G. Matthews as their secretary, as he certainly felt they could not find a better man for the post and he should be very sorry if the club lost his services. Mr. Mat-thews had proved a very hard-working secretary, and it would be hard to find his equal in the three electrics __("Hear hear") counties.--("Hear, hear.") The proposition was carried by acclamation, and

Mr. Matthews, in acknowledgment, said he had always tried to do his best for the club, and should continue to do so. He was sorry, however, that he

The election of officers was the next business. On the proposition of Mr. Steane, who said the club could not have a better gentleman in the position, seconded by Mr. J. E. Mason, Lord Desborough was unanimously re-elected president, and those of the vice-presidents who were eligible were also re-elected. The proposition of Mr. Harker that Mr. J. E.

Mason be asked to act as captain was received with applause and upon being seconded by Mr. H. Waterall, the proposition was heartily carried. Mr. Mason consented to act and asked the members for the same hearty support they accorded him last year. He observed that last year he never had to ask a man twice and rather than fulfil another and more important engagement the person he asked would play for the club.—("Hear, hear.") With such support he would be pleased to act as

captain. Mr. H. Waterall was, on the proposition of Mr. Harker, seconded by Mr. Eve, unanimously ap-pointed vice-captain. Mr. Harker was invited to act, but he declined, stating that he would not be

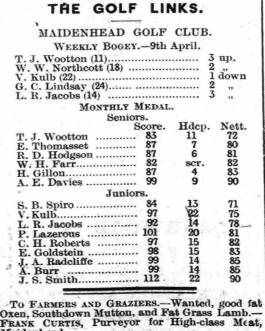
Act, but he decided, stating that he would not be playing cricket this season. Mr. F. Steane was unanimously re-appointed captain of the Thursday XI., on the proposition of Mr. Mason, and the appointment of a vice-captain was left to the committee. Dr. E. C. Montgomery was heartily re-elected bon treasurer

on. treasurer.

Mr. Steane proposed the re-election of Messrs. Balson and Barrett as joint hon. secretaries, re-marking that the club could not do better. They did the work extremely well, and it was owing to them that for the first time for some years the club was able to boast a balance in hand at the com-

was able to boast a balance in hand at the commencement of the season.
Dr. Montgomery seconded and the proposition was carried unanimously.
Mr. Balson returned thanks on his own behalf and on behalf of his confrere.
Mr. Naylar was re-appointed hon. auditor, on the proposition of Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Steane.
The following were chosen to act as the committee :—The captain and vice-captain of both Saturday and Thursday XI.'s, and Messrs. A. J. Ball, A. Bidmead, J. P. Davis, P. Drummond, W. Eve, W. V. Fuller, J. H. Johnston, H. Lonsdale, W. Naylar, G. Randall, J. Rumbold, F. Steane, W. O. C. Stuchbery, J. W. Webster and B. Wykham. Mr. Balson undertook to do the secretarial work in connection with the Thursday XI. It was decided to advertise in the London sport-It was decided to advertise in the London sport-ing and the local papers for a groundman. Bedding, who has been with the club a couple of seasons, has severed his connection with the club, having obtained permanent employment. Mr. H. Good ban, who, it will be remembered, acted as ground club. man to the club several seasons ago, had written applying for the post again, but, as stated above, the meeting decided to advertise the vacancy. A vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, con-

luded the meeting.



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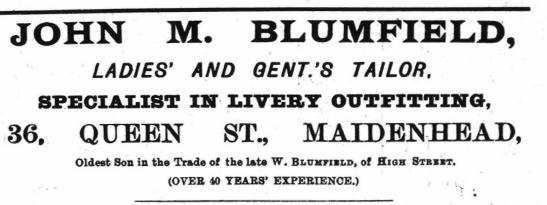
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J. M. B. tenders his best thanks to the large and increasing number of his late Father's Patrons, and others, who have transferred their patronage to him, and hopes by attention to their esteemed orders to merit a continuance of their patronage and recommendation.

