

FORMAL OPENING.

The Booroodabin Bowling-green was formally opened on Saturday afternoon. A friendly match between the Brisbane and Booroodabin clubs had been arranged to commence at 2 o'clock, but the impression evidently was that the opening proceedings would be postponed, as at that hour only a few of the members of either club were on the green. The directors of the latter club decided to put off the game until next Saturday, but, on the weather clearing up about 3 o'clock, and several other members putting in an appearance, it was agreed to make up two rinks from among those present. Thereupon, in the absence of the Hon. B. D. Morehead, the president of the Booroodabin Club, who, in a letter to the hon. secretary regretted his inability to be in attendance, his worship the Mayor (Alderman W. M. Galloway) rolled the first ball across the turf. The game was carried on till half-past 4, and the players were afterwards entertained by the officers of the Booroodabin Club. Mr. R. Dath, vice-president, occupied the chair, and the vice-chair was filled by the mayor. There were also present—Messrs. T. W. Jeans (secretary of the Brisbane Bowling Club), J. Stark (treasurer of the Brisbane Bowling Club), A. M'Nish Fraser, J. W. Carey, Crawford, A. Reid, C. C. Evans, J. Forsyth, W. Brown, R. Stewart, H. Perry, T. J. Ballinger, and Bartholomew.

Mr. BALLINGER read the directors' report. After congratulating the members on the unqualified success which had attended the formation of the club, it stated that those who saw the ground before operations were commenced and who viewed it now would readily understand the great amount of labour entailed in making such a great change. From the very first the club had received practical encouragement from the Booroodabin Divisional Board, but the directors could not allow that opportunity to pass without affirming that the success of the club and the finished appearance of the ground was in a large measure due to the constant and untiring energy of the hon. secretary (Mr. Carey), who had had sole charge of all the work connected with the green from its commencement, and who, by his constant supervision, had saved both professional and superintending expenses. Upon application the board at once had the ground levelled at a cost of £50, which was very material help. The total cost of making the green had been about £310, and for the debit balance at the Union Bank ten of the members had voluntarily become responsible, but as there were already fifty-seven on the roll of membership the directors were hopeful that these gentlemen

would soon be relieved of their liability. On the motion of Mr. BALLINGER, seconded by Mr. BARTHOLOMEW, the report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. STARK, in proposing "Success to the Booroodabin Bowling Club," said that he had much pleasure in doing so on behalf of the Brisbane Club. The green was in a state of almost perfect order, and it reflected credit on the club and upon Mr. Carey, under whose superintendence the work had been done.

Mr. CAREY, whose name was coupled with the toast, responded. Now that the club could begin play on their own ground he hoped they would stick together, and do their utmost to advance its interests. If the green was well looked after it would in a couple of seasons be as good a turf as any in Australia, or anywhere else. He promised to take as great an interest in the ground as he had hitherto done, and would with pleasure spend an hour with beginners on the green any afternoon they chose to play a game.

The MAYOR also replied. He said that while a member of the Divisional Board he had done his best, with Mr. Dath, to get part of the reserve for a bowling-green and to obtain the grant of £50, in order to give the club a fair start. He considered that the money had been well expended, and that the green, as it now stood, was a beauty spot in the division. He knew very little about bowling, but, as a member of the club, it was his intention to take an interest in the game, and, judging by the enjoyment he had had that afternoon, he was certain he would become an enthusiastic bowler. To his mind one of the grand features of bowling was that there was no gambling in connection with it. It was generally considered a game peculiar to Scotland, but he hoped that here Scotchmen, Englishmen, and Irishmen, and others would meet upon the green in friendly rivalry.

Mr. R. FRASER proposed "The Health of the Directors," to which the CHAIRMAN replied, wishing the club every success, and expressing the hope that the ratepayers in the division would appreciate the action of the board in devoting portion of the reserve to a bowling-green, and be outlookers of the game if they did not see their way to become members of the club.

Mr. FORSYTH referred to the efforts which

were made by the late Mr. Beattie, when chairman of the Divisional Board, to get the deeds for the reserve from the Government. He trusted the board would see their way to put the remaining portion of the ground into such a condition as would make it suitable for lawn tennis or other games, where the youth of the division, and especially the ladies, could enjoy themselves in the afternoons.

Mr. CAREY proposed "The Brisbane Bowling Club," of which he was one of the first members. The club had had many ups and downs, but had always been able to pay its way, and its members—he among them—had spent many a pleasant hour on the green.

Mr. JEANS responded. He said that the Brisbane Club had done its best for bowling in the city. Mr. Carey was the father of the club, and of bowling in the colony, and he was sure that with that gentleman taking an interest in the Booroodabin Club, it would soon be in a flourishing condition. The Brisbane Club was in a very good position both as regarded members and funds, and he hoped it would continue so. The ground on which the green was situated belonged to the Railway Department, but could not be taken from the club without certain notice being given, and no doubt if the ground was ever resumed the Government would give compensation for the money which had been expended upon it.

Mr. EVANS gave "The President" to which the CHAIRMAN responded. He was sure that Mr. Morehead would have been with them that afternoon if other engagements had not prevented him from being present, and hoped that they would frequently see the Premier on the green. When the Brisbane Club were compelled to change its quarters, the Government would, he was certain, give compensation for the improvements which had been made on the ground. He was surprised that the Municipal Council did not bestir themselves a little more, and make an endeavour to get deeds for the city reserves, which could then be converted into parks, where bowling, tennis, cricketing, and other sports could be carried on by all classes. Such places were needful in any city, and it was as much the duty of the powers that be to provide them as it was to make drains and carry out improvements to benefit the health of the community.

The MAYOR said that the only reserve for

which the corporation held title deeds was that at Wickham-terrace. Since he had occupied the mayoral chair certain improvements had been effected upon it, but the corporation did not believe in expending money on the others as they did not belong to the citizens. He trusted that in time, however, the Government would grant deeds for the other reserves, and it was his intention to beg for them until they were either granted or he was turned away from the departmental doors. There was a large reserve between Wickham and Leichhardt streets, which was admirably suited for a cricket ground, and the drainage reserve between Gregory-terrace and Leichhardt-street, which could be also utilised for some like purpose, if the title-deeds could only be obtained for them. He hoped that before long the Booroodabin division would be annexed to the city, and that the members of the Divisional Board would join with the corporation in trying to get the deeds of these reserves out of the hands of the Government.

Other toasts were afterwards submitted, and the proceedings terminated shortly before 7 o'clock.

The bowling-green is situated immediately to the south of the Breakfast Creek-road, on the Newstead Estate. The turf was obtained from the river bank at Newstead, and great care has been taken in laying the blocks, so as to give the green a perfectly level surface. As stated above, the hon. secretary, Mr. Carey superintended the work which had been in progress for about eight months. Operations were somewhat delayed on account of the dry weather and the refusal of the Board of Waterworks to permit water from the mains to be taken for use on the ground. The green is still slightly bare in some places, but in a week or two these spots will be covered with grass, and the green will then be in first-class order. Mr. Carey has nicely laid out the strips of ground surrounding the green, and seats have been provided for the convenience of spectators. The club-house is a neat wooden building, also designed by Mr. Carey.