

# EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Mercantile Rowing Club.

### President :

J. B. WHITTY, Esq.

### Vice-Presidents :

CR. J. B. BUTLER.

T. R. GILCHRIST, Esq.

F. R. MILLAR, Esq.

### Captain :

MR. FRANK S. GIBBS.

### Hon. Secretary :

MR. J. G. KALBFELL.

### Vice-Captain :

MR. WM. BROWN.

### Hon. Treasurer :

MR. J. A. STRONG.

### Committee :

MR. A. B. SLOAN.

MR. W. POTTER.

„ S. J. MORELL.

„ E. T. BRADSHAW.

„ A. R. MOSES.

„ B. G. CONNOR.

MR. F. SCOTT.

### U. R. Association Representatives :

MESSRS. A. B. SLOAN AND F. S. GIBBS.

### Elected Members :

MESSRS. A. R. MOSES AND F. S. GIBBS.

*The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at Morell's Bull and Mouth Hotel, Bourke Street, on Tuesday, 20th September, at 8 p.m., when your attendance, and that of any intending Members, is particularly desired.*

### BUSINESS:

Adoption of Report and Balance Sheet.

Election of Office-bearers.

Election of New Members.

MR. GIBBS to propose that the Entrance Fee of 10s. be suspended for a further period of twelve months.

And any other business that may be brought forward.

# ANNUAL REPORT.

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20TH SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Committee, in rendering an account of its stewardship during the past twelve months, desires first to offer you its congratulations upon the sound financial position of the Club, upon the numerous additions that have been made to the list of members, upon the active part taken in Club and open Regatta competitions, and upon the many promising signs of activity during the coming season.

We commenced the season under review with a debit of £3 14s. 7d., and we closed it with a credit balance of £2 1s. 4d., our revenue being £121 7s. 3d., and our expenditure £119 5s. 11d. The Club's only liability is the amount due to the debenture holders (£167 13s.), and as against this liability the Club has assets to the value of about £500.

## V.R.A. CHAMPION RACES.

The Club was represented in both the Champion Four-oared and Eight-oared Races. In the former event, rowed over the Lower Yarra course, on Saturday, 11th December, your Club was represented by Messrs. Sloan (stroke), Strong, Potter, and Connor, and after a splendidly contested race from start to finish with the Banks crew, your representatives won by a length and three-quarters in 19 min. 30 sec., which, considering the state of the tide, is one of the best records over the course. Members hardly need reminding of the notable fact that the Mercantile Rowing Club has now won the Champion Four-oared race three years in succession, and that much of the credit of this brilliant achievement is due to Mr. Sid Edwards' invaluable services as "coach."

The Champion Eight-oared Race, carrying the Premiership Pennant annually presented by Mr. Geo. E. Upward, was held on Saturday, 26th March.

Your Club, which had the honor of winning the Pennant the two previous seasons, was represented on this occasion by Messrs. Sloan (stroke), Strong, Potter, Hood, Aylwin, Connor, McNamara and Moses. The crew rowed splendidly for a mile and a quarter, and victory seemed once more assured, but a weak spot developing itself the crew collapsed, and finished third to Banks and Albert Park.

## OPEN REGATTAS.

The Club was well represented at the various Open Regattas held during the season. At the Upper Yarra Regatta, held on Saturday, 18th December, Mr. Ivens represented the Club in the Maiden Sculls; Messrs. McNamara (stroke), Kalbfell, Telford and Edwards in the Maiden Fours; Messrs. Sloan (stroke), and Strong in the Senior Pairs; and Messrs. Sloan (stroke), Strong, Potter and Connor in the Senior Fours. Both the senior crews were successful in vanquishing all opponents, but the maiden competitors suffered defeat.

At the Nagambie Regatta, held on Monday, 27th December, your Club secured a win in the Maiden Sculls, thanks to Mr. Ivens, and Messrs. Sloan and Strong annexed the Senior Pair trophies. The Maiden Four (Messrs. McNamara, Kalbfell, Telford and Edwards) gave a good account of themselves; in the first round they beat the Nagambie Crew, but in the second round, after a splendidly contested race with the Ballarat Crew, they were beaten by a quarter of a length.

The V.R.A. Regatta was held on Saturday, 19th February. Your Club was represented in the Maiden Fours by Messrs. McNamara, Kalbfell, Telford and Edwards; in the Junior Pairs by Messrs. Aylwin and Moses; in the Senior Pairs by Messrs. Sloan and Strong; and in the Senior Fours by Messrs. Sloan, Strong, Potter and Connor. Both the senior crews were again successful, but the maiden and junior representatives were vanquished.

The long list of wins by the Mercantile Club in senior events met with a check at the Ballarat Regatta, held on Friday, 4th March. Your Club sent a Senior Pair (Messrs. Sloan and Strong), and Senior Eight (Messrs. Sloan, Strong, Potter, Hood, Aylwin, Connor, McNamara and Moses) to Ballarat, but luck was dead against them, they being handicapped by a boisterous wind, by rough water which well nigh swamped the boats, and by a chapter of minor accidents. The eight, after rowing a dead heat with the Wendouree crew, was beaten in the row off by three-quarters of a length. The pair was also defeated.

At the Barwon Regatta, held on Wednesday, 9th March, your senior eight had another meeting with Wendouree, and turned the tables by winning with three-quarters of a length to spare. This is the first senior eight-oared race won by the Mercantile Rowing Club, and your Committee desires to offer heartiest congratulations to the members of the crew, as well as to the members of the Club generally, upon so important an occasion.

## MR. A. B. SLOAN'S RECORD.

That a crew stroked by Mr. A. B. Sloan should be defeated is so novel an experience in the history of our Club, as to call for reference in this report to Mr. Sloan's splendid achievements during the past four seasons. During this period he took part in 32 intercolonial, champion, and open senior races, and won no less than 25 of them. He has stroked to victory 2 intercolonial eights, 1 intercolonial four, 2 champion eights, 2 champion fours, 1 senior eight, 6 senior fours, and 6 senior pairs. It should also be here placed on record that the Mercantile Senior Four, which Mr. Sloan joined in 1894, and of which he has been stroke during the past two seasons, has won every senior four-oared race during the last five years, and that on several occasions the senior four-oared race has been struck out of regatta programmes because the entry from the Mercantile Club was the only one received.

## CLUB RACES.

The Club Races held during the season proved most successful. The competition for Trial Fours, in gigs, held on Saturday, 23rd October, brought out seven crews. The trophies were won by Messrs. Aylwin (stroke), Kalbfell (3), Chas. Strong (2), and Clarke (bow).

Pair-oared races for gold medals, presented by Mr. S. J. Morell, were held on Saturday, 15th January, and Monday, 17th January. Nine crews competed, and as they were evenly matched the finishes proved close and exciting. The final heat was won by Messrs. McNamara (stroke) and Ivens.

Handicap sculling races for the Silver Cups presented by Messrs. J. B. Butler (Vice-President) and Boyd, were held on Saturday, 22nd January. Fourteen members took part in the competition which excited the keenest interest. Messrs. Sloan (scratch) and Bruce (45 yds.) met in the final heat. Mr. Sloan succeeded in vanquishing his opponent, thus winning the Butler Cup. Mr. Bruce, as runner up, secured the Boyd Cup.

## GENERAL CLUB MATTERS.

Greatly to the regret of your Committee, Mr. Frank Gibbs has intimated he will probably be absent from Melbourne during the greater part of the coming season, and therefore desires to be relieved of the duties of Captain of the Club. Mr. Gibbs has done so much for the Club and for the interests of rowing generally, and he is so widely known and esteemed that his absence from Melbourne involves the loss of services that can ill be spared. Your Committee recommends that Mr. Gibbs be chosen one of the Vice-Presidents of the Club.

The thanks of the Club are again due to Messrs. J. B. Whitty (President), J. B. Butler (Vice-President), S. J. Morell, James Edwards and Sons, A. B. Sloan, W. Potter, J. G. Kalbfell and other gentlemen for valuable donations to the Club and for assistance rendered in many ways.

Your Committee report having concluded satisfactory arrangements with Dr. Morrison, Headmaster of Scotch College, for the admission to the Club of a limited number of senior students in attendance at Scotch College. Twelve students were admitted under this arrangement during the current year. Mr. Sloan has kindly undertaken the duties of honorary coach to the lads.

During the past two seasons the Club's entrance fee of 10s. has been suspended, and the results have been such that your Committee recommends the further suspension of the rule. Your Committee would also urge members to continue to use their best endeavours to add to the numerical strength of the Club. Mr. H. Sprigg has helped greatly in this direction, and the Committee desires to thank him for it.

A promising member in Mr. George McAdam was removed by death on the 25th January. Members joined in paying all respect to the memory of their late comrade.

A new practice pair-oared boat, built by James Edwards and Sons, has been added to the Club's fleet, which now consists of 1 best racing four, 1 clinker racing eight, 2 practice eights, 1 clinker racing four, 3 practice fours, 2 clinker racing pairs, 4 practice pairs, and 3 sculling boats. The fleet is in excellent order, the practice boats having been thoroughly overhauled during the winter months.

A most successful smoke concert, worked up by Mr. A. R. Moses, was held on Saturday, 16th March, at which the Club trophies won during the season were presented. The high esteem in which the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. G. Kalbfell, is held was evidenced by the enthusiasm which attended the presentation to him of a handsome gift on the occasion of his marriage.

The Annual Cinderella Dance was held at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, 3rd August, and was attended by 200 guests. Thanks mainly to the excellent arrangements of the joint Hon. Secs. (Messrs. J. G. Kalbfell and J. A. Strong), the Ball was an unqualified success. Mr. E. Goodman, of Messrs. Thos. Evans and Sons, rendered valuable aid in the decorating of the hall.

According to the rules, all the Office-bearers retire by effluxion of time, and are eligible for re-election.

# Mercantile Rowing Club, Season 1897=98.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Subscriptions ... ..	£77 6 6	By EDWARDS & SONS ... ..	£41 11 1
„ Donations ... ..	8 15 6	„ GREENLAND & SONS ... ..	2 4 6
„ V.R.A. Subscription ... ..	2 17 6	„ Regatta Entrance Fees ... ..	20 12 6
„ Proceeds of Ball, 1st ... ..	3 16 0	„ Wages to 10/9/6 ... ..	13 5 0
„ „ „ 2nd ... ..	3 7 3	„ Insurance on Boats and Shed ... ..	4 1 8
„ Entrance Fees Regatta ... ..	21 2 6	„ City and Water Rates ... ..	4 9 0
„ Club Races ... ..	3 1 0	„ Carriage on Boats and Cox. Expenses	7 17 7
„ Hire of Shed ... ..	1 1 0	„ V.R.A. Membership and Special Levy	4 12 6
		„ „ Intercolonial Share (Lingdren)	2 0 0
		„ „ Registration of Coxswain ... ..	0 10 0
		„ Subscription Upper Yarra Regatta ... ..	1 10 0
		„ Framing Pictures ... ..	1 8 3
		„ Sundries, including Printing ... ..	8 0 10
		„ Towels ... ..	1 11 0
		„ Trophies ... ..	2 2 0
		„ Alteration to Flag Pole ... ..	2 0 0
		„ Repairs to Boats (Connor)... ..	1 10 0
		„ Bank Balance ... ..	2 1 4
	<u>£121 7 3</u>		<u>£121 7 3</u>

## BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
To Debenture Holders ... ..	£167 13 0	By Outstanding Subscriptions...	£6 0 0
„ Balance (Credit) ... ..	375 8 4	„ Boat House ... ..	250 0 0
		„ Boats, Oars and Sculls ... ..	285 0 0
		„ Bank Balance ... ..	2 1 4
	<u>£543 1 4</u>		<u>£543 1 4</u>

Audited and found correct,

T. F. BRENNAN, HON. AUDITOR.

MELBOURNE, September 16th, 1898.

J. A. STRONG,

HON. TREASURER.