

# NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Mercantile Rowing Club.

**President :**

J. B. WHITTY, Esq.

**Vice-Presidents :**

CR. WM. STRONG. T. R. GILCHRIST, Esq. F. R. MILLAR, Esq. F. S. GIBBS, Esq.

**Captain :**

MR. A. B. SLOAN.

**Hon. Secretary :**

MR. J. G. KALBFELL.

**Vice-Captain :**

MR. J. A. STRONG.

**Hon. Treasurer :**

MR. WM. POTTER.

**Committee :**

MR. A. R. MOSES. MR. P. C. IVENS.  
,, H. S. AYLWIN. ,, W. S. BROWN.  
,, B. G. CONNOR. ,, C. E. P. McNAMARA.  
,, E. T. BRADSHAW.

**V. R. Association Representatives.**

MESSRS. A. B. SLOAN AND W. POTTER.

**Elected Member :**

MR. A. R. MOSES.

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*The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at Morell's Bull and Mouth Hotel, Bourke Street, on Tuesday, 12th 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.

Presentation of Trophies.

MR. MOSES 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.

1ST SEPTEMBER, 1899.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—

Your Committee, in rendering an account of its stewardship during the twelve months ended 31st August, 1899, desires to offer you its congratulations upon the strong financial position of the Club, upon the activity shown in Club and Open Regatta competitions, and generally upon the excellent prospects with which the Club enters upon the season 1899-1900.

We commenced the season under review with a credit balance of £2 1s. 4d., and closed it with a credit balance of £4 6s., our revenue being £124 7s. 10d., and our expenditure £120 1s. 10d. 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 Champion Four-Oared Race, in which the Club has in former seasons been signally successful, was rowed on Saturday, 4th February. Your Club, which won the event in the seasons 1895-6, 1896-7, and 1897-8, was unable to enter a crew last February, and Albert Park, being the only entry, had a walk-over.

The Champion Eight Oared Race, held on Saturday, 25th March, was contested by Ballarat, Albert Park, Yarra Yarra, and Banks, and after a very interesting struggle Ballarat won, with Albert Park second, and Yarra Yarra third. Your Club, which has twice won this important race, was unable to be represented this season.

## OPEN REGATTAS.

Your Committee regrets having to report a considerable falling off in the measure of success achieved by the Club at Open Regattas held during the past season.

At the Upper Yarra Regatta, held on Saturday, 17th December, the Mercantile Colours were to the fore in the Senior Four-Oared Race, won by Messrs. A. B. Sloan (stroke), J. A. Strong, W. Potter, and B. G. Connor, and in the Maiden Sculls, won by Mr. C. E. P. McNamara. In the Senior Pair-Oared Race your representatives (Messrs. Sloan and Strong), were beaten by the Albert Park pair, and in the Maiden Eight Oared Race your representatives were beaten in the second heat by Ballarat City, who also won the final heat. The Mercantile Eight was composed as follows:—Messrs. F. H. Hutchings (stroke), P. C. Ivens (7), G. Stooke (6), J. Fergusson (5), H. D. Brasch (4), F. Clark (3), A. Levy (2), E. T. Bradshaw (bow).

At the Nagambie Regatta, held on Monday, 26th December, your Club was represented in the Senior Pairs by Messrs. Sloan and Strong; in the Senior Fours by Messrs. Sloan, Strong, Potter, and Connor; in the Maiden Eights by Messrs. Hutchings, Ivens, Stooke, Fergusson, Brasch, Clark, Levy, and Bradshaw; and in the Maiden Sculls by Mr. C. E. P. McNamara. The only win secured was in the race for Maiden Sculls; both the senior crews were beaten by the Albert Park representatives, and the Maiden Eight by Essendon.

At the V.R.A. Regatta, held on Saturday, 11th February, the club's only success was in the sculling races, Mr. McNamara winning the Junior Sculls and Mr. Sloan the Maiden Sculls. Mr. Sloan and Mr. Connor contested the Senior Pair-Oared Race and Mr. McNamara contested the Senior Sculling Race, but without success. In the Maiden Eight-Oared Race, in which six crews took part, your Club was represented by Messrs. P. C. Ivens (stroke), F. Clark (7), H. D. Brasch (6), J. Fergusson (5), G. Stooke (4), C. Hazard (3), A. Levy (2), and E. T. Bradshaw (bow). The crews rowed splendidly, and qualified to start in the final by winning the second heat. The final was fought out by the Mercantile, Banks, and Barwon crews, and furnished one of the gamest maiden races seen on the Yarra. The three crews raced abreast for three-quarters of a mile, when Barwon slowly drew away, winning by a third of a length from Banks, with Mercantile a quarter of a length off third.

At the Barwon Regatta, held on Saturday, 11th March, your Club was represented in both the Senior and Maiden Eight-Oared Races, but without success, the Senior event being won by Ballarat and the Maiden Race by Corio Bay. Owing to a variety of causes the Mercantile Senior Eight had to be re-arranged at the last moment, and included two maiden men in Messrs. P. C. Ivens and J. Fergusson. The crew was boated as follows:—Messrs. Sloan (stroke), Aylwin (7), Potter (6), Fergusson (5), Ivens (4), Connor (3), McNamara (2), and Moses (bow). The Maiden Eight was composed as follows:—Messrs. Ivens (stroke), F. Clark (7), Brasch (6), Fergusson (5), Stooke (4), Hazard (3), Hutchings (2), Levy (bow).



## CLUB RACES.

So far as Club Races were concerned the season was a most successful one, and full of promise for the immediate future.

Pair-Oared Races for the gold medals annually presented by Mr. S. J. Morell were held on Saturday, 7th January. Twelve crews competed, and after a series of stoutly contested heats, the medals were won by Messrs. J. G. Kalbfell (stroke) and F. Clark (bow).

Trial Four-Oared Races for trophies presented by the Club were held on Saturday, 14th January, and resulted in a win for Messrs. B. G. Connor (stroke), T. F. Brennan (3), H. D. Brasch (2), and W. H. Serle (bow). Five crews competed.

Pair-Oared Races for trophies presented by Mr. D. G. Munro, held on Saturday, 4th March, secured the entry of thirteen crews, and furnished keen competition. The trophies were won by Messrs. P. Describes (stroke) and C. Hazard (bow).

Eight-Oared Races for trophies presented by the Club were held on Saturday, 18th March, and aroused great interest. Four crews competed, and the trophies were won by Messrs. B. G. Connor (stroke), H. S. Aylwin, C. E. P. McNamara, R. Telford, C. Cupit, W. H. Serle, A. M. Jackson, and A. D. Warden. This was the second occasion on which your Club held races for scratch eights.

The last of the series of Club races was the Handicap Sculling competition for the Bradshaw Gold Medal. This was commenced on Saturday, 15th April, and continued on the following Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Sixteen scullers took part. Messrs. H. D. Brasch (25yds.) and H. H. Sprigg (60yds.) fought out the final heat, the former winning by a bare half length.

## GENERAL CLUB MATTERS.

The high esteem in which Mr. Frank Gibbs is held was shown by the large attendance of members at the Boat-house on the afternoon of 7th January, and by the enthusiasm which marked the presentation to him of a handsome tantalus spirit stand in recognition of his long and valued services to the Club. Mr. Sloan, who made the presentation, said members keenly regretted Mr. Gibbs' retirement from the post of Captain, and indulged the earnest hope that at an early date he would see his way clear to again actively participate in the work of the Club.

It is with deep regret that your Committee record the death of a popular and promising member in the person of Mr. Wm. Bruce, who was accidentally killed while holiday-making in New South Wales. The news of his untimely death was received with profound sorrow.

Mr. B. G. Connor, who has rendered valuable service to the Club as a senior oarsman has, greatly to the regret of your Committee, tendered his resignation, owing to his removal from Melbourne. His departure is a distinct loss to the Club. Our best wishes go with him.

The annual ball was held at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, 11th July, and was attended by about 150 guests. Messrs. W. Potter and H. S. Aylwin, who acted as joint honorary secretaries, had made every provision for the comfort and enjoyment of the visitors, and their efforts were completely successful. Mr. E. Goodman, of Messrs. Thos. Evans and Sons, again rendered valuable aid in decorating the hall.

The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. J. B. Whitty (President), Dr. Morrison (of Scotch College), and Messrs. S. J. Morell, D. G. Munro, James Edwards and Sons, E. T. Bradshaw, A. B. Sloan, and other gentlemen for valuable donations to the Club, and for assistance rendered in various ways.

A highly successful smoke-concert, worked up by Mr. A. R. Moses, was held at the Bull and Mouth Hotel on Saturday, 18th March, at which the Morell trophies were presented to Messrs. Kalbfell and Clark, and the Munro trophies to Messrs. Describes and Hazard.

A new practice pair oared boat, built by James Edwards and Sons, has been added to the Club's fleet, which now consists of one best racing four, one clinker racing eight, two practice eights, one clinker racing four, three practice fours, two clinker racing pairs, five practice pairs (two of which are sister boats), and three sculling boats. The fleet is in excellent order. Your Committee recommend that the practice fours and three of the practice pairs be offered for sale, in order to make room for boats of the latest type.

According to the rules all the office-bearers retire by effluxion of time, and are eligible for re-election. Mr. Potter (hon. treasurer) and Mr. Kalbfell (hon. secretary) ask to be relieved of the duties of their respective offices owing to pressure of other engagements. Your Committee desires to thank these gentlemen for their services.



# Mercantile Rowing Club, Season 1898=99.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
To Subscriptions, including V.R.A. ... £72 9 6	By Wages, 52 weeks @ 5/- ... £13 0 0
„ Donations ... .. 24 2 6	„ GREENLAND & SON ... .. 11 9 6
„ Entrance Fees, Regatta ... .. 17 16 6	„ EDWARDS & SON ... .. 43 15 0
„ „ Club Races ... .. 6 8 0	„ Sundry Accounts ... .. 7 19 6
„ Sale of Oars ... .. 1 10 0	„ Insurance ... .. 4 1 9
„ Bank Balance, (1897-98) ... .. 2 1 4	„ Intercolonial (8) 3 Seats ... .. 12 0 0
	„ Regatta Fees ... .. 6 4 0
	„ V.R.A. Membership Levy... .. 8 5 0
	„ Freight on Boats ... .. 0 19 2
	„ Presentation (F. Gibbs) ... .. 3 2 6
	„ Coxwain's Expenses ... .. 0 18 11
	„ Donation to Upper Yarra Regatta ... 1 10 0
	„ Framing Pictures ... .. 0 8 6
	„ Trophy ... .. 1 1 0
	„ Balance ... .. 4 6 0
<u>£124 7 10</u>	<u>£124 7 10</u>

## BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
To Debenture Holders ... .. £167 13 0	By Outstanding Subscriptions... .. £15 0 0
„ Balance (Credit) ... .. 401 13 0	„ Boathouse ... .. 250 0 0
	„ Boats, Oars, and Sculls ... .. 300 0 0
	„ Bank Balance ... .. 4 6 0
<u>£569 6 0</u>	<u>£569 6 0</u>

Audited and found correct,

THOS. BRENNAN.

W. POTTER,

HON. TREASURER.

MELBOURNE, 5th September, 1899.