

# TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Mercantile Rowing Club.

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### President:

J. B. WHITTY, Esq.

### Vice-Presidents:

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

### Hon. Secretary:

MR. A. R. MOSES.

### Captain:

MR. A. B. SLOAN.

### Hon. Treasurer:

MR. R. F. McLEOD.

### Committee:

MR. WM. POTTER. MR. E. T. BRADSHAW.  
„ H. S. AYLWIN. „ S. J. MORELL.  
„ J. G. KALBFELL. „ H. D. BRASCH.  
MR. J. FERGUSSON.

### V.R.A. Representatives:

MESSRS. H. S. AYLWIN AND A. R. MOSES.

### Elected Members:

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

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

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

MR. H. S. AYLWIN to move that all persons joining the Club shall pay part of their subscription on initiation.

And any other business that may be brought forward.

# ANNUAL REPORT.

1ST SEPTEMBER, 1900.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the Twentieth Annual Report, your Committee warmly congratulate the members on the improved position of the Club, both numerically and financially; on the increased and sustained activity displayed in Regatta and Club Races; the splendid attendance right through the year; and on the particularly bright prospects for the ensuing season, 1900-1.

We started the season under review with a credit balance of £4 6s., and closed it with a credit of £7 17s. 3d.; our receipts being £206 6s., and our expenditure £198 8s. 9d. Our only liability is the amount due to debenture holders, £167 13s.; and as against this the Club has assets to the value of about £600.

## INTERCOLONIAL RACES.

The Intercolonial Race, held in Melbourne, November, 1899, was won by Victoria. Mr. A. B. Sloan was selected, but declined to row.

The Selection Committee of the V.R.A., in picking the best eight oarsmen to contest the last Intercolonial Race, held in Brisbane, May, 1900, included Messrs. A. B. Sloan and P. C. Ivens, of your Club; also Mr. J. A. Strong, as emergency. Subsequently Mr. Potter was offered a seat. Messrs. Sloan, Strong, and Potter declined to row, and Mr. Ivens was prevented by business reasons from accepting.

## V.R.A. CHAMPIONSHIP RACES.

The Championship Four-Oared Race, held in December, 1899, resulted in a win for the Albert Park Club from your representatives, Messrs. P. C. Ivens (bow), W. Potter, J. A. Strong, A. B. Sloan (stroke), after a magnificent and distressing burst for three-quarters of a mile. The Park crew, sustaining the effort longest, won comfortably.

In the interests of the maiden men, your Committee decided not to enter for the Championship Eight-Oared Race, which was won by Albert Park, after a splendid exhibition of rowing, the Ballarat and Banks crews finishing in the order named.

Championship Sculls was rowed on the 3rd February. Mr. C. E. P. Macnamara represented your Club, but was beaten by Mr. Chas. Donald, of Albert Park.

The points premiership resulted as follows:—

Albert Park ... ..	312	Bairnsdale ... ..	12
Ballarat ... ..	98	Barwon ... ..	11
Mercantile ... ..	83	Banks ... ..	10
Ballarat City ... ..	26	Yarra Yarra ... ..	8
Wendouree ... ..	22	Corio Bay ... ..	8

## REGATTA EVENTS.

At the Upper Yarra Regatta, held on the 16th December, your Club was represented as follows:—

Maiden Sculls: Mr. H. S. Aylwin. Maiden Eight: Messrs. Lindblade (bow), Bradshaw, Clark, McLeod, Fergusson, Describes, Hazard, Hutchings (stroke). Senior Pair: Messrs. J. A. Strong (bow) and A. B. Sloan (stroke). Senior Four: Messrs. Ivens (bow), Potter, Strong, Sloan (stroke). In the first two races your representatives were beaten, but amends were made in the classic events, both of which were handsomely won by the Mercantile, after an exhibition of skill seldom seen on our waters. Your Committee congratulate Mr. Sloan and his colleagues who thus strongly emphasised their superiority by completely turning the tables on the victors of the previous week in the Champion Four.

The Annual Regatta of the Nagambie Rowing Club was held as usual on the 26th December (Boxing Day). We were represented in the Maiden Sculls by Mr. H. S. Aylwin, who lost by a length; and the Maiden Eight, Messrs. Lindblade (bow), McLeod, Clark, Brasch, Fergusson, Describes, Hazard, Ivens (stroke), who, after winning the first heat in splendid style, defeating the Albert Park (winners at the Upper Yarra fixture), succumbed, after a splendid race, to Yarra Yarra, who won by half a length.

Very satisfactory entries were made for the Melbourne Regatta, contested on the Yarra 10th February, 1900, but the measure of success was poor, results being as follows:—Maiden Pairs: Messrs. Morrison and Brennan lost. Maiden Sculls: Mr. C. Edwards lost by half a length. Senior Pair: Messrs. Strong and Sloan lost after a brilliant tussle to the corner. Junior Sculls was secured by Mr. P. C. Ivens. Maiden Eight: Messrs. Lindblade (bow), Bradshaw, Clark, Brasch, Fergusson, Describes, Hazard, McLeod (stroke)—after a splendid race, the Banks crew won by three feet. Senior Sculls: Mr. C. E. P. Macnamara lost. Senior Four: Messrs. Ivens (bow), Potter, Strong, Sloan (stroke), defeated Bairnsdale, winning comfortably.

The Ballarat Regatta was held on 23rd February. Maiden Four: Messrs. Hazard (bow), Brasch, Fergusson, McLeod (stroke) lost. Maiden Sculls: Mr. H. S. Aylwin lost. Maiden Eight: Messrs. Lindblade (bow), Bradshaw, Clark, Brasch, Fergusson, Describes, Hazard, McLeod (stroke), were rewarded for their persistency and determination, securing a win, after the race of the day, by a bare canvas. The win in this event entitles the Club to hold the Marks' Cup, which has to be won twice. Senior Pair: Messrs. Ivens (bow) and Sloan (stroke). This race had been anxiously waited, as it was expected to produce a magnificent struggle, the other contestants including Ballarat (Messrs. Dawson Bros.), Albert Park (Messrs. Chamley and Donald). Your representatives completely overmatched all opposition, winning easily. Your Committee warmly congratulate Mr. P. C. Ivens, who thus proved himself a valuable addition to our representative oarsmen, at first time of asking, against such formidable opponents.

Barwon Regatta, held on 11th March.—The following crews represented the Mercantile:—Maiden Sculls: Mr. H. S. Aylwin, ran into bank and lost. Maiden Four: Messrs. Hazard (bow), Brasch, Fergusson, McLeod (stroke), lost. Maiden Pair: Messrs. Morrison and Brennan, lost. It will be seen that the Club sent twenty crews to the various regattas, and won six races.

## CLUB RACES.

It is particularly gratifying to be able to report the unqualified success that has attended our Club Races this year. The entries have been uniformly large, and the keenest interest of all concerned has been displayed in the desire to gain the very many and handsome trophies so generously given by our supporters. A large amount of the sustained interest and keen rivalry shown is due to the trophy subscribed by your captain, Mr. A. B. Sloan, for the member gaining the greatest number of points in these events, and your Committee congratulate the winner, Mr. H. D. Brasch, on his determination and consistent efforts. Appended are the results:—Messrs. H. D. Brasch, 12 points; A. B. Sloan, 11; Shaw, 8; Ivens, McLeod, Brennan, Lindblade, H. S. Aylwin, 6 each; Hazard, 5; Moore,

White, Levy, Morrison, Sprigg, Anderson, Southern, Muir, 4 each ; Pitman, Bradshaw, A. M. Aylwin, 3 each ; Heckle, Kemp, Nicholson, Macnamara, Loxton, Clark, W. S. Brown, 2 each ; Descrimes, Murray, J. A. Strong, Gibbs, Robinson, Edwards, Wilkins, 1 each. It will be observed that 34 members were successful in getting a place on this list, which, out of a total of 50, speaks for the unison of the Club, and augurs well for our future prospects.

We opened the season with "Trial Pairs," on 28th October, 1899, for a trophy given by D. G. Munro, Esq., which provided some rattling contests, and were eventually won by Messrs. McLeod and Levy.

Pair-Oared Races, for a trophy presented by the Hon. A. J. Peacock, M.L.A., were held on the 8th December, the winners being Messrs. Sprigg and Morrison, who defeated a very large number of contestants.

Morell Pairs were held on Saturday, 17th March, and proved highly successful, both in the number of entries and exciting finishes, numerous heats being just won by a foot. The final was fought out by Messrs. Brasch and Moore and Sloan and Anderson, the latter winning after a very hard go.

Handicap Sculling Races, for a trophy donated by Mr. E. T. Bradshaw, took place on Saturday, 31st March, there being 18 entries. The trophy was secured by Mr. T. F. Brennan, who defeated Mr. Brasch in the final.

We concluded these most enjoyable and instructive contests on 7th April, when trophies presented by Cr. Wm. Strong were competed for in Trial Pairs. Fourteen crews were started, and the prizes were secured by Messrs. Southern and Muir.

#### GENERAL CLUB MATTERS.

The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. J. B. Whitty (President), Dr. Morrison (Scotch College), Hon. A. J. Peacock, M.L.A., Cr. Wm. Strong, J. Sloan, Esq. (Allendale), D. G. Munro, Esq., Messrs. A. B. Sloan, E. T. Bradshaw, H. S. Aylwin, H. D. Brasch, Jas. Fergusson, S. J. Morell, and other gentlemen, for their various donations and assistance rendered.

Your Committee desire to particularly thank Mr. C. W. Cupit for his kindness at all times and consideration for men in training.

The spontaneous outburst of loyalty evinced throughout the colonies during the present war found ready response in your Club. Your Committee have to acquaint you with the temporary loss of three of its most promising members, Sergeant A. D. Warden, Lieutenant F. Hutchings, and Private C. Morrison, who left for South Africa with the Second Contingent and Imperial Corps. We trust that they may be spared to once more give their valuable assistance to the Club.

Messrs. A. Levy, J. Fergusson and R. Telford have also been called away from Melbourne by business. The departure of these enthusiastic members is a deep loss to the Club, and your Committee wish them every success in their new sphere. Occasion was taken at Mr. Levy's departure to present him with a souvenir, as an expression of esteem. The gathering took place at the Orient Hotel, when a very pleasant evening was spent. The Munro trophies were handed over during the proceedings.

During the season the Club has purchased a practice four, at a cost of £31 ; and a clinker racing eight, £55. Your Committee unanimously decided to inscribe them with the names of your President (Mr. J. B. Whitty) and your Captain (Mr. A. B. Sloan) as a slight mark of appreciation for the keen interest displayed in the Club.

You are to be congratulated on possessing the finest fleet of boats in the colonies, comprising two racing eights, two practice eights, one best racing four, one clinker racing four, one practice four, two racing pairs, four practice pairs, two sculling boats.

Owing to the increase of members to 50, you were entitled to an additional representative on the V.R.A., Mr. H. S. Aylwin being elected to that position.

The thanks of the whole Club are due to Mr. Sid. Edwards for his invaluable services as coach.

Members will note with pleasure that we are not forgotten by old associates, and your Committee have to acknowledge receipt of the handsome donation of £10 10s. from A. Levy, Esq., now of Queensland, to be used in any way the Club deems fit. Your Committee recommend that Mr. Levy be made a life member, in appreciation of the many services rendered to our Club.

Arrangements were concluded with the Scotch College for the use of the Club's property with mutually satisfactory results.

The Annual Ball was held on 8th June, at the Masonic Hall, and proved the most successful the Club has ever held, everyone expressing themselves as delighted with the arrangements, which were undertaken by Messrs. H. S. Aylwin and A. R. Moses, Joint Hon. Secs. The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. E. Goodman, of Messrs. Thomas Evans and Sons.

On 9th November your Club entertained members of the Ballarat Rowing Club at Warrandyte, whither they were driven in drags. After a good dinner, at which several speeches were made, emphasising the cordial relations that have always existed between the two Clubs, a Cricket Match was played, the Golden City representatives proving victorious. The visitors expressed themselves as delighted at the outing, and all present thoroughly enjoyed the picnic.

Two thoroughly enjoyable Club Picnics were held on New Year's Day and Foundation Day respectively, the site chosen being Maribyrnong, the participants leaving the shed at 10.30, rowing to the Anglers' Hotel, where dinner was laid, after which cricket, music and swimming were indulged in ; the picnickers reaching town about 7 o'clock.

On Saturday, 31st March, a Smoke Night was held at the Bull and Mouth Hotel, where an excellent programme was highly appreciated by the large attendance of members and visitors. During the evening the trophies owing by the Club were presented to the successful members. A very pleasant evening was spent.

During the Easter holidays several members journeyed to Ballarat, on what is now considered an annual fixture. They met with a splendid reception from the Ballarat Rowing Club, who entertained them right royally. Your Committee desire to acknowledge the many kindnesses received from this Club at all times.

In accordance with the rules, all the office-bearers retire by effluxion of time, and are eligible for re-election.

In conclusion, your Committee impresses upon members that the future of the Club lies in their hands, and urges them to spare no effort that will aid in maintaining the prominent position the Club holds.

On behalf of the Committee,

ALF. R. MOSES, Hon Sec.

# Mercantile Rowing Club.

SEASON 1899-1900.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Subscriptions, including V.R.A. ...	£113 8 6	By Wages ...	£13 5 0
„ Donations ...	34 11 0	„ Insurance ...	4 1 9
„ Entrance Fees, Regatta ...	21 2 6	„ City and Water Rates ...	4 14 0
„ „ Club Races ...	12 5 0	„ Lands Office Rent ...	2 2 0
„ Sale of Boats, Oars, and Sundry Refunds ...	13 4 9	„ V.R.A. Membership and Registration of Coxswain ...	6 10 0
„ Proceeds of Ball, July, 1899 ...	7 8 3	„ EDWARDS & SON ...	119 1 0
„ Bank Balance (1898-1899) ...	4 6 0	„ GREENLAND & SON ...	4 9 6
		„ Regatta Fees ...	21 2 6
		„ Freight on Boats ...	4 6 6
		„ Coxswain's Expenses ...	1 8 3
		„ Sundry Accounts ...	7 10 3
		„ Trophies for Club Races ...	8 8 0
		„ Donation to Upper Yarra Regatta ...	1 10 0
		„ Credit Balance ...	7 17 3
	<u>£206 6 0</u>		<u>£206 6 0</u>

## BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
To Debenture Holders ...	£167 13 0	By Boat House ...	£250 0 0
„ Balance ...	459 7 3	„ Boats, Oars, and Sculls ...	350 0 0
		„ Outstanding Subscriptions and Accounts ...	19 3 0
		„ Balance ...	7 17 3
	<u>£627 0 3</u>		<u>£627 0 3</u>

Audited and found correct,

THOS. F. BRENNAN.

R. F. McLEOD,

HON. TREASURER.

MELBOURNE, 4th September, 1900.