

ANNUAL REPORT
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE . . .

Mercantile Rowing Club.

President:

J. B. WHITTY, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

CR. WM. STRONG.

D. G. MUNRO, Esq.

J. SLOAN, Esq.

F. R. MILLAR, Esq.

T. R. GILCHRIST, Esq.

F. S. GIBBS, Esq.

Hon. Secretary:

MR. A. R. MOSES.

Captain:

MR. A. B. SLOAN.

Hon. Treasurer:

MR. R. F. McLEOD

Vice-Captain:

MR. W. POTTER.

Committee:

MR. H. S. AYLWIN.

MR. P. C. IVENS.

MR. E. T. BRADSHAW.

MR. J. A. STRONG.

MR. H. D. BRASCH.

MR. S. J. MORELL.

MR. J. SOUTHERN.

V.R.A. Representatives:

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

Elected Members V.R.A.

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

Selection Committee:

MESSRS. IVENS AND POTTER.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at Morell's Bull and Mouth Hotel, Bourke Street, on Wednesday, 18th September, at 8 p.m., when your presence, and that of any intending Members, is particularly requested.

BUSINESS:

Adoption Report and Balance Sheet.

Election of Office-bearers.

Election of New Members.

Mr. Bradshaw to move that the Entrance Fee of 10/- be suspended for a further period of twelve months.

And any other Business that may be brought forward.

ANNUAL REPORT.

1ST SEPTEMBER, 1901.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the Twenty-first Annual Report, your Committee are proud to congratulate the members on the magnificent record the Club holds for the past season, in securing three championships and the premiership; on the splendid position, both financially and numerically; and on the particularly bright prospects for the coming season, 1901-02.

The utmost enthusiasm has been evinced by all members throughout the year, both in Regatta and Club Races, and in the many and highly successful social fixtures your Club has held.

Your Committee take great pleasure in stating that no less than twenty members assisted in gaining the premiership.

We started the season under review with a credit balance of £7 17s. 3d., and closed it with a credit of about £12.

INTERSTATE RACE.

The INTERSTATE EIGHT was rowed at Sydney on 4th May, 1901, and was won by Victoria. Your Club had the distinction of having four of its members included, namely, Messrs. A. B. Sloan (stroke), J. Southern (7), W. Potter (6), P. C. Ivens (bow).

V.R.A. CHAMPIONSHIP RACES.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCULLS was rowed on 27th October, 1900, the entrants being Messrs. Ivens and Macnamara, of your Club, and Mr. C. Donald, of Albert Park. The race was won by Donald by two lengths from Ivens, who sculled very pluckily.

CHAMPIONSHIP FOURS.—Rowed on the Lower Yarra, Saturday, 24th November, 1900; resulted in a magnificent win for the Mercantile crew—Messrs. Sloan (stroke), Southern, Potter, Ivens (bow). The only other entry was from the Albert Park Club, who won this event last year. Your Committee cordially congratulate Mr. J. Southern, who at his first essay so handsomely proved himself worthy of the Club's high reputation.

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS.—This race was inaugurated at Ballarat, 23rd February, 1901, and proved an easy win for your representatives—Messrs. Sloan (stroke), Ivens (bow).

CHAMPIONSHIP EIGHT.—This event, which carries with it the pennant for the season, was rowed on Saturday, 29th March, 1901, when your crew secured a splendid victory from Albert Park, who were the only other competitors. The race itself was one of the grandest struggles ever witnessed on our waters, the Mercantile passing the post two lengths ahead in 14 min. 26 sec. The crew was as follows:—Messrs. A. B. Sloan (stroke), J. Southern, W. Potter, C. W. Hazard, B. G. Connor, P. C. Ivens, C. E. P. Macnamara, A. R. Moses (bow).

PREMIERSHIP POINTS.

The position of the various Associated Clubs for the season 1900-01 was as follows:—

	Points.		Points.
Mercantile	396	Nagambie	4
Albert Park	108	Ballarat	3
Wendouree	50	Hawthorn	2
Yarra Yarra	28	Ballarat City	1
Banks	20		

The certificate presented by the V.R.A. is now hanging in the Club's shed.

REGATTA EVENTS.

At the Upper Yarra Regatta, held on Saturday, 8th December, 1900, your Club was represented by a Maiden Four—C. Edwards (stroke), H. Brasch, R. F. McLeod, A. Lindblade (bow)—who lost the final by a few feet. In the Maiden Pair, P. Describes and C. Hazard rowed well, but were beaten in the final. Senior Four: your representatives, A. B. Sloan (stroke), J. Southern, W. Potter, P. C. Ivens (bow), won easily. Maiden Eight: Messrs. Muir (stroke), Garde, F. Wilkins, G. Wilkins, G. Stooke, Gordon, E. Shaw, A. Robinson (bow), were unsuccessful. Senior Sculls: C. E. P. Macnamara lost. Senior Pair: Messrs. Sloan (stroke), Ivens (bow), won easily.

The Nagambie Regatta was held, as usual, on Boxing Day, and was well attended by metropolitan oarsmen. Your Club competed in the Maiden Eight—Messrs. Muir (stroke), G. Wilkins, F. Wilkins, Gordon, Stooke, A. Aylwin, Shaw, Robinson; lost. Maiden Four: Messrs. Edwards, Brasch, McLeod, Lindblade (bow); lost by a foot.

At the Melbourne Regatta, held on Saturday, 9th February, the following crews represented the Mercantile Club:—Maiden Four: Messrs. Edwards (stroke), Brasch, McLeod, Lindblade, were beaten in the final. Maiden Eight: Messrs. Muir (stroke), J. G. Strong, F. Wilkins, G. Wilkins, Stooke, Gordon, Shaw, Robinson (bow), won the first heat, but the effort proved too much, as they were beaten in the final. Junior Four were the same men as in the Maiden Four; lost. Senior Eight: Messrs. A. B. Sloan (stroke), J. Southern, W. Potter, C. Hazard, B. Connor, P. C. Ivens, C. Macnamara, A. Moses (bow), won easily from Albert Park and Banks.

The Ballarat Regatta was held on the 23rd February, 1901. This ideal racing course again proved highly satisfactory, your Club securing all the principal events. Maiden Eight: Messrs. Muir (stroke), Strong, F. Wilkins, G. Wilkins, M. Moss, Gordon Shaw, Robinson. After hard trying at every regatta during the season the crew were rewarded by a splendid win in a very exciting race done in fast time. This win secured for the Club the Marks Cup, which had to be won twice by Maiden Eights, your Club gaining it in two years. The Cup was presented to Mr. A. B. Sloan. The Senior Eight was the same crew as at Melbourne, and won after a great race. This makes the Club the holders of the Dawson Cup for the season. The Maiden Four again disappointed the hopes of the Club, finishing third.

The Barwon Regatta was held on Saturday, 2nd March, 1901. Maiden Four: Messrs. C. Edwards (stroke), H. D. Brasch, R. F. McLeod, E. Muir (bow) were rewarded for their determination by a well deserved win. Senior Eight: The same crew represented the Club, and was beaten in the heat by Ballarat.

It will be observed that the Club started in 21 races, losing 12 and winning 9. This is really a first rate performance, as the wins were in all classes. The Committee trust that the high average secured will be an incentive to every member using his best endeavours to maintain this standard.

CELEBRATION REGATTA.

On Wednesday, 8th May, a Regatta was held on the Albert Park Lake in connection with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. Your Club entered a Senior Eight—Messrs. A. B. Sloan (stroke), Southern, Potter, Hazard, H. S. Aylwin, Ivens, Macnamara, Moses (bow)—who were beaten; and a Maiden Four—Messrs. F. Wilkins (stroke), M. Moss, G. Wilkins, J. G. Strong (bow)—who were successful in winning a very good race from five crews.

CLUB RACES.

Not the least satisfactory of the Club's successes this season has been attained in Club Races. The interest has been maintained throughout the season. The entries have been uniformly large, and the finishes exciting. Towards this end the Captain's Trophy, for the member gaining the highest points in these events, was instrumental, and it was not till the last heat of the last race was finished that the coveted award was secured by Mr. J. G. Strong. The competition resulted as follows: J. G. Strong, 13; Stooke, 12; Bernadou, 11; Sprigg, 11; Hazard, 9; A. M. Aylwin, 8; Brasch, 8; Sloan, 8; F. Wilkins, 8; Muir, 8; Moore, 8; Potter, 7; McLeod, 6; Lindblade, 6; Macnamara, 6; H. Aylwin, 5; G. Wilkins, 5; Connor, 5; Carson, 5; Orr, 5; Loel, 5; Southern, 4; Shaw, 4; Cornish, 4; Shier, 4; Davidson, 4; Moses, 3; Garde, 3; Moss, 3; Treacey, 3; Quinnell, 2; Heckle, 2; Gibbs, J. G. Strong, Gordon, Robinson, Edwards, Describes, Waters, Ferguson, Dick, one each, which totalled shows that four-fifths of your members secured points.

The first Club Races of the season took the shape of SCRATCH FOURS, and were held on Saturday, 28th October, 1900, and provided some excellent racing. They were eventually won by Messrs. Sloan, G. Wilkins, Sprigg, and Garde.

SCRATCH PAIRS for trophies presented by Mr. H. D. Brasch were contested on 12th January, 1901, and were keenly fought out. The winners turned up in Messrs. Brasch and Sprigg. Mr. Brasch gave his trophy to the runners-up, Messrs. Macnamara and J. G. Strong.

STRONG FOURS were held on Saturday, 19th January, and proved very exciting, close finishes being the order of the day, most of the heats being won by a few feet. The winners were Messrs. H. S. Aylwin, F. Wilkins, G. Stooke, A. Bernadou, who secured the trophies presented by Cr. Wm. Strong and J. G. Strong, Esq.

MORELL PAIRS were held on Saturday, 15th March, fifteen crews taking part. The medals were secured by Messrs. Hazard and J. G. Strong from Connor and Bernadou. Advantage was taken of this opportunity to combine with the Yarra Yarra Club and hold a Ladies' Day. A large attendance of visitors resulted, and a most enjoyable day was spent. Afternoon Tea was dispensed in the Yarra Shed, which was artistically decorated for the occasion. During the afternoon the Championship Pennant, won by your representatives, was presented to the Club by the donor, Geo. Upward, Esq., who in some well chosen remarks congratulated the Club on its success. J. B. Whitty, Esq., your President, responded on behalf of the Club, and the flag was then hoisted amidst cheers.

BRADSHAW SCULLS were held on Saturday, 23rd March. This handicap race, which is always popular, produced some excellent finishes before the trophy was secured by Mr. A. Loel.

TRIAL PAIRS were held on Saturday, 30th March, open only to members who had never won a Regatta Race, and were most successful, both in the matter of close finishes and in providing some coaching for the newer members. Won by Messrs. Moore and Carson.

The concluding Club races were SCRATCH FOURS, on 7th April, for trophies presented by Messrs. Gibbs and Ivens. Excellent entries were received. The winners were Messrs. Sloan, J. G. Strong, Bernadou Sprigg.

COMBINATION EIGHTS.

The Club took advantage of a handsome donation offered by S. J. Morell, Esq., to hold Combination Eights on Saturday, 16th February, for trophies valued at £10 10s., which proved in every way a most enjoyable and satisfactory fixture. Every metropolitan club was represented, there being no fewer than 120 entries. A large crowd watched the exceptionally close finishes with keen interest. The winners were a very mixed crew, being composed of Messrs. Sloan, stroke (Mercantile), Kellet (Yarra Yarra), Lowe (Albert Park), Moses (Mercantile), Fullford (University), Wright (Lawthorn), Davidson (Civil Service), Rice (Footscray).

GENERAL CLUB MATTERS.

The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. J. B. Whitty, President, Dr. Morrison (Scotch College), the Hon. A. J. Peacock (State Premier), Cr. Wm. Strong, Messrs. J. Sloan (Allendale), P. C. Ivens, F. Gibbs, H. D. Brasch, S. J. Morell, A. B. Sloan, J. A. Strong, E. T. Bradshaw, and other gentlemen, for donations received and valuable services rendered to the Club.

We have had on all occasions when presenting the Annual Report to thank Mr. Sid. Edwards for his invaluable services as coach. It is not too much to say that the proud position the Club occupies this season is largely due to his unremitting and patient efforts in improving the men under his tuition.

Arrangements were again made by which the Scotch College had the use of the Club's property, with mutually satisfactory results.

It was unanimously carried at the last Annual Meeting that Mr. A. Levy, now of Queensland, be elected a life member, as a slight token of the Club's appreciation of his consistent and valuable services.

The fifth Annual Ball was held, as usual at the Masonic Hall, on 16th July, and proved in every way more successful than previous fixtures. The whole Club worked hard for this end, and the arrangements, which gave unqualified satisfaction, were in the hands of Messrs. A. M. Aylwin and A. R. Moses, Joint Hon. Secs.

During the season your Club has lost the services of two of its oldest and most enthusiastic members in the persons of Messrs. H. S. Aylwin and J. A. Strong, who have been called from this State through business arrangements. Your committee wish these gentlemen every success in their new careers.

The Committee are pleased to congratulate Mr. J. Southern on his phenomenal success in his first season.

By your rules all office-bearers retire by effluxion of time, but are eligible for re-election. The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. F. McLeod, and Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. R. Moses, desire to be relieved of office, and your Committee record its appreciation of their services to the Club.

At the last Smoke Night your President was presented with a group of photos of winning crews.

All the Committee meetings have been well attended.

In conclusion, the retiring officials urge upon members the necessity of keeping the Club up to its present high standard, and point out that the future lies in their hands by the introduction of new members and loyalty to the actions of the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee,

(Signed) ALF. R. MOSES, HON. SEC.

Mercantile Rowing Club.



SEASON 1900-1901.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Subscriptions, including V.R.A.	... £113 1 0	By Wages	... 13 10 0
„ Donations	... 40 15 0	„ Insurance	... 4 1 8
„ Entrance Fees, Regatta	... 53 6 6	„ City and Water Rates	... 6 3 0
„ „ Club Races	... 30 2 0	„ Lands Office Rent	... 4 4 0
„ Sale of Oars and Sundry Refunds, &c...	... 10 3 6	„ V.R.A. Membership and Registration of Coxswain	... 7 7 6
„ Proceeds of Ball, July, 1900	... 13 4 9	„ EDWARDS & SON	... 88 11 6
„ Bank Balance (1899-1900)	... 7 17 3	„ GREENLAND & SON	... 4 16 0
		„ Regatta Fees	... 54 4 0
		„ Freight on Boats	... 1 19 10
		„ Coxswain's Expenses	... 2 18 4
		„ Trophies for Club Races	... 28 10 0
		„ Donation to Upper Yarra Regatta	... 1 10 0
		„ Painting and Repairing Shed...	... 23 11 6
		„ Sundry Accounts	... 8 15 7
		„ Printing Reports, and Sec.'s Expenses...	... 3 19 0
		„ Photos and Frames	... 3 5 0
		„ Balance	... 11 3 1
	<u>£268 10 0</u>		<u>£268 10 0</u>

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
To Debenture Holders...	... £167 13 0	By Boat House	... £250 0 0
„ Credit Balance	... 461 11 7	„ Boats, Oars, and Sculls	... 350 0 0
		„ Outstanding Subscriptions and Accounts	... 18 1 6
		„ Bank Balance	... 11 3 1
	<u>£629 4 7</u>		<u>£629 4 7</u>

Audited and found correct,

THOS. F. BRENNAN.

HON. AUDITOR.

R. F. MCLEOD,

HON. TREASURER.

MELBOURNE, 11th September, 1901.