

ANNUAL REPORT

# TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## *Mercantile Rowing Club.*

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**President :**

J. B. WHITTY, Esq.

**Vice-Presidents :**

CR. WM. STRONG.

CR. S. J. MORELL,

J. SLOAN, Esq.

F. R. MILLAR, Esq.

T. R. GILCHRIST, Esq.

F. S. GIBBS, Esq.

**Hon. Secretary :**

MR. A. M. AYLWIN.

**Captain :**

MR. A. B. SLOAN.

**Hon. Treasurer :**

MR. P. C. IVENS.

**Vice-Captain :**

MR. W. POTTER.

**Hon. Auditor :**

MR. T. BRENNAN.

**Committee :**

MESSRS. A. R. MOSES.

H. BRASCH.

C. HAZARD.

F. WILKINS.

E. T. BRADSHAW.

R. F. McLEOD.

A. W. BERNADOU.

**V.R.A. Representatives :**

MR. P. C. IVENS AND MR. A. W. BERNADOU.

**Elected Members V.R.A. :**

MR. A. R. MOSES AND MR. A. M. AYLWIN.

**Selection Committee :**

MR. W. POTTER AND MR. P. C. IVENS.

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*The Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at Morell's Bull and Mouth Hotel, Bourke Street, on Thursday, 10th September, 1903, at 8 p.m., when your presence, and that of any intending Members, is earnestly requested.*

**BUSINESS :**

Adoption of Report and Balance Sheet.

Election of Office-bearers.



# ANNUAL REPORT.

1ST SEPTEMBER, 1903.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to you the Twenty-third Annual Report, your Committee are pleased to congratulate the members on the very excellent position which the Club continues to occupy. The membership roll has been well maintained, and your financial position remains strong and unimpaired.

Although not attaining that success in championship events which was hopefully looked for, and which the outlook at the beginning of the season warranted us in anticipating, your Committee are proud to congratulate the Club in gaining the Championship Sculls.

Throughout the season the members evinced the greatest enthusiasm in regatta and Club races, and also in the social fixtures your Club held.

We regret that our position on the premiership list has somewhat suffered this year, but we urge the members to pull together with all enthusiasm, and by dint of their united efforts we can confidently look forward to once more regain our former place as premier Club. Otherwise in every aspect the prospects for the coming season (1903-4) look bright and promising.

We started the season with a credit balance of £4 19s. 1d., and closed with a balance of £8 10s. 5d., having during that period paid off the sum of £62 12s., balance owing on cost of new dressing room, which must be considered eminently satisfactory.

## INTERSTATE RACES.

The INTERSTATE EIGHT was rowed at Melbourne on the Lower Yarra on 2nd May, 1903, and resulted in an easy win for Victoria. We regret that on this occasion your Club was not represented in the Victorian crew. Mr. Sloan was proffered a seat, but circumstances compelled him to decline.

The INTERSTATE SCULLING RACE was held over the same course, immediately preceding the eight-oared race. The entries were Messrs. P. C. Ivens and H. Brasch (Victoria), J. J. Daley (New South Wales), and T. H. Bourke (Tasmania). The race resulted in a win for Mr. Bourke, with Mr. Ivens in second place. Your Club had the honor of having its member, Mr. P. C. Ivens, selected to represent Victoria. Mr. Brasch, also of your Club, who had shown magnificent form throughout the season, requested, and was granted permission by the V.R.A., to compete. In sculling into second place, Mr. Ivens put up a most meritorious and plucky exposition.

## V.R.A. CHAMPIONSHIP RACES.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCULLS, rowed on the Saltwater River on 25th October, 1902.—The entries were Messrs. P. C. Ivens and H. Brasch, of your Club; C. Suffren, Ballarat; and C. Stamper, Albert Park. The race, soon after the start, resolved itself into a contest between your representatives, and resulted in a win for Mr. Ivens, who finished half a length ahead of Mr. Brasch. Your Committee heartily congratulate Mr. Ivens on his achievement.

CHAMPIONSHIP FOUR, rowed on the Saltwater River on 29th November, 1902.—Won by Albert Park. Your Club was unrepresented.

CHAMPIONSHIP EIGHT, rowed on the Saltwater River on 21st March, 1903.—Won by Albert Park. Your Club was unrepresented.

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIR, rowed on the Saltwater River on 2nd April, 1903.—Won by Albert Park. Your Club was unrepresented.

## PREMIERSHIP POINTS.

	Points.		Points.
Albert Park ... ..	401	Ballarat ... ..	25
Mercantile ... ..	75	Seymour ... ..	16
Nagambie ... ..	34	Banks ... ..	6

## REGATTA EVENTS.

The V.R.A. Regatta was held on the Upper Yarra on 20th December, 1902, at which the following crews represented your Club:—Maiden Pair—J. Fergusson (stroke) and H. Shaw (bow), who were unsuccessful. Senior Sculls—H. Brasch, who won both heat and final with consummate ease. Maiden Four—A. Waters (stroke), A. Moore (3), A. Bernadou (2), and A. Cornish (bow), who in their heat were winning easily, when owing to the rough water No. 3 caught a crab, and thereby lost the race. Senior Four—A. B. Sloan (stroke), M. K. Moss (3), W. Potter (2), and P. C. Ivens (bow). During the course of the race your crew were badly fouled by the Albert Park, and stopped rowing, subsequently entering a protest. The Umpires decided that the race should be re-rowed, but owing to the indisposition of Mr. Sloan your crew could not further compete. Maiden Eight—J. J. Fogarty (stroke), J. McDonough (7), H. E. Quinnell (6), A. L. Dobbie (5), A. Rigg (4), C. E. Bowen (3), A. E. Hoof (2), and J. K. Thompson (bow), who won heat, but were unsuccessful in final. Senior Pair—A. B. Sloan (stroke) and P. C. Ivens (bow), who won easily.

The Nagambie Regatta was held on Boxing Day, and the following crews represented your Club:—Maiden Four—A. Waters (stroke), A. Moore (3), A. Bernadou (2), and A. Cornish (bow), who won heat by a few feet, but lost final. Maiden Eight—J. J. Fogarty (stroke), J. McDonough (7), H. E. Quinnell (6), A. L. Dobbie (5), L. Jones (emergency, 4), C. E. Bowen (3), A. E. Hoof (2), and J. K. Thompson (bow), who were successful in heat, but lost final.

At the Tamar Regatta, Launceston, Tasmania, held on the 15th January, 1903, your Club were represented in the Championship Sculling Race of Tasmania, by Mr. H. Brasch, who succeeded in winning this event by a couple of lengths from Mr. T. H. Bourke. Mr. Brasch also competed in a Handicap Sculling Race (2 miles), starting from scratch and conceding Mr. Bourke 5 seconds, but when he had made up his leeway unfortunately he struck a beacon, which nullified his success. Your Committee heartily congratulate Mr. Brasch on his splendid performance, and commend him for his enterprise, which met with such well merited success.

A revival of the Footscray Regatta was held on the 26th January on the Saltwater River. Your Club competed in the following events:—Maiden Four—A. Waters (stroke), A. Moore (3), A. W. Bernadou (2), and C. E. Bowen (bow), who lost heat after a close race. Senior Pair—A. B. Sloan (stroke), and P. C. Ivens (bow), who were unsuccessful. Maiden Eight—J. J. Fogarty (stroke), J. McDonough (7), H. E. Quinnell (6), A. L. Dobbie (5), A. Rigg (4), C. E. Bowen (3), A. E. Hoof (2), and J. K. Thompson (bow), who won after a good race. Junior Four—R. F. McLeod (stroke), F. Wilkins (3), G. Wilkins (2), and J. G. Strong (bow), who lost.

At the Upper Yarra Regatta, held on the 14th February, 1903, crews from your Club competed in the following events:—Junior Sculls—A. B. Sloan, who won easily. Maiden Four—H. Shaw (stroke), A. Moore (3), J. Fergusson (2), and A. Bernadou (bow), who won heat, but lost final. Senior Sculls—H. Brasch, who won easily. Maiden Eight—J. J. Fogarty (stroke), J. McDonough (7), H. E. Quinnell (6), A. L. Dobbie (5), A. Rigg (4), C. E. Bowen (3), A. E. Hoof (2), and J. K. Thompson (bow), who were successful, thus pulling off a double. Junior Four—R. F. McLeod (stroke), F. Wilkins (3), G. Wilkins (2), and J. G. Strong (bow), who won easily.

The Ballarat Regatta was held on the 27th February, 1903. Your Club were represented by Maiden



## CLUB RACES.

Your Committee again have pleasure in recording the success of these events. The entries have been uniformly satisfactory, and, as is usual in races of this nature, a large amount of enthusiasm and interest was displayed. The Captain's trophy for the Member gaining the greatest number of points proved a great incentive, and was a potent factor of the keenness and rivalry which marked these contests throughout. This coveted prize was won by Mr. G. Fergusson with a score of 13 points. The competition resulted as follows:—G. Fergusson, 13; J. K. Thompson, 11; J. J. Fogarty, 9; A. M. Aylwin, 8; E. Leach, 7; J. McDonough, 6; E. P. Fullwood, 6; P. C. Ivens, 6; A. Moore, 6; W. Potter, 6; A. E. Hoof, 5; W. P. Thomas, 4; J. Strong, 4; F. Tullidge, 4; A. Davey, 3; J. Moore, 3; E. H. Muir, 3; C. Shaw, 3; H. Stooke, 3; P. Armstrong, 2; C. E. Bowen, 2; A. Cornish, 2; A. L. Dobbie, 2; L. Jones, 2; C. Lindblade, 2; G. Mills, 2; H. Shaw, 2; and A. Bernadou, A. Brasch, A. A. Brett, C. A. Clarke, G. Cox, J. Fergusson, H. Orr, A. Rigg, P. Ross, A. B. Sloan, and J. Watson, 1 point each.

The initial Club Race of the season was held on the 15th November, 1902, when SCRATCH FOUR-OARED RACES for trophies presented by Messrs. W. Potter and H. Brasch were contested. Excellent entries were received, ten crews competing, and some close racing eventuated. The final was won by Messrs. P. C. Ivens, A. Moore, W. P. Thomas, and J. K. Thompson.

SCRATCH FOURS were held on the 17th January, 1903, for trophies presented by Messrs. T. Brennan and T. White. Large entries were again received, and the racing proved very interesting. The trophies were secured by Messrs. J. J. Fogarty, J. McDonough, E. Leach, and J. K. Thompson.

THE MORELL TROPHY was rowed off as usual in SCRATCH PAIRS on the 14th March, 1903. This popular event attracted a numerous entry, and was keenly contested. The medals were won by Messrs. J. Strong and A. E. Hoof.

TRIAL PAIRS were held on the 25th April, 1903, for medals presented by Messrs. F. and G. Wilkins. A large amount of interest was displayed amongst the members, who took every advantage of training for the race. The medals were gained by Messrs. A. M. Aylwin and G. Fergusson.

The concluding Club Race was held on the 23rd May, 1903, when a HANDICAP SCULLING RACE, for a trophy presented by Mr. E. T. Bradshaw, was contested. The winner turned up in Mr. F. Tullidge, off 50 yards.

## COMBINATION RACES.

To mark the opening of the season, Combination Eight-oared Races were held on the 11th October, 1902, for trophies valued at £8 10s. Entries totalling 112 were received, forming 14 crews. A large gathering of Members and their friends, including a fair number of ladies, assembled to witness the sport. The race was rowed off in heats of three crews each, and in every instance the verdict was gained by the barest margin. The final was won by Messrs. J. A. Williams (Yarra), R. W. May (Banks), A. W. Bernadou (Mercantile), P. Tulloch (Yarra), H. Shaw (Mercantile), C. Rippon (Footscray), A. G. Walker (Banks), and E. Taylor (Footscray).

During the afternoon the new dressing room was declared open by your Vice-President, Cr. S. J. Morell, and Mrs. Sloan hoisted a new house flag.

The Club again took advantage of Cr. S. J. Morell's generous donation to hold Combination Eights, on the 28th March, 1903, for trophies valued at £8 10s. All the Metropolitan Clubs competed, and 104 entries were received. The sport attracted a large representative assemblage, who followed the racing with interest, and the fixture proved successful in every way. The winning crew were:—Messrs. F. Bainbridge (Banks), J. Strong (Mercantile), A. W. Bernadou (Mercantile), M. Moran (Footscray), H. Quinnell (Mercantile), G. Lindblade (Mercantile), F. Brown (Mercantile), and S. Craw (Essendon).

## GENERAL CLUB MATTERS.

Your Committee have to again proffer the thanks of the Club to J. B. Whitty, Esq., Sir A. J. Peacock, Cr. Wm. Strong, Cr. S. J. Morell; Messrs J. Sloan (Allendale), E. W. Carey, F. S. Gibbs, A. B. Sloan, T. Brennan, W. Potter, E. T. Bradshaw, H. Brasch, F. and G. Williams, A. Bernadou, T. White, J. G. Strong, and other gentlemen for donations received and many valuable services rendered to the Club.

The connection of the Scotch College with your Club has remained unsevered, and the usual arrangements have continued with mutually satisfactory results.

During the early part of the season an old identity in the person of Mr. Herb. Davies, a doughty performer for the Merces., who was over on a holiday tour from Hong Kong, China, paid a visit to Melbourne. Occasion was taken to extend a welcome to him, which took the form of a Complimentary Smoke Night.

On the 30th June a Smoke Night was held at the Orient Hotel, when a "tip-top" programme was rendered and highly appreciated by a numerous attendance of members and their friends.

The Annual Ball was held as usual, at the Masonic Hall, on the 16th July, and again achieved the standard of success which it has now established. We take this opportunity of thanking the members who kindly gave their assistance and support in this direction. The arrangements, which left nothing to be desired, were ably carried out by Messrs. A. M. Aylwin, Hon. Secretary, and P. C. Ivens, Hon. Treasurer.

Your Committee regret to record the departure from this State of two prominent and enthusiastic members in the persons of Messrs. C. Hazard and H. Sprigg. To mark the appreciation of their services to the Club, a suitable presentation was made in each instance.

Your Committee congratulate Mr. W. Potter, who has lately joined the ranks of the benedicts.

During the season your Club added a practice eight and a clinker racing scull to their fleet of boats, which now consists of one O.S. four, one clinker racing eight, one clinker racing four, one racing pair, one clinker racing skull, two practice eights, two practice fours, two practice pairs, and two sculling boats, all of which are of recent construction and in good order.

A racing clinker four is now in the course of construction, and will be ready for use at the commencement of the ensuing season.

Your Committee have to congratulate the Club on the numerous improvements which have been effected to the boathouse, the most notable being the installation of the electric light throughout the building.

During the latter part of the season a boxing class has been inaugurated amongst the members. The movement has been so far attended with success, and your Committee hopefully anticipate making the class a permanent fixture during the winter months.

Your Committee deeply regret to note the sad death of a fellow-member, Mr. Arthur Terry, who was accidentally drowned while boating on the Thames.

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

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. M. Aylwin, has signified his intention of retiring from office, and the Committee desire to record their appreciation of his services to the Club.



# MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB.

SEASON, 1902-1903.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Balance in hand at 6th Sept., 1902	£4 19 1	By Wages	£14 0 0
„ Subscriptions and Donations, including outstandings from last season	212 11 6	„ Repairs and Improvements to Premises	9 3 9
„ Proceeds of Ball, 1902	22 5 0	„ Insurance	4 16 7
„ Sundry Refunds	3 2 9	„ Rent, Rates, and Taxes	8 15 11
„ Sale of old material	0 4 6	„ Trophies—Club and Combination Races	27 17 0
„ Entrance Fees—Regatta and Championship Races	31 5 0	„ Sundry Expenses and Petty Cash	12 1 6
„ Entrance Fees—Club Races	27 6 0	„ Printing and Stationery	6 19 6
„ Amount due to Treasurer—over-banked	0 17 1	„ V.R.A. Affiliation and Registration of Coxswains	9 10 0
		„ Refund of Entrance Fees	1 0 0
		„ Upper Yarra Regatta Fee	1 10 0
		„ Framing and Repairing Pictures	3 2 6
		„ Banking Charge	0 10 0
		„ Coxswains' Expenses at Regattas	3 2 6
		„ Freight on Boats	4 7 3
		„ James Moore—Extension of Premises	62 12 0
		„ Edwards and Sons—	
		Practice Eight	£50 8 0
		Repairs	22 6 0
			72 14 0
		„ Boxing Gloves	2 17 0
		„ Instructor's Salary	8 0 0
		„ Electric Light Installation	6 0 0
		„ Entrance Regatta and Championship Races	31 10 0
		„ Presentations	3 11 0
		„ Balance in Bank	8 10 5
			£302 10 11
	£302 10 11		

## BALANCE SHEET.

at 5<sup>th</sup> September 1903

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Capital at 6th Sept., 1902	£572 13 7	Boats, Oars, and Sculls	
Revenue Account	125 3 9	at Valuation	£250 0 0 } £300 8 0
Amount due to Treasurer	0 17 1	"                    "	50 8 0 }
Trophy Orders Outstanding	3 0 0	Outstanding Subscriptions	17 16 0
		Boathouse at Valuation	375 0 0
		Bank Balance	8 10 5
	£701 14 5		£701 14 5