



Mercantile Rowing Club

MELBOURNE.



Thirty-Sixth

ANNUAL REPORT

... and ...

BALANCE SHEET



Season 1915-16.

Mercantile Rowing Club.



THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Club will be held at the Club's Boat
House, Yarra Bank,

SATURDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 1916,

At Eight p.m.

BUSINESS:

To receive and adopt Report and Balance Sheet.
Election of Office-Bearers for the Ensuing Year.
General.

Nominations for Office-Bearers for the
ensuing year will close on the Notice Board
at the Boat House, at 6 p.m., on Wednesday,
16th August, 1916.

Mercantile Rowing Club.

SEASON 1915-16.

List of Office-Bearers.

President:

COUNCILLOR S. J. MORELL.

Vice-Presidents:

A. B. SLOAN, Esq.

W. POTTER, Esq.

A. R. MOSES, Esq.

R. A. COOPER, Esq.

G. FAIRBAIRN, Esq.

J. C. BENFOLD, Esq.

T. R. GILCHRIST, Esq.

T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.

Captain:

MR. A. L. DOBBIE.

Vice-Captain:

MR. E. L. KENNY

Hon. Secretary:

MR. WALTER JOSEPH.

Hon. Treasurer:

MR. CLIVE HILL.

Hon. Auditor:

MR. H. MORTENSEN.

Hon. Solicitor:

MR. J. HERMAN.

Committee:

MR. J. WATSON.

MR. R. GREGG.

MR. A. LINDBLADE.

MR. F. R. BROWNE.

MR. A. CLARKE.

MR. U. R. SMITH.

Delegates to the Victorian Rowing Association:

MR. U. R. SMITH.

MR. A. CLARKE.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Rowing Club.



Melbourne, 19th August, 1916.

To the Members of the MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB.

Gentlemen,

In placing before you the 36th Annual Report and Balance Sheet your Committee is glad to be able to record a season which must be regarded as entirely satisfactory under the unprecedented conditions caused by the great European war. This has made its influence felt very keenly on the affairs of the Club, as well as the sport in general, as will be seen on reference to the Roll of Honour. Up to this date 38 of our most active members have answered the call of King and Country. But despite the absence of so many at the front, the membership roll is still most satisfactory, and the financial position very sound. This is due to the increased activity of those remaining, who have fully realised the necessity of sparing no effort to advance as far as possible the affairs of the Club.

Your President, Councillor Morell, has very kindly presented the Club with a handsome Honour Board. This has been placed in the Club room of the Boathouse, and now serves as a permanent record of those members who have volunteered for the defence of the Empire in this the greatest crisis of its existence.

It has been our policy not to allow any of these members to depart on active service without giving them some token of esteem, and in every case a small presentation has been gladly subscribed to. A list showing the last known address of each such member has been placed on the notice board, and it is understood that this has largely helped in fostering correspondence with those at the front, and many newspapers, etc., have been forwarded. This is much appreciated by our boys.

It is gratifying to report that up to the present, with two exceptions, no serious casualties have occurred amongst our members, although there have been a number of cases of sickness. We very much regret to report that Private L. Y. Butler, a member of long standing and one highly esteemed, has been so badly wounded as to be permanently disabled. Lieut. A. T. Harvey has also been seriously wounded.



THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

S. Guinn	S. Gomm	J. E. Kendal
F. Wellings	L. Johnston	F. Sterling
L. Butler	K. Wootton	F. Hill
B. Kerr	C. Jacobs	F. W. Simcocks
L. Elliott	A. Harvey	J. Hopkins
A. Henry	D. Hamilton	W. McDonald
L. Nicholls	G. F. Nicholson	L. G. McDowall
N. Johnston	E. Baum	W. B. Davey
R. J. Robertson	A. R. Lingham	R. Morrison
A. Aubrey	J. L. Mounsey	R. Kerr
R. A. Cooper	N. C. Nation	H. Wilks
G. Sturrock	R. Treacey	E. J. Ingram
J. W. Cumberland	H. Stevens	

Committee Meetings.

Your Committee has met regularly each month. Since the last Annual Meeting Mr. J. W. Cumberland enlisted, and the vacancy caused by his resignation was filled by the appointment of Mr. F. R. Browne.

The attendances at meetings, of which ten regular have been held, have been as follow :—

Mr. Dobbie ... 8	Mr. Lindblade ... 3	Mr. Clarke ... 8
„ Kenny ... 9	„ Joseph ... 10	„ Gregg ... 8
„ *J. E. Brown 2	„ Smith ... 5	„ Watson ... 6
„ Hill ... 8	„ *Cumberland 4	„ *F. R. Browne 4

*Elected or resigned during the season.

Financial.

The members are to be congratulated on the financial position of the Club.

A reference to the Balance Sheet will show that owing to the Committee keeping a close watch on the expenses for the past season sufficient money has been accumulated to almost wipe out the outstanding accounts, and the Club is thus practically free from debt.

It will be noted that the "repairs to boats" item has been considerably reduced.

It is earnestly requested that members will pay their subscriptions as soon as possible in the forthcoming season, and thus early enable the financial position to be ascertained.

Special thanks are due to the following members for their services in maintaining the fleet in good order—Messrs. J. E. Brown, Hill, Clarke and Cumberland. A considerable saving was effected by this means.

Despite the absence of so many of our number at the front, the membership roll is still most satisfactory. This is in a measure due to the increased activities of those remaining in the Club.

Inter-Club Rowing.

During the season no serious rowing has been attempted. The Rowing Association and most of the Regatta Committees decided to abandon their usual regattas during the duration of the war. It therefore became necessary to devise some plan which would prevent interest in rowing dying out. This has been very satisfactorily arrived at by the holding of various Inter-Club Challenge and Continuation races. These have been scratch events, inasmuch as the training customary for regatta races was not carried out. In this way the good relations existing between clubs have been fostered to a degree not previously known, and interest in club life maintained in a very satisfactory manner. Challenge races were held by your Club on the following dates, and your crews secured a fair measure of success:—

11th December, 1915—v. Albert Park Club. Winners, *Maiden Four*—C. Hill (bow), A. Clarke (2), W. Joseph (3), U. R. Smith (stroke).

5th February, 1916—v. Albert Park Club. No success was met with.

19th February—v. Civil Service, Hawthorn and Footscray Clubs. Again no wins were rewarded.

11th March, 1916—v. Civil Service, Yarra Yarra, Banks and Richmond Clubs. The following *Senior Eight* was successful—A. Lindblade (bow), P. Wade (2), J. Watson (3), A. Dobbie (4), J. Tanner (5), E. Kenny (6), A. Gregg (7), J. Harding (stroke).

20th May, 1916—v. Hawthorn at Hawthorn. The *Maiden Four*—A. Trehearne (bow), H. Mortensen (2), F. R. Browne (3), U. R. Smith (stroke)—and *Senior Four*—C. Vanderkelen (bow), E. Kenny (2), R. Gregg (3), J. Harding (stroke)—were the winning crews.

15th July, 1916—v. Hawthorn at Princes Bridge. The winning crews were:—*Maiden Four*—W. Joseph (bow), H. Mortensen (2), F. R. Browne (3), U. R. Smith (stroke)—and *Senior Four*—C. Vanderkelen (bow), J. Harding (2), R. Gregg (3), E. Kenny (stroke).

The following members competed successfully in Combination Races. Others rowed in the final heats:—

Essendon, 12th February, 1916—E. Stirling in winning crew.

Richmond, 8th July, 1916—J. Harding, E. Kenny and A. Trehearne in winning crew.

It was not found practicable to hold the usual Club Races.

General Club Items.

Owing to the war no attempt has been made to hold the usual time-honoured Club functions, and with the exception of a complimentary Smoke night tendered to your Captain in November last, on the occasion of his marriage, no social gatherings have taken place. This function was a great success, and a presentation was made to the Captain as a token of the esteem in which he is held. During the evening presentations were also made to several of our members then about to depart for the front.

A number of other members have also joined the ranks of the benedicts, viz., Messrs. Mortensen, Burton, Vanderkelen, Dorman, and your Treasurer, Mr. Clive Hill. Your Committee extends to them congratulations and good wishes.

It is with great regret that your Committee has to record the loss to the Club of the services of Mr. J. E. Brown, who so capably filled the office of Vice-Captain during the past three years. Early in the season business exigencies took him from Melbourne. It was hoped his absence would be of a temporary nature only, but unfortunately Mr. Brown at a later date found that his return for the present was unlikely, and reluctantly forwarded his resignation. Mr. J. W. Cumberland was appointed acting Vice-Captain in Mr. Brown's absence, and did excellent work. On his enlistment Mr. E. Kenny was in turn appointed acting Vice-Captain, and on the resignation of Mr. Brown he was appointed Vice-Captain. The best thanks of the members are due to Mr. Kenny for the capable manner in which he has carried out the duties of this office.

Your Committee wishes to place on record their high appreciation of the services rendered to the Club by Mr. Brown during his terms of office as Committeeman and Vice-Captain. He was admirably qualified to fill these offices, and at all times did his utmost to further the welfare of the Club. Our best wishes go with him in his new sphere of activity.

At the last annual meeting Mr. N. C. Nation was elected Hon. Auditor. On his resignation from office on account of his enlistment, Mr. H. Mortensen kindly consented to assume the duties of Hon. Auditor.

A gratifying feature of the season has been the way in which the members have attended the Boathouse each week-end both throughout Summer and Winter. There has always been an excellent muster, largely composed of members of many years' standing, but also of newer members. Much enjoyable rowing has resulted, and the interest in the club life well maintained. The manner in which members have stuck by the Club during this period of depression augurs well for its success when a return is made to normal conditions.

The arrangements between the Scotch College and your Club still continue to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

Your Committee feels that a special word of thanks is due to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Clive Hill. His work during the past two seasons has been particularly arduous, owing to war conditions, and it is largely due to his unremitting care that the finances of the Club are in such a satisfactory state. He early recognised the necessity of strict economy in every possible way, and it is only by keeping this always before the Committee that such a creditable Balance Sheet is possible. Although he will not be able to devote as much time as formerly to the Club's business, he has kindly undertaken the work for at least another year. Mr. Gregg will act as his assistant.

Your Committee is pleased to be able to announce that the Captain, Vice-Captain, and Hon. Secretary have also consented to continue in office during the coming season.

You are again indebted to Mr. J. Herman for officiating as the Club's Hon. Solicitor. Fortunately Mr. Herman's services have not been required, nevertheless it is pleasing to note that he has always been ready to act if called upon.

The Fleet.

The fleet of boats has been well maintained without any additions being made. All the boats are in good order, and the supply of oars is adequate for all requirements. At the same time your Committee urges on members the necessity for the careful handling of the Club property, as it is still necessary to observe rigid economy. A considerable saving in the repairs account was effected by the splendid work done by Messrs. J. E. Brown, C. Hill, J. W. Cumberland and A. Clarke in maintaining the boats in good repair. At the commencement of the season they varnished and thoroughly overhauled the fleet, putting it in perfect order. A great amount of work was required to effect this, and our best thanks are due to these gentlemen.

Conclusion.

In conclusion your Committee desires to thank the members for the assistance they have rendered by their loyalty to the Club's welfare. This is a time of unprecedented stress, but with a continuance of the active interest of every member, it is hoped that at the end of the next season the incoming committee will be able to report another successful year.

On behalf of the Committee,

Yours truly,

WALTER JOSEPH,

Hon. Secretary.

Addendum.

The Club again desires to record its appreciation of the unflagging attention to his duties shown by your Secretary, Mr. W. Joseph, during the trying season just ended. He has maintained his well-earned popularity and has discharged his honorary duties in his usual capable and efficient manner.

On behalf of the Committee,

S. J. MORELL,

President.

Expenditure for Season 1915-1916.

EXPENDITURE.

By Repairs to Boats and Oars	£4 11 9
„ Postages	2 4 6
„ Printing and Stationery	0 2 4
„ Printing Annual Report, 1915	8 5 0
„ Expenses Annual Meeting, 1915	3 6 11
„ V.R.A. Registration Fees	6 10 0
„ Expenses of Coxwains at Regattas	3 14 2
„ Insurance	11 19 3
„ Freight on Boats to Regattas	0 6 0
„ Regatta Entrance Fees	0 10 0
„ Lighting Water and General Rates	11 6 6
„ Trophies for Club Races	7 7 0
„ Caretakers' Wages	32 10 0
„ Telephone—Rent and Charges	0 19 5
„ Treasury—Lease of Land	2 12 6
„ Bank Charges	0 15 0
„ Presentations Account	5 5 0
„ Smoke Night Expenses, 1914	1 1 0
„ Christmas Boxes	3 3 0
„ Staging, Repairs, etc.	2 0 0
„ Sundries	4 0 11
„ BALANCE—	
Bank of New South Wales at 31st July, 1916	£8 4 2
State Savings Bank at 31st July, 1916 (Boat	
Building Account)	35 2 11
	43 7 1
	£155 17 4

CLIVE HILL,

Hon. Treasurer.

BALANCE SHEET as at the 31st July, 1916.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
I. Edwards & Sons	Boathouse at valuation
Trophy Orders represented	BOATS.
Capital—Excess of Assets over Liabilities	"A. R. Blackwood" { Racing Eights
	"A. F. Sloan" {
	"A. B. Sloan" { Practice Eights
	"J. C. Dillon" {
	"S. J. Morell" { Practice Eights
	"P. C. Ivens" {
	"A. L. Dobbie" { Racing Fours
	"J. E. Brown" {
	"A. R. Moses" {
	"J. B. Whitty" { Practice Fours
	"E. T. Bradshaw" {
	"A. G. Lindblade" { (Racing Pair)
	"Old Racing Pair
	"S. Gunn" { Practice Pairs
	"W. Joseph" {
	"R. A. Cooper" { (Racing Sculling Boat)
	"Old Racing Sculling Boat
	Two Practice Sculling Boats
	345 0 0
	OARS.
	20 at 16/8 each
	36 at 6/6 each
	Pair Racing Sculls
	Two Pairs Practice Sculls
	31 2 0
	Carpenter's Bench, etc.
	Case for Racing Pair
	Case for Racing Four
	Club Badges
	Caps, Singlets and Knickers
	Rowing Machine
	Club Fittings
	Outstanding Subscriptions
	BALANCE AT BANKS.
	At Cr. of Boat Bldg. A/c at State Savings Bank
	At Cr. at Bank of New South Wales
	£35 2 11
	8 4 2
	43 7 1
	£1,160 18 9

(Contingent Liability on old Trophy Orders - £5 5 0)

£1160 18 7

Audited and found correct.

H. N. MORTENSEN, A.F.I.A., Hon. Auditor.

CLIVE HILL, Hon. Treasurer.

Melbourne, 5th August, 1916.