

Mercantile Rowing Club.



THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Club will be held at the Club's Boat
House, Yarra Bank,

SATURDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1917,

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,
29th August.

WALTER JOSEPH,
Hon. Secretary.

Mercantile Rowing Club.

SEASON 1916-17.

List of Office-Bearers.

President:

COUNCILLOR S. J. MORELL.

Vice-Presidents:

A. B. SLOAN, Esq.

SENATOR G. FAIRBAIRN

W. POTTER, Esq.

J. C. BENFOLD, Esq.

A. R. MOSES, Esq.

T. R. GILCHRIST, Esq.

R. A. COOPER, Esq.

T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.

Captain:

MR. A. L. DOBBIE.

Vice-Captain:

MR. E. KENNY.

Hon. Secretary:

MR. WALTER JOSEPH.

Hon. Treasurer:

MR. ALEC CLARKE.

Assistant Hon. Treasurer:

MR. R. GREGG.

Hon. Auditor:

MR. W. C. HARVEY

Hon. Solicitor:

MR. J. HERMAN

Committee:

MR. J. WATSON

MR. U. R. SMITH

MR. R. GREGG

MR. F. R. BROWNE

MR. A. WOOD

MR. H. MORTENSEN

Delegates to the Victorian Rowing Association:

MR. U. R. SMITH

MR. ALEC CLARKE

Delegate to the Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association:

MR. W. JOSEPH.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Rowing Club.



Melbourne, Sept. 1st., 1917.

To the Members of the MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB.

Gentlemen,

Your Committee has much pleasure in placing before you the 37th Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the season just closed. In spite of a year which has been unprecedented in the history of the Club, it is gratifying to be able to report that the affairs of your Club are still in a sound condition, as far as the financial position is concerned, and by hard work and perseverance the state of the membership roll has been fairly well maintained.

A.I.F.

The Roll of Honour has been increased since the last report by the enlistments of Messrs. J. E. Ready, J. A. Ilsley and R. C. Vincent. It is to be greatly regretted that Messrs. A. R. Lingham, Geof. Robertson, and R. J. Robertson have made the supreme sacrifice, and to the relatives of these three gentlemen your sincere condolences are tendered. Several other members have been reported wounded and ill, but we are pleased to report nothing of a serious nature. We have had the pleasure of welcoming Messrs. L. Butler and A. T. Harvey on their return from the war, both looking as well as can be expected.

A.I.F.

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

*Killed in action.

In April last Mr. Clive Hill, who had acted as Hon. Treasurer for the past three years, resigned from the Club on account of leaving to take up his abode in New Zealand. Your Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to the Club by Mr. Hill during the three years in which he held office. He thoroughly upheld the high standard set by his predecessors. Prior to his departure he was the recipient of a small token of the esteem and goodwill in which he was held, and as a slight recognition of the valuable services he had rendered to the Club. We wish Mr. Hill the best of luck in his new sphere of life. Mr. Alec. Clarke kindly undertook to carry out the duties of Hon. Treasurer during the remainder of the season, and to this gentleman your best thanks are due.

Your best thanks are tendered to Mr. R. Gregg for his valuable services as Assistant Hon. Treasurer. The assistance he has rendered has been invaluable.

During the season your Committee adopted a new temporary bye-law, as follows:—

“In view of the unprecedented position, in consequence of the continuance of the war, and to offer a special inducement for suitable young men to become members of the Club, special membership be offered to approved candidates for the sum of 12/6 from this date to the end of season 1916-17. Such members are not to have a vote in the management of the Club's affairs, and to be elected solely at the discretion of the Committee.”

And to this the following was added at a subsequent meeting:—

“That there be an age limit of 25 for all future nominations.”

The result of this bye-law has been satisfactory, and it is anticipated that it will be the means of securing many permanent members for the Club's rolls.

Committee Meetings.

Your Committee has met regularly throughout the past season ; there have been 10 meetings held, the attendances at which were:—

Mr. Dobbie ...	9	Mr F. R. Browne	10	Mr. Gregg ...	8
„ Kenny ...	10	„ Mortensen ...	10	„ Smith ...	9
„ *Hill ...	5	„ Woods ...	9	„ Joseph ...	10
„ Clarke ...	9	„ Watson ...	8		

*Resigned in April.

Financial.

From the Balance Sheet presented to-night members will note the finances of the Club continue to be in a sound position, which must be deemed highly satisfactory under the trying conditions now prevailing

Your Committee has much pleasure in expressing their appreciation of the prompt way in which members have met their liabilities in the season now past. Members are reminded that it is necessary to pay their subscriptions as early in the ensuing season as possible, in order that current expenditure may be promptly met.

In view of the heavy cost of repairs to boats and oars, members are earnestly reminded to be extremely careful when using them.

Rowing.

Through the generosity of Councillor S. J. Morell, your President, the popular "Morell" Combination Eight-oared Races were revived and held on Saturday, 9th December. In view of the depletion of the ranks of oarsmen, the large entry received (17 crews) was highly satisfactory, and a most enjoyable afternoon's sport resulted. Apart from those competing, it was very gratifying to see such a large gathering of old rowing men and friends of the Club at the river on that occasion. After some very good racing the following were returned winners:—W. Day (H.) stroke, R. Jenkin (R) 7, F. Parr (F.) 6, H. Lindow (F.) 5, J. R. Shaw (S.C.) 4, R. T. Thwaites (B.) 3, V. Gadd (M.) 2, J. E. Shilliday (S.C.) bow.

Your Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the splendid support accorded by members of the other rowing clubs.

Other Combination Races were held as follows:—

- 2nd September—Metropolitan Clubs, on the River; Mr. A. G. Trehearne rowing in the winning crew.
- 14th October—Albert Park Club's opening day. Mr. E. Kenny rowed in the winning crew.
- 14th January—Richmond Club's Combination Fours. None of your representatives were in the winning crew.
- 10th February—Albert Park Club's Combination Fours. Mr. E. Stirling was in the winning crew.
- 17th February—V.R.A. Combination Eights, also on 31st March. None of your representatives secured wins.
- 10th March—Essendon Combination Fours. Mr. E. Kenny stroked the winning crew.
- 18th May—Hawthorn Combination Fours. None of your representatives secured a place.

No Regatta races have been held in the metropolis, but at Easter-time a Maiden Pair-oared crew, consisting of J. G. Sprigg (bow) and A. G. Trehearne (stroke), competed unsuccessfully at the Safe Regatta. In the series of Sculling races, promoted by the Amateur Sculling Association, Messrs. Trehearne and Gadd have, on various occasions, competed. No Club racing has taken place, but several combination races have been held by various clubs, and the Victorian Rowing Association, which your members have liberally patronised with entries.

On 5th May a most enjoyable eight-oared race took place between the married and single members of the Club over the Henley course. Much interest and friendly rivalry had been aroused over this meeting, and after the married men had held the lead for over half the course the race was won by the single men. The following were the crews:—*Single*—E. Sterling (bow), A. G. Trehearne, F. R. Browne, J. H. Picken, P. Wade, R. Gregg, U. R. Smith (stroke). *Married*—C. Vanderkelen (bow), A. Dorman, W. Joseph, H. Mortensen, A. Dobbie, E. Kenny, J. Watson, J. Harding (stroke).

Right throughout the season a feature of the rowing at the week-ends has been the impromptu eight-oared racing. Your Club has on almost every occasion been represented by two crews. On several occasions, in addition to the River clubs taking part, crews have competed from the Albert Park, Hawthorn, and Footscray clubs, and on the occasion of the first-named crew's visit one of your crews succeeded in winning from a "field" of six. Your Club has been well to the fore at all of these races.

General Club Items.

Towards the end of the season your Committee was called upon by the Alexandra Park Trust, from whom the ground lease of the Boathouse is held, to repaint and renovate the Boathouse. Although not altogether unexpected the mandate was promptly obeyed, but the cost involved threw a strain on the finances which it was impossible to meet out of the greatly-diminished revenue. Your Committee considered the question very carefully as to whether the work should be done by contract or by working-bee among the members, and arrived at the conclusion that the former was the better solution of the difficulty, although more expense would be entailed. In coming to this decision the main questions which guided your Committee were the bad weather and short days which prevail at this time of the year, and the lack of expert knowledge among those members who were willing to devote sufficient time to such a large undertaking. The work has now been satisfactorily completed, and it is confidently anticipated that it will be many years before the Boathouse will require repainting. Your best thanks are due to the following gentlemen for donations towards the cost of this work:—Councillor S. J. Morell; J. Morell, Esq.; M. S. Macnaughton, Esq.; T. F. Brennan, Esq.; Jas. O'Reilly, Esq.; J. C. Benfold, Esq.; A. B. Sloan, Esq.; A. G. Lindblade, Esq.; A. G. Trehearne, Esq.; P. Wade, Esq.; E. C. O'Loughlin, Esq.; E. Stirling, Esq.; R. Stirling, Esq.; H. Mortensen, Esq.; E. Kenny, Esq.; L. Hanson, Esq.; V. Gadd, Esq.; F. R. Browne, Esq.; A. Clarke, Esq.; A. Dobbie, Esq.; A. Wood, Esq.; J. H. Picken, Esq.; J. Watson, Esq.; J. Sprigg, Esq.; U. R. Smith, Esq.; R. Gregg, Esq.; W. Joseph, Esq.

In addition to the work referred to above, several of your fellow members formed themselves into a working bee and devoted two full Saturday afternoons for the purpose of cleaning and repainting the front upstairs room of the Boathouse, with very creditable results. For this work you are indebted to Messrs. Gregg, Smith, Harding, Watson, Kenny, Clarke, Wade, Browne, and Vanderkelen.

Throughout the past season, both summer and winter, there has again been a very gratifying attendance of members at the Boathouse each week-end, which has resulted in much enjoyable rowing, besides serving to maintain the interest in Club life. The thanks of all members are due to your Captain and Vice-Captain for the capable and efficient manner in which they have regularly studied the pleasure of members.

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

Two old and popular fellow-members, Messrs. J. H. Picken and A. G. Lindblade, have recently joined the ranks of the benedicts; and this opportunity is again taken of expressing our sincere good wishes for their future happiness.

Mr. W. C. Harvey has returned to Melbourne after an absence of seven years in London at the High Commissioner's office. We are pleased to state that he almost immediately found his way down to the old spot, and is again enrolled on the membership list.

Your best thanks are due to Mr. C. Vanderkelen for his generous donation of a quantity of towels for the use of members. His gift was greatly appreciated.

The Parks and Gardens Committee of the Melbourne City Council has recently taken over the control of the boat-staging in front of the Boathouse. It is the intention of this committee to levy a toll of £50 per annum, for the purpose, not only of repairs and maintenance, but for creating a sinking fund. The question of allocating the proportion payable by each of the various clubs and boatbuilders fronting the River at Princes Bridge is at present engaging the attention of the Victorian Rowing Association.

Messrs. A. Clarke and U. R. Smith have again acted as delegates throughout the past season to the Victorian Rowing Association, and your best thanks are tendered to these two gentlemen.

At the last Annual Meeting, Mr. H. Mortensen was elected Hon. Auditor, but on election to the Committee he resigned the office. Your Committee was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W. C. Harvey, and to this gentleman your best thanks are hereby tendered for his valuable services.

Since the last report was published no additions have been made to the fleet of boats, but they have been kept in thorough repair and are in good order, and the supply of oars is adequate for all requirements. At the same time your Committee wishes to impress upon members the necessity for the careful handling of the Club's property.

Conclusion.

Your Committee, in relinquishing office, wishes to thank members for their support and confidence, and trusts that its efforts will have met with appreciation.

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.

Dr. Statement of Receipts and

RECEIPTS.

To Balance at Bank of New South Wales on August 1st, 1916	... ..	£8 4 2	
„ Balance at State Savings Bank of Victoria on August 1st, 1916	... ..	35 2 11	
		—————	£43 7 1
Subscriptions—			
Season 1915/16—Arrears	... ..	2 4 6	
Season 1916/17—			
31 Full Members	... ..	68 19 6	
14 Honorary Members	... ..	16 4 0	
8 Junior Members	... ..	5 0 0	
		—————	92 8 0
„ Donations and Contributions	... ..	...	73 18 0
„ Sale of Singlets	... ..	...	0 7 6
„ Entrance Fees—Club Races	... ..	...	12 10 0
„ „ „ Inter-club Races (<i>vide contra</i>)	... ..	...	5 12 0

—————
£228 2 7
—————

Audited and found correct,

W. C. HARVEY, A.I.A.V.,

August 20th, 1917.

Hon. Auditor.

Expenditure for Season, 1916-17. Cr.

EXPENDITURE.

By Repairs and Renewals to Boats and Oars	...	...	£51	2	0
„ Printing, Stationery, and Postages	...	...	2	1	6
„ Printing Annual Report, 1916	...	...	6	8	6
„ Expenses Annual Meeting	...	...	0	15	3
„ V.R.A. Registration Fees	...	...	7	17	6
„ Coxswains' Expenses at Regatta	...	...	2	12	6
„ „ Fees for Season	...	...	0	5	0
„ Insurance against Fire	...	...	12	12	0
„ Insurance—Workers' Compensation Act	...	...	0	10	0
„ Lighting, Water and General Rates	...	...	10	11	2
„ Trophies for Club Races	...	...	5	14	6
„ Caretaker's Wages	...	...	32	10	0
„ Treasury—Lease of Land	...	...	2	2	0
„ Bank Charges and Cheque Book	...	...	1	0	0
„ Presentation Account	...	...	3	3	0
„ Christmas Boxes	...	...	3	3	0
„ Trickett Memorial Fund	...	...	0	10	6
„ Contribution to Staging	...	...	2	0	0
„ Sundries	...	...	1	19	6
„ Affiliation Fee—Amateur Sculling Association	...	...	0	10	6
„ Repairs to Shed	...	...	1	0	0
„ Shed Painting	...	...	0	10	0
„ Entrance Fees—Inter-club Races (<i>vide contra</i>)	...	...	5	12	0
„ Balance Bank of New South Wales	...	£50	9	3	
„ „ State Savings Bank	...	23	2	11	
		—————	73	12	2
			£228	2	7

A. CLARKE,

Hon. Treasurer.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st July, 1917.

LIABILITIES.

R. W. Ellis and others—Painting Account ...	£41 9 0
Trophy Orders unpresented ...	4 14 6
Capital, being excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	1,146 17 8

ASSETS.

Boathouse, at valuation ...	£700 0 0
Boats, Oars, and Sculls, at valuation ...	375 0 0
Club Fittings, at valuation ...	25 0 0
Carpenter's Bench and Boat Boxes ...	8 0 0
Rowing Machine ...	1 0 0
Singlets and Caps ...	1 11 0
Outstanding Subscriptions ...	8 18 0
Balance at Credit at—	
Bank of New South Wales ...	£50 9 3
Savings Bank of Victoria ...	23 2 11
	73 12 2

£1,193 1 2

£1,193 1 2

Audited and found correct,

W. C. HARVEY, A.I.A.V.,

Melbourne, 20/8/17. Hon. Auditor.

A. CLARKE,

Hon. Treasurer.