

# Mercantile Rowing Club.

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THE 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the Club will be held at the Club's Boat  
House, Yarra Bank,

SATURDAY, 24TH AUGUST, 1918,

At Eight p.m.

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## 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,  
21st August.

WALTER JOSEPH,

Hon. Secretary.

# Mercantile Rowing Club.

SEASON 1917-18.

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## 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.

SENATOR G. FAIRBAIRN  
J. C. BENFOLD, Esq.  
T. R. GILCHRIST, 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. J. HARDING  
MR. F. R. BROWNE  
MR. G. BURKE

MR. U. R. SMITH  
MR. R. GREGG  
MR. A. WOOD

### Delegates to the Victorian Rowing Association :

MR. U. R. SMITH

MR. ALEC CLARKE

# THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Mercantile Rowing Club.

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Melbourne, 24th August, 1918.

To the Members of the Mercantile Rowing Club.

Gentlemen,

It gives your Committee much pleasure and satisfaction in placing before you this evening the Thirty-eighth Annual Report and Balance Sheet of your Club. Once again it is pleasant to record that, in spite of abnormal times, the affairs of the Club are still in a very sound condition, and the financial position, to which reference is made later on, is all that can be desired under the circumstances. The membership roll remains, numerically, about the same as at this period last year, the resignations and departures of members with the A.I.F. being counter-balanced by the number of new members who have joined the Club during the past season. This pleasant state of affairs has been brought about mainly through the energy of several of the present older members, who have put in exceptionally good work in securing this result.

Since the last report was issued, the following members have joined the A.I.F.: J. G. Sprigg, G. E. Anderson, and we again take the opportunity of wishing these members God-speed and a safe return. It is sincerely to be regretted that the following members have been killed in action during the past year: Captain N. L. Johnston and Lieut. N. Nation,

and to the relatives of these gentlemen your sincere condolences are tendered. Several others have been, at different times, reported wounded or ill, but, we are pleased to report, nothing of a serious nature. We have had the pleasure of welcoming back to the river the following, since our last report, and are pleased to see them once again restored to health: Lieut. L. Nicholls, M.M.; Captain R. A. Cooper, Lieut. C. Jacobs, Gunner R. Treacey, Lieut. W. McDonald, M.C.; Captain H. H. Wilks, M.C.; W. O. S. K. Wootton, Sargent L. Johnston, and a former coxswain, Private S. McCulloch.

## The Roll of Honor.

The Roll of Honor on the Club's dressing room wall now reads:

### A. I. F.

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

\*Killed in action.

Several prominent Club members have left us during the past year to take up their residences in other States, among whom are Messrs. Mortensen, Logan, M. C. Brown, P. Wade, and E. O'Loughlin. We again take the opportunity of wishing these gentlemen every success in their new sphere of activities. It is also to be regretted that Mr. J. Herman has found it necessary, acting under medical advice, to resign his membership. For the past 18 years you have been indebted to this gentleman for his services as hon. solicitor, and although, fortunately—especially during the latter term of his connection with the Club—his services have not been greatly required; yet, in the earlier days you have a lot to thank him for. Mr. Herman has kindly offered to place his services at the disposal of the Club in an honorary capacity, should they be at any time required, and we take this opportunity of again thanking him.

Your Committee has met regularly throughout the year, and has given a deal of attention to your Club's affairs. The following bye-law was adopted early in the season, and has had beneficial results :

"That persons at the age of 21 years and under be admitted as 'concession' members, at a subscription of £1/3/6 for the season 1917-18. This bye-law applies for the first year of membership only, after which the full subscription shall be applicable. Such 'concession' members shall have no voice in the management of the affairs of the Club."

Another bye-law which was made, reads: "That a special class of member, to be known as a 'non-rowing member,' be created. The subscription shall be £1/3/6 per annum. The election of such members shall be entirely at the discretion of the Committee, and they shall have no voice in the management of the affairs of the Club."

## Committee Meetings.

The attendances of Committeemen at the regular meetings, of which 11 have been held, were :

Mr. A. Dobbie ... 9	Mr. U. R. Smith ... 7	Mr. J. Harding ... 11
„ E. Kenny ... 11	„ G. Burke ... 3	* „ H. Mortensen ... 6
„ A. Clarke ... 10	„ J. Watson ... 6	„ A. Woods ... 8
„ R. Gregg ... 8	„ F. R. Browne ... 9	„ W. Joseph ... 11

\* Elected or resigned during the season.

As above stated, Mr. H. Mortensen left Melbourne in March, and Mr. G. Burke was elected to the vacancy on the Committee.

## Financial.

Members will learn, from a perusal of the balance sheet presented to-night, that the Club shows a strong financial front.

Every item of expenditure during the season has been very carefully scrutinized, and, by this means, any unnecessary expense has been promptly avoided.

Subscriptions for the season have been well met, there being a comparatively small amount outstanding; but the Committee would particularly ask members to pay their dues early in the coming season, in order that current expenditure may be promptly paid.

As repairs to boats and oars regularly forms a considerable item in the year's payments, members are asked to exercise every care when using them, so that the amount may be largely reduced.

## Rowing.

Your President, Councillor S. J. Morell, again generously donated the trophies for the popular "Morell" Combination Eights, held on 8th December. An entry of 120 oarsmen was obtained from among the various metropolitan clubs, which may be regarded as highly satisfactory in view of the continued depletion in the ranks of the oarsmen due to enlistments with the A.I.F. There was the usual large gathering of old rowing men and friends of the Club on the bank, and an enjoyable afternoon's sport ensued. Again your Committee desires to express its appreciation for the entries and support accorded to it by members of other clubs. Nine heats and a final were necessary to decide the winners, and the result was a victory for the following crew: S. Llewellyn (R.) bow, J. Kain (E), C. Hunter (F), J. Tilley (H), F. Ryan (C.S.), D. Jenkins (R), M. Billsborrow (A.P.), E. Kenny (M) stroke. Your fellow-members, J. Harding, J. Watson, and H. Smythe, occupied seats in the runners-up crew.

This was the only race conducted by your Club, but members competed in many other combination races throughout the season, with a fair measure of success, all of which were greatly enjoyed. The following are the results:

October 6—Civil Service Rowing Club Combination Eights; E. Kenny (stroke), A. Lindbalde (7), in winning crew. C. Vanderkelen was in third crew of the final heat.

November 17—"Alf. Woods'" Combination Fours, Richmond Rowing Club; W. G. Bannerman, E. Roberts and W. Harvey in second crew of final.

November 24—Combination Fours, Albert Park Club; W. G. Bannerman in second crew of final.

December 15—Open Challenge Races, on Yarra. Your Club was beaten in heat of Maiden Fours, rowed third in Maiden Eights (five crews), and won Senior Fours (five crews). The names of this crew were J. Watson (bow), E. Kenny, R. Gregg, and J. Harding (stroke). The course was the Henley "straight" of half-a-mile.

January 19—Victorian Rowing Association Combination Eights; J. Watson, U. Smith, M. G. McQualter, and W. C. Harvey were in the "runners-up" crew.

March 23—Victorian Rowing Association Combination Eights; M. G. Anderson was in winning crew, E. Kenny stroked the runners-up.

In the Sculling Association's Handicap Races several of your members have regularly competed. On 26th January W. G. Bannerman and E. Roberts each won their heats; Bannerman broke a scull in the final, which was won by E. Roberts. On 2nd March E. Roberts won his heat, and was second in the final.

The only Open Regatta this season was held at Colac on 1st January. Your Club was represented by a *Junior Four*, consisting of C. Vanderkelen (bow), H. Mortensen (2), R. Gregg (3), and R. Rush (stroke), which finished in the second place.

During the past season the attendances at the river at the week-ends have been very large, and have been a matter of great gratification to your Committee. On several occasions the three practise eight-oared boats have been in use at the same time, in addition to the fours and pairs. Not the least enjoyable feature in connection with the week-end rowing has been the impromptu racing with the other clubs in eight-oared boats. On 24th June a race of exceptional interest took place, when crews representing seven clubs met over a mile course on the Lower Yarra. After an exciting race, the Civil Service crew proved successful, with your Club in second place. Of fourteen starts in these contests your crews were successful on ten occasions. Mr. J. Harding has, on almost every occasion, occupied the stroke seat.

### **General Club Items.**

Prior to leaving Melbourne, Mr. P. Wade was entertained by many of his friends in the Club at a complimentary dinner, a very pleasant evening being spent, which was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Messrs. J. G. Sprigg and F. R. Browne have joined the ranks of the benedicts during the past year, and both gentlemen were the recipients of small mementos from the members of the Club as a mark of esteem and goodwill.

The following distinctions have been gained by our members on active service:

*Military Crosses*—Captain H. H. Wilks and Lieut. W. McDonald.

*Distinguished Conduct Medal*—Sergt. J. L. Mounsey.

*Military Medal*—Lieut. L. Nichols.

The relations between the Scotch College Rowing Club and your Club still continue with mutual satisfaction to both parties

The fleet of boats is the same as at this time last year, no additions or alterations having taken place; the boat themselves being all in good repair. The supply of oars is being added to by two new sets, which your Committee has placed an order for, to be delivered early in the new season, as with the ordinary wear and tear, and the usual amount of rough usage, the supply was falling behind requirements, especially at the week-ends. In this connection members are again urged to take as much care of the Club's property as possible, especially as the increased cost of replacing it is now very high.

The question of members wearing the Club uniform whilst on the river has received attention, and a marked improvement in this respect has already taken place.

You are again indebted to your captain, Mr. A. L. Dobbie, and vice-captain, Mr. E. Kenny, for their attention in studying the comfort and convenience of members, and in arranging crews at the week-ends, and at other times when called upon. To Mr. A. Clarke, your hon. treasurer, and his assistant, Mr. R. V. Gregg, is mainly due the credit of the very satisfactory balance-sheet placed before you this evening, these two gentlemen have given a lot of their time and attention to the affairs of the Club, and are to be greatly thanked for their efforts.

Your interests on the Committee of the Victorian Rowing Association have again been in the capable hands of Messrs. A. Clarke and U. R. Smith, and both these gentlemen are hereby thanked for their attention. You are again indebted to Mr. W. C. Harvey for his services as hon. auditor.

In conclusion, your Committee, in relinquishing office, trusts that its efforts will have met with appreciation, and thanks members for their support and confidence.

On behalf of the Committee,

WALTER JOSEPH,

Hon. Secretary.

### **Addendum.**

Your Committee has again to place on record its appreciation of the services of Mr. Walter Joseph as hon. secretary. The season which has just closed is the ninth successive year in which he has acted in that capacity, and throughout his long term of office he has carried out the secretarial duties with marked ability. Members will be glad to know that he will continue in office during the coming season.

On behalf of the Committee,

S. J. MORELL,

President.



## Dr. Statement of Receipts and

### RECEIPTS.

To Balance at Bank of New South Wales on				
1st August, 1918	...	...	...	£50 9 3
„ Balance at State Savings Bank, 1st August,				
1918...	...	...	...	23 2 11
				£73 12 2
Subscriptions—				
Full Member's, Season 1916-17—Arrears				4 9 0
Full Member's, Season 1917-18	...			86 15 6
End of Season Members, 1917-18	...			4 14 0
Junior Members, Season 1916-17—Arrears				0 12 6
Junior Members, Season 1917-18	...			3 10 6
Honorary Members	...	...	...	11 12 6
				111 14 0
„ Donations and Contributions	...	...	...	66 12 6
„ Entrance Fees—Inter-club Races ( <i>vide contra</i> )			...	8 14 0
„ Entrance Fees, Club Races	...	...	...	12 0 0
„ Shed Painting	...	...	...	8 5 0
„ Sale of Singlets	...	...	...	1 17 6
„ Sale of Members' Metal Badges	...	...	...	0 10 0
„ Presentation, as per contra	...	...	...	1 3 0
„ Fees—Life Saving Class	...	...	...	0 6 0
„ Interest on Savings Bank Account	...	...	...	1 12 3
				£286 6 5

Audited and found correct,

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

*Hon. Auditor.*

## Expenditure for Season, 1917-18. Cr.

### EXPENDITURE.

By Repairs and Renewals to Boats and Oars	...	...	£15 14 7
„ Printing, Stationery and Postages	...	...	4 18 0
„ Printing Annual Report and Posting same	...	...	6 15 4
„ Expenses Annual Meeting	...	...	2 8 5
„ V.R.A. Dues and Fees	...	...	7 10 0
„ Coxswain's Expenses at Regatta	...	...	1 9 0
„ Freight on Boat at Regatta	...	...	0 5 3
„ Insurance—Fire	...	...	12 12 0
„ Workers' Compensation Act	...	...	0 7 6
„ Lighting, Water and General Rates	...	...	14 18 2
„ Trophies for Club Races	...	...	9 9 0
„ Caretaker's Wages	...	...	32 10 0
„ Lease of Land	...	...	2 2 0
„ Cheque Book and Bank Charges	...	...	0 15 0
„ Presentation, as per contra	...	...	1 3 0
„ Xmas Boxes	...	...	3 3 0
„ Landing Stage	...	...	3 3 0
„ Sundries	...	...	2 15 11
„ Royal Life Saving Society	...	...	0 13 0
„ Amateur Sculling Association	...	...	0 10 6
„ Painting Shed	...	...	39 10 0
„ Entrance Fees Interclub Races, vide contra	...	...	8 14 0
„ Wreaths	...	...	1 13 6
„ Expenses Morell Eights	...	...	2 3 0
„ Singlets and Towels	...	...	6 6 3
„ Repairs to Shed	...	...	1 1 9
„ Balance at Bank of New South Wales, after allowing for outstanding cheques	...	£20 14 0	
„ Balance at State Savings Bank	...	83 1 3	
		—————	103 15 3
			£286 6 5

A. CLARKE,

Melbourne,

*Hon. Treasurer.*

August, 9th, 1918.

## BALANCE SHEET as at 31st July, 1918.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Trophy Orders Unpresented	... £4 14 6	Boathouse, at valuation	... £690 0 0
Boat Building Fund	... 83 1 3	Boats, Oars, and Sculls, at valuation	... 350 0 0
Capital by excess of Assets over Liabilities	... 1,091 7 6	Club Fittings, at valuation	... 22 0 0
		Carpenter's Bench and Boat Boxes	... 7 0 0
		Rowing Machine	... 1 0 0
		Singlets and Caps	... 3 3 6
		Outstanding Subscriptions	... 2 4 6
		Balance at Credit at—	
		Bank of New South Wales	... £20 14 0
		State Savings Bank of Victoria	83 1 3
			103 15 3
	<u>£1,179 3 3</u>		<u>£1,179 3 3</u>

Audited and found correct,

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

Melbourne, 9/8/18.

Hon. Auditor.

A. CLARKE,

Hon. Treasurer.