

Mercantile Rowing Club



MELBOURNE

SIXTIETH

Annual Report
and
Balance Sheet

SEASON - 1939-40

Mercantile Rowing Club.

Club House,
Princes Bridge,
14th July, 1940.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **SIXTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Mercantile Rowing Club will be held at the Club House on **SATURDAY, 27th JULY, 1940, at 7.45 p.m.** (The Annual Smoke Night will be held at the conclusion of the Meeting).

BUSINESS:

To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

To confirm the minutes of the previous General Meeting.

To elect Office-Bearers for the ensuing year.

Presentation of Trophies.

General.

Nominations for Office-Bearers for the ensuing year will close on the Notice Board at the Boat House at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 20th July, 1940.

By Order of the Committee,

F. NEWPORT,
Secretary.

Mercantile Rowing Club.

Season 1939-40

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

President:

A. L. DOBBIE, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

E. T. BRADSHAW, Esq.

T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.

R. A. COOPER, Senr., Esq.

Sir GEORGE FAIRBAIRN

W. JOSEPH, Esq.

J. M. MACFARLANE, Esq.

J. L. MOUNSEY, Esq.

C. N. McKAY, Esq.

Cr. T. S. NETTLEFOLD, O.B.E.

J. H. PICKEN, Esq.

G. W. SMITH, Esq.

J. G. SPRIGG, Esq.

Captain:

Mr. W. G. ROSS.

Vice-Captain:

Mr. G. T. HASTIE.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. F. NEWPORT.

Hon. Assistant Secretary:

Mr. V. BOURNE (resigned 13/5/40).

Mr. W. JOSEPH (appointed 10/6/40).

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. C. A. R. CLARKE.

Executive Committee:

Mr. J. H. BAILEY.

Mr. N. W. CAIRNES

(resigned 10/6/40)

Mr. A. GORDON

(elected 13/5/40)

Mr. M. E. GREEN.

Mr. E. KENNY.

Mr. C. WARD

(appointed 10/6/40)

Mr. D. M. MACRAE

(resigned 13/11/39)

Mr. L. L. B. MOLL

(co-opted 8/1/40 to 15/4/40)

Mr. D. MORGAN

(co-opted 8/1/40 to 15/4/40)

Mr. J. ROBERTSON

(elected 13/11/39, resigned 13/5/40)

Mr. D. S. STIRLING

(resigned 10/6/40)

Mr. H. SHEARS

(appointed 10/6/40)

Mr. L. B. WEIRE.

Selection Committee:

Mr. J. H. BAILEY.

Mr. N. W. CAIRNES.

Mr. W. G. ROSS.

Hon. Auditor:

Mr. F. R. BROWNE, A.I.C.A.

Hon. Solicitor:

Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS, LL.M.

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION.

Executive Members:

Mr. A. L. DOBBIE.

Mr. E. KENNY.

Mr. C. F. RAVEN, Hon. Ass. Sec.

(resigned Sept. 1939)

Mr. N. W. CAIRNES, Hon. Ass. Sec.

(appointed Sept., 1939. resigned May, 1940)

Representative Members:

Mr. F. NEWPORT.

Mr. W. G. ROSS

(resigned 3/4/40)

Mr. G. T. HASTIE

(appointed 3/4/40)

Delegates to the Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta Association:

Messrs. G. T. HASTIE and L. B. WEIRE.

Delegates to the Metropolitan Rowing Committee:

Messrs. D. M. MACRAE and V. BOURNE.

Representative to Henley Committee:

Mr. W. JOSEPH

Victorian Amateur Sculling Association:

Mr. L. DIGBY

THE SIXTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Mercantile Rowing Club



To the Members of the Mercantile Rowing Club.

Gentlemen,

In presenting this Report of the Club's activities for the 1939-40 Season, your Committee has considerable satisfaction in being able to record that after a year of ever increasing difficulties, due to the Empire having been plunged into the greatest struggle in its history, your Club is in a definitely sound position, despite the fact that its members have responded so splendidly to the call for men, and that practically all our eligible men have enlisted in one of the various branches of the Defence Forces.

As fast as one vacancy in the Executive was filled there occurred yet another. These gaps were filled by younger members, or those medically unfit, and it has been very gratifying to see how they, and the rank and file of members, have risen to the occasion. To-day the Club is full of activity, and the future can be faced with every confidence.

Opportunity is taken to again appeal to members whose active rowing days are past to rally to the support of the Club, so that the young men who are serving the Empire can come back to a Club still vigorously functioning. We will need all the help that can be offered.

A splendid example in this direction was set by Mr. Walter Joseph, who served the Club so well as Hon. Secretary from 1909 to 1919. When he volunteered his services in any capacity, he was gladly seized on as assistant by your Hon. Secretary, and following on the enlistment in the A.I.F. of Mr. Newport, he will again take up his old duties, where his great experience will be invaluable.

Naturally, the Club's activities in Championship and Regatta races have been greatly interfered with, especially in the Senior division, in which the Club had won the 1938-9 Premiership.

In the Junior class our crews did reasonably well, scoring three wins, and a bright feature was the manner in which men came forward at a moment's notice to fill gaps in regatta crews when members dropped out owing to military duties.

During the winter months there has been much activity. Fortnightly Club races have been conducted with marked success, and on alternate Saturdays members have enthusiastically supported the football matches organised by the Executive.

Every week-end has seen a splendid attendance at the boathouse, when men whose business prevents week-day rowing have welcomed the relaxation offered, and added to the number of members afloat.

Special mention should be made of the Picken-Williams Eights. In the past this race has been confined to Club members, but in view of the fact that so many of our men were not available owing to enlistments, it was decided to invite the co-operation of all River Clubs. The response was so excellent that 11 crews started, and our neighbours were so pleased at this innovation, that it is certain that Clubs will join forces on many occasions during the coming season. Splendid work was done by Mr. Frank Morris of the Banks Club in conducting the races, and the opportunity is taken to tender him the sincere thanks of the Mercantile Club.

The social functions of the Club have been well supported, and it is the intention of the Committee to carry on this valuable section of our activities as far as circumstances will permit.

The Ladies' Day, which marked the opening of the season, was again a great success, thanks to the enthusiastic Ladies' Committee which catered for the visitors. One of the most successful dances on record was held at the Palms on the same date, with a gratifying financial result.

The Annual Dinner was, as usual, a most enjoyable function, and well attended.

Roll of Honour.

Shortly after the outbreak of war steps were taken to keep a record of all members who enlisted in the various branches of the Defence Forces. At the same time it is possible that some have been missed, and in this connection it is requested that members knowing

of any names which are missing from the following list should notify the Club.

<u>R.A.N.</u>	G. T. Hastie	P. Wharton
M. Bernstein	N. Kerrigan	J. Wicks
L. Digby	J. Lee	H. Watsford
C. G. Gregory	D. Macrae	
J. Radcliffe	F. Macrae	<u>R.A.A.F.</u>
W. H. R. Smith	J. Mirams	E. Barkley
	R. T. Morell	E. Barnfather
<u>A.I.F.</u>	S. S. McKay	W. Bell-Towers
M. Bailey	I. McVilly	P. Black
N. Balfe	F. Newport	K. N. Cooper
V. Bourne	K. Pope	H. Clarke
R. Brewin	C. F. Raven	A. W. Dobbie
H. P. Braddock	J. Read	G. Davies
K. Braithwaite	S. G. Richardson	B. Fogarty
N. Cairnes	A. T. Rorke	G. Hiller
D. A. Calder	T. Rowley	G. G. Grabham
J. Cohen	R. Scholefield	G. Lind
D. D. Cook	H. T. Spencer	S. C. Macrae (decd.)
J. B. Clemens	D. Stirling	E. Marsh
A. Dickens	G. Story	L. Orbuck
C. B. Duncan	R. J. Syme	W. G. Ross
V. G. Galvin	S. Sanderson	G. Sheppard
W. M. Henty	T. Stooke	R. Thursfield
G. J. Horder	W. J. Tulloch	W. Trickett
	P. Vanderkelen	

All members enlisting will be regarded as Hon. Members for the duration of the war, and your Hon. Solicitor, Mr. M. S. Williams, has kindly undertaken to offer his professional services, free of cost, to any desiring them.

Membership.

It is satisfactory to record that the total list of members remains unaltered. Twenty-six new members were elected during the season, and a similar number resigned.

Membership now stands—

Life Members	10
Senior Active Members	186
Junior Active Members	15
Honorary Members	14
Associate Members	8
Country Members	3
TOTAL	236

Members are urged to use every effort to introduce new men to compensate for those on active service, and in this connection a cordial invitation is extended to oarsmen from Public Schools when they leave school. They will find many of their former schoolmates in the Club.

Financial.

The amount of subscriptions received during the season was about on a par with the previous season.

Throughout the year all expenditure has been carefully watched, and while war conditions prevail such care will be increasingly necessary. It is not anticipated that further additions to the fleet will be needed for some time, and it is hoped that with the assistance of the Club members the cost of repairs to boats may be kept down to a minimum figure.

The generous donation from Mr. C. N. McKay of £25 made a substantial difference to the finances.

The large number of members enlisted in the A.I.F. means that we have lockers to fill and your active help in this connection is urgently requested. Sixty new members will go a long way towards retrieving the situation.

Club House—Boats and Oars.

The Club fleet is as listed below.

RACING BOATS.

- 2 Best and Best Eights.
- 3 Clinker Racing Eights.
- 1 Best and Best Four.
- 4 Clinker Racing Fours.
- 1 Clinker Racing Pair.

PRACTICE BOATS.

- 6 Practice Eights.
- 3 Practice Fours.
- 2 Open Fours.
- 3 Practice Pairs.
- 2 Practice Sculls.

The fleet has been added to by a Clinker Racing Eight, which had been ordered prior to the outbreak of war. The christening ceremony for this boat will take place on the Opening Day on August 10th, when it will be named the J. H. Bailey, in appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Club by Mr. Bailey, as Captain, Committeeman, and in the field of active rowing, where he made his mark as a Senior and Interstate oarsman.

No addition to the stock of oars was necessary, because of the falling off in Regatta entries owing to the war.

It is more than ever essential that every care should be exercised by members in the use of boats and oars. Splendid work has been done in keeping the fleet in order by the Boat Committee, headed by Mr. G. T. Hastie, and including Messrs. D. Stirling, L. Moll, J. Radcliffe, E. Shears, and A. Gordon. Your cordial thanks are due to these enthusiasts.

Executive and Committee.

Enlistments in the Defence Forces have caused considerable disorganisation to the above.

Mr. W. G. Ross, who has done such good work as Captain, was lost to the Club when he joined the R.A.A.F. The Vice-Captain, Mr. G. T. Hastie, has since carried out the duties of Captain in a capable manner, but he, too, is dropping out of office owing to enlistment in the A.I.F.

Your Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. Newport, and the Assist. Hon. Sec.,

Mr. V. Bourne, have joined the A.I.F., together with Committeemen N. W. Cairnes, D. Macrae, and D. Stirling.

The Club is extremely fortunate that the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. A. R. Clarke, still carries on his fine work. This is his 25th year of office, during which he has done invaluable work for the Club.

Twelve regular meetings of Committee were held, and attendances were as follow:—

J. H. Bailey	7	G. T. Hastie	6	J. Robertson	2
V. Bourne	3	W. Joseph	2	W. G. Ross	8
N. Cairnes	7	E. Kenny	10	H. Shears	2
C. A. Clarke	11	D. Macrae	2	D. Stirling	10
A. Dobbie	6	D. Morgan	2	C. Ward	2
A. Gordon	2	L. Moll	3	L. B. Weire	9
M. Green	9	F. Newport	7		

ROWING.

Australian Championships.

In view of the International position, the annual races for the King's Cup and the Australian Amateur Sculling Championship have been abandoned for the duration of the war.

Interstate University Boat Race.

Competitors in this event, which was rowed at Penrith on 1st June, were this year limited to Sydney and Melbourne Universities. The Melbourne crew scored a fine win, the second in succession, by four lengths. Congratulations are extended to the crew and coach, Mr. L. Rentoul, who is now serving with the A.I.F.

State Championship Events.

Champion Fours, 16th December, 1939.

Your Club was represented by J. J. Blair-Holt (bow), G. Sheppard (2), G. Anderson (3), W. G. Ross (stroke), J. Williams (cox). The winners were Albert Park.

2000 Metre Sculling Championship, 16th December, 1939.

Won by L. H. Purves, Yarra Yarra Club.

Champion Pairs at Nagambie, 26th December, 1939.

Won by Richmond from a field of eight crews. Your Club was not represented.

Champion Eights, 16th March, 1940.

Owing to so many members being on service, it was found impossible to boat a crew. A young crew from Footscray scored that Club's first win in this event. Hearty congratulations to the winners.

Champion Sculls, 16th March, 1940.

Won. by L. H. Purves, Yarra Yarra.

Championship Junior Eights, 20th April, 1940.

Raced over a two-mile course on the lower Yarra, Mercantile finishing third to Footscray City and Banks. The Club was represented by I. Unsworth (bow), G. Story, E. Barnfather, K. Smith, L. Moll, K. N. Cooper, F. White, J. B. Mitchell (stroke), L. Clearihan (cox), and M. E. Green (coach).

Championship Lightweight Junior Eights, 20th April, 1940.

This event was marred by an incident which undoubtedly affected the result. Rowing splendidly, your crew passed the finishing line first, when the umpire announced that owing to interference by a ferry boat with two of the crews, a re-row had been ordered.

As our crew had raced on for a considerable distance after these two crews stopped rowing, this told on them in the re-row when they were defeated by Melbourne and Preston. The crew was seated:—D. Stirling (bow), A. Gordon (2), H. Shears (3), D. Hart (4), D. Morgan (5), J. Radcliffe (6), E. Shears (7), D. Palfreyman (stroke), J. Shears (cox). Coach, Mr. J. South.

Cordial congratulations are conveyed to the winners of the above races.

REGATTAS.**Metropolitan Regatta—7th October, 1939.**

Owing to many of our members being engaged on military duties, it was possible to enter only a Novice Four. This crew was narrowly defeated in their heat by the ultimate winners. The crew was:—J. Ward (bow), G. Lind (2), M. Bernsten (3), A. Rashleigh (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), with Mr. S. Newport as coach.

Melbourne Amateur Regatta (Henley).

18th November 1939.

Senior Four.—J. J. Blair-Holt (bow), G. Sheppard, G. I. Anderson, W. G. Ross (stroke), J. Williams (cox), with Dr. R. A. Cooper as coach, won their heat, but were defeated in the final.

Junior Eight.—K. Kerr (bow), R. Brewin, F. White, K. Cooper, E. Jones, J. McFarlane, L. Moll, N. Watson (stroke), J. Shears (cox), Mr. K. V. Gregg (coach), won their heat, but were eliminated in their final by the narrowest of margins.

Maiden Eight.—J. Radcliffe (bow), N. Balfe, C. Lalor, W. Trickett, E. Barnfather, G. Story, S. Sanderson, J. Mitchell (stroke), L. Clearihan (cox), and Mr. M. E. Green (coach), won their heat, but were unsuccessful in the final.

Maiden Four (No. 1).—W. Tulloch (bow), B. Bickerstaff, H. Bickerstaff, J. Ainslie (stroke), B. Johnson (cox), with Mr. G. Hastie as coach, were defeated in their heat.

Maiden Four (No. 2).—J. Kyle (bow), G. Lind, I. Unsworth, A. Rashleigh (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), and Mr. D. Macrae (coach), were unsuccessful in their heat.

Lightweight Maiden Eight.—J. Fogarty (bow), F. Sauerberg, A. Dickens, A. Gordon, R. Cliff, H. Shears, E. Shears, D. Stirling (stroke), A. Clearihan (cox), Mr. E. Varcoe (coach), won their heat, but lost the final by a small margin.

V.R.A. Regatta.

25th November, 1939.

Senior Fours.—Your Henley representatives rowed again without success.

Junior Eight.—The crew which had been unsuccessful the previous week was again defeated.

Maiden Eight.—This crew registered a very meritorious win, with A. Atkins in the 2 seat instead of N. Balfe, absent at military camp.

Maiden Fours (No. 1 and No. 2), raced as seated in the same event at Henley, but unsuccessfully.

Lightweight Maiden Eight.—Your crew was defeated in this event also.

Nagambie Regatta.

26th December, 1939.

Junior Eights.—J. Radcliffe (bow), N. P. Watson, F. White, K. Cooper, G. T. Hastie, L. Moll, G. Davies, J. Mitchell (stroke), B. Johnson (cox), and Mr. R. V. Gregg (coach), were narrowly defeated after losing a great deal of ground at the start.

Junior Fours.—J. Radcliffe (bow), L. Moll, G. T. Hastie, N. P. Watson (stroke), B. Johnson (cox), with Mr. R. V. Gregg as coach, finished fourth in a field of 10 crews.

Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta.

27th January, 1940.

Senior Pairs.—D. Morgan (bow), N. W. Cairnes (stroke), J. Williams (cox), finished third in this event.

Junior Pairs.—C. Lalor (bow), K. Bilney (stroke), J. Shears (cox), were defeated in their heat by the ultimate winners.

Maiden Fours.—J. Radcliffe (bow), H. Bowden, K. Smith, J. Fletcher (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), and Mr. W. G. Ross (coach), were beaten in their heat.

Lightweight Eights.—R. Cliff (bow), J. Rees, H. Shears, A. Gordon, G. Richardson, J. Ward, E. Shears, D. Stirling (stroke), L. Clearihan (cox), with Mr. M. E. Green as coach, did not survive their heat.

A.N.A. Regatta.

29th January, 1940.

Senior Pairs.—Your representatives of the previous regatta again finished third in this event.

Junior Pairs.—This crew after meritorious wins in its heat and semi-final, was narrowly defeated in the final.

Maiden Fours.—Your Upper Yarra representatives were again eliminated in their heat.

Lightweight Eights.—The same crew as contested this event on the Saturday was defeated in its heat.

Barwon Regatta.

24th February, 1940.

Junior Eights.—W. Trickett (bow), G. Trickett, N. Watson, N. Cairnes, E. Barnfather, J. McFarlane, S. Sanderson, J. Mitchell (stroke), L. Clearihan (cox), and Mr. M. E. Green, were third in this event.

Junior Pairs.—C. Lalor (bow), K. Bilney (stroke), who had raced so well at the Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta, won this event in a decisive manner.

Maiden Eights.—S. G. Richardson (bow), D. E. Seal, H. Shears, A. Gordon, M. Bernsten, J. Fletcher, E. Shears, R. Gibson (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), with Mr. R. V. Gregg as coach, won their heat, and finished third in the final.

Maiden Fours.—J. Radcliffe (bow), H. Bowden, K. Smith, W. Tulloch (stroke), B. Johnson (cox), and Mr. G. Smith (coach), rowed excellently to win their heat and semi-final, but were unsuccessful in the final.

As there were many rowing men in camp at Torquay at the time of this regatta the Regatta Committee decided to hold a "militia four." Many members of your Club competed with their units in this event, which was won by a smart crew from Shepparton.

Ballarat Regatta.

2nd March, 1940.

Junior Eights.—Your Barwon representatives were again unsuccessful.

Junior Pairs.—The crew which won at Barwon the previous week was narrowly defeated into second place in this event.

Maiden Eights.—This crew finished fourth in a very good field of nine.

Maiden Fours.—Your Barwon representatives who had raced so well the previous week seemed strange to the Lake conditions and raced very disappointingly.

Mildura Regatta.

Easter, 25th April, 1940.

REGISTERED EVENTS.

Maiden Fours.—W. Trickett (bow), K. Smith, F. White, J. Mitchell (stroke), J. Shears (cox), scored a meritorious win in this event.

Maiden Pairs.—L. Moll (bow) and G. Trickett (stroke), with J. Shears (cox), raced without success.

UNREGISTERED EVENTS.

Open Fours.—S. Sanderson (bow), J. Clark, L. Moll, W. G. Ross (stroke), and J. Shears (cox), were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Eights.—J. Ward (bow), A. Gordon, G. Richardson, H. Shears, J. Radcliffe, D. Palfreyman, E. Shears, D. Stirling (stroke), J. Shears (cox), were defeated.

Lightweight Fours.—G. Richardson (bow), H. Shears, J. Radcliffe, D. Palfreyman (stroke), and J. Shears (cox), won this event in fine style.

Members who made the trip to Mildura were very appreciative of the hospitality extended by the President of the Club, Mr. C. Harrison, and his members.

Premierships.

PREMIERSHIP POINTS.

Senior.

Club.	Wins.	Points.	Club.	Wins.	Points.
Albert Park	7	44	Melbourne	2	8
Richmond	5	28	Yarra Yarra	2	4
Footscray City	2	18	Essendon	1	3
Preston	4	14	Wahgunyah	1	2
Wendouree	2	8			

Junior.

Club.	Wins.	Points.	Club.	Wins.	Points.
Footscray City	18	76	Ballarat City	3	14
Corio Bay	8	44	Rutherglen	3	12
Melbourne	8	44	Mildura	2	8
Banks	7	28	Preston	1	8
Nagambie	5	28	South Melbourne ..	1	8
Wendouree	11	26	Hawthorn	2	6
Albert Park	5	22	Bendigo	1	4
Richmond	5	20	Yarra Yarra	1	4
Mercantile	3	14	Corowa	1	2

To Albert Park and Footscray City Rowing Clubs, winners of the Senior and Junior Premierships respectively, your sincere congratulations are conveyed.

Head of the River.

27th April, 1940.

The final was won by Melbourne Grammar School from Scotch College and Geelong Grammar School in that order.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. W. Ricketts—a former member of this Club—on having scored his third successive win.

Congratulations also to Scotch College on the success of their crews in winning five races at the Junior Regatta.

Young & Jackson Combination Eights.

29th July, 1939.

There was a good entry of our members for this event. C. Ward rowed in the winning crew.

V.R.A. Prince Henry Hospital Eights.

Mercantile contributed to the success of this race by the fine entry of 36 members. Of these J. Rees, J. Unsworth and K. Cooper were in the winning crew.

The Inter Banks Race was abandoned this year.

Club Races.

Dobbie Eights, 12th August, 1939.

A very satisfactory entry of eight eights competed for trophies donated by your President on "Opening Day." The winning crew was seated: L. Orbuck (bow), N. Kerrigan, D. Morgan, A. W. Dobbie, F. White, H. Bowden, C. Campbell, R. O'Sullivan (stroke).

Morell Fours, 11th May, 1940.

The winter Club racing season opened with the Morell Fours, and attracted an entry of nine crews to compete for trophies donated by Sir Stephen Morell. Messrs. F. White (bow), B. Bickerstaff, H. Bickerstaff and J. Ainslie (stroke), with J. Shears (cox), won this event.

James Richardson Eights, 25th May, 1940.

The Club did very well to start five crews in this event, and Messrs. H. Shears (bow), J. Rees, A. Gordon, G. Epstein, J. Radcliffe, H. Clarke, S. Sanderson, J. Mitchell (stroke), and J. Shears, won the trophies donated by Mr. James Richardson.

Guinn Pairs, 8th June, 1940.

Nine Novice crews entered, the winners being W. Rashleigh (bow), G. Lind (stroke), W. Shears (cox).

Picken-Williams Eights, 22nd June, 1940.

Members from other clubs were invited to compete, and the excellent entry of 11 crews resulted. The various clubs were well represented in the winning crew.

The successful Mercantile men were: H. Shears, L. Orbuck, F. White, J. Jones and J. Shears (coxswain).

Smythe Handicap Pairs, 6th July, 1940.

The entry of 15 crews was very satisfactory. The handicappers did their work well, and after good racing the winners were: F. White (bow), J. Clarke (stroke), H. Shears (cox).

V. F. Mason Pairs, 20th July, 1940.

As the result could not be recorded in this report, it will be included in the following year's record.

Our sincere thanks are due to Mr. Mason for his continued interest in the Club's welfare.

Points Competition.

Keen rivalry for the Points Trophy presented by your Captain, Mr. W. G. Ross, the Geo. Stooke Aggregate Trophy, and the Seven Miles Time Test Trophy, presented by Mr. J. G. Sprigg, has resulted in splendid entries for all Club events, and for general activity amongst your members.

As the results will not be known until the day of the Annual Meeting, the names of the winners cannot be included in this report.

Last season's winners were:—

Captain's Trophy—J. B. Clemens.

Geo. Stooke Aggregate Trophy—Mr. N. Kerrigan.

Seven Miles Time Trial—E. Shears (bow), G. Trickett (2), A. Rorke (3), J. Clarke (4), L. Moll (5), J. Ainslie (6), J. P. L. Appleby (7), J. B. Clemens (stroke), D. Bottomley (cox).

Social Activities.

As recorded earlier in this report, the **Ladies' Day** on August 12th, 1939, was once again a most successful function. Eight crews competed and visitors were entertained in the Club House.

The Dance which followed at the Palms was an outstanding success, both socially and financially.

The **Annual Golf Tournament**, again organised by Mr. C. F. Raven, was held at Woodend on September 17th, 1939. Twenty members enjoyed a most successful outing. The winner was Mr. Noel Watson, who returned the excellent card of 74.

Golfing enthusiasts from Banks and Mercantile took part in an enjoyable contest on July 30th, 1939, when the Mercantile representatives won the trophy, which has been presented for perpetual competition between the clubs.

Another successful event was a football match between Richmond and Mercantile, at Donnybrook on 27th August, 1939. The match resulted in a draw.

The Annual Dinner held at the Victoria on 7th October, 1939, was attended by 66 members, and was one of the most enjoyable on record.

Owing to being unable to find a suitable venue for this function, the Annual Ball, usually held on Boat Race night, was not held.

Donations.

The Club records its keen appreciation of donations received from the following gentlemen:—Sir Stephen Morell, Councillor T. S. Nettlefold, Messrs. T. F. Brennan, R. A. Cooper, Senr., A. L. Dobbie, S. Guinn, W. Joseph, E. Kenny, V. F. Mason, C. N. McKay, J. H. Picken, Jas. Richardson, W. G. Ross, Geo. Stooke, Junr., H. Smythe, Jas. Sprigg, M. S. Williams, and all others who have been responsible for financial assistance during the season.

This has enabled the Club to carry out an energetic programme of Club races, and members have marked their appreciation by splendid entries, to the great benefit of the Club.

Special mention must be made of the fine work done by the Social Committee, whose contribution of £35 has been a welcome addition to the Club's revenue.

Obituary.

It is with great regret that the deaths of Messrs. F. S. Gibbs, R. G. Gardner and S. C. Macrae are recorded.

The first of our members to fall in the service of the Empire in the present war was Air Cadet S. C. Macrae, who died as the result of the crashing of an aeroplane at Point Cook on May 19th, 1940, during a practice flight.

By the splendid services which he rendered as Hon. Secretary from 1934 to 1937, he earned a place amongst the men who have done outstanding work for the Club. His period of office was marked by a great development in the Club's activities, due to his remarkable administrative ability and a charming personality which gained ready support from all with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Macrae was equally well esteemed in rowing circles outside his own Club, and there was general regret when business calls obliged him to resign from the Hon. Secretaryship.

In business his marked ability led to rapid advancement, and at the time of his enlistment in the R.A.A.F. he held a responsible post with the Orient Line of Steamers in Perth. He had been transferred to Point Cook only a short time before the accident occurred which led to his untimely death.

His memory will always live in the Mercantile Rowing Club as one who rendered it sterling service, but especially as a man whose personality endeared him to all.

His three brothers are serving with the A.I.F.

Mr. Gibbs was unknown to most of our present day members, but, as a contemporary of the late Mr. A. B. Sloan and Sir Stephen Morell, did splendid work in building up the Club from small beginnings to the present strong organisation. He was an uncle of Mr. A. A. Gibbs, for many years a valuable member of the Club.

Mr. Ron Gardner was another member of many years standing, who despite the fact that he had done no active rowing for a very long time, always took a keen interest in the Club's welfare, and made a point of attending our social functions such as the Annual Dinner. Mr. Gardner was one of those men whose constant support is such a tower of strength to a Club.



The late Mr. S. C. Macrae

The sincere sympathy of all members is extended to their relatives.

Club House Jottings.

Congratulations to Messrs. C. Campbell, Vern Bourne, Bob Hart and Andy Rorke on their marriages.

Also to Messrs. M. Green, A. Burton, A. Miller, G. Blight, W. Turnbull, K. Bilney, G. M. Sheppard, R. Scholefield, on additions to their families.

The engagements have been announced of Messrs. L. Weire, G. Trickett, Clive Ward and Ray O'Sullivan.

Ted Prendiville won the Amateur Middleweight Boxing Championship of Victoria, and also the Middleweight Championship of the Australian Universities.

The Bailey brothers, Jack and Max, have been doing a good job in supplying the Navy and A.I.F. with provisions, which probably accounts for the good reports of our boys in camp on the food supplied.

Bob Batty has settled down in his new surroundings in Launceston office of the Commonwealth Bank.

Everyone is pleased to know that George Stooke has now fully recovered from rather a serious bout of blood poisoning.

Carl Burmeister is up and about on crutches after a broken ankle had laid him low for a time.

What has happened to Bob Rush lately? Is Collingwood's lean season causing him to work overtime?

Doc. Cooper carried off the "J. A. McFarlane" trophy for the most successful coach for season 1938-1939, without much contest. Congratulations, Doc.!

General.

The thanks of all members are conveyed to those gentlemen who have carried out the important work of coaching.

Regatta crews were well looked after by those whose names appear in connection with our Championship and Regatta crews, and that most important task of making new members feel at home in the Club, and coaching them, has been capably carried out by Messrs. D. Stirling, A. Gordon, M. Green, R. Gregg, N. Cairnes, C. Ward, L. Moll, D. Morgan, H. Shears, F. White, and other members.

The Club has been well served by our coxswains, J. Shears, W. Shears, L. Clearihan, W. Morrison, J. Williams, B. Clearihan, and B. Johnson, and thanks are extended to them.

Our thanks are also due to the Press, but especially Mr. R. Todd, for publicity given to Club activities.

Mr. Harry Butler continues to do his excellent work as Hon. Secretary of the V.R.A., despite abnormal duties with the Defence

Department. Our thanks are extended to him for his co-operation so willingly given when asked for.

Mr. F. R. Brown and Mr. M. S. Williams still serve the Club well in their respective capacities as Hon. Auditor and Hon. Solicitor.

The Old Oarsmen's Association looks forward to assisting the sport in the present troublous times, when it is felt it can do much good work.

Conclusion.

The retiring Committee wishes to express appreciation of the splendid support which has been accorded to it by all members. This has made it possible to keep the Club in an active and happy state, despite the difficult conditions which have marked the past year.

Consequently it is confidently felt that when the 1940-41 season is concluded, it will be found that the Mercantile Club will again be able to report "all's well."

For and on behalf of the Committee,

F. NEWPORT,

Hon. Secretary.

Addendum.

The past season has been one which has called for initiative and adaptability on the part of the Executive Officers and Committee to an unusual degree, in order to overcome the many emergencies which have arisen.

That they rose to the occasion is proved by the remarkable activity existing in the Club after a year unparalleled for constant disorganisation of routine, due in the first instance to the Militia camps, and later to ever increasing enlistments in the Defence Forces.

Led by the Captain, Mr. W. G. Ross, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. Newport, they have overcome each difficulty as it has arisen, and those of them now serving with the Defence Forces have the satisfaction of knowing that they have maintained the Club in such good shape that those on whom the responsibilities will now fall, cannot fail to bring the Club safely through the difficult times ahead.

Much of this success is due to the manner in which the executive has enlisted the services of our young members, many under military age, who have risen to the occasion splendidly.

Thanks to the guidance of your veteran Hon. Treasurer, the financial position has been substantially improved.

The cordial thanks of members is conveyed to all who have worked so well for the Club.

To those of our members in the R.A.N., A.I.F., or R.A.A.F. whether abroad or at home, are extended cordial greetings from their Clubmates, with sincere wishes for their safety and well being.

A. L. DOBBIE,

President.

List of Members, 1939-40 Season.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Bradshaw, E. T.	Ivens, P. C.	Potter, W.
Clarke, C. A. R.	Joseph, W.	Stooke, V.
Dobbie, A. L.	Kenny, E.	Sloan, A. B. (decd.)
Guinn, S.	Morell, Sir Stephen	

SENIOR MEMBERS.

Ainslie, J. B.	Cordia, A. W. P.	Lee, J.
Anderson, G. I.	Couzens, J. C.	Lind, G. A.
Appleby, J. P.	Dickens, A. McD.	Lindblade, A. G.
Atkins, A. H.	Digby, L. S.	Long, D.
Bailey, J. H.	Dixon, C. E.	Macfarlane, J. M.
Bailey, M.	Dobbie, A. W.	Macrae, D. M.
Balfe, N. D.	Duncan, A. R.	Macrae, F. A.
Barkley, E. H.	Duncan, C. B.	Major, J. F.
Barnfather, E. R.	Dunstan, J. T.	Malbourne, R.
Batty, R. McC.	Davies, G. A. T.	Mann, A. H.
Bell Towers, W.	Epstein, G. L.	Marsh, E. W.
Berntsen, M. O.	Evans, E. A.	Marsh, T. W.
Bickerstaff, B. C.	Fletcher, J. M.	Miller, A. P.
Bickerstaff, H. A.	Fogarty, B. J.	Mitchell, J. B.
Bilney, K. A.	Galvin, V. C.	Meates, R. A.
Black, P. A.	Gardner, R. G. (decd.)	Moll, L. L. B.
Blair-Holt, J. J.	Gartly, R. W.	Moore, F. M.
Bolton, R. S.	Gibson, R. J.	Miramis, J. W.
Bourne, V.	Gordon, A.	Mitchell, J. T.
Bowden, H. S.	Grabham, B. L.	Morell, R. T.
Braddock, H. P.	Gregory, C. G.	Morgan, D.
Braithwaite, K. A.	Green, M. E.	Morrison, H. E.
Brewin, R.	Greenshields, J.	Mounsey, J. L.
Brooke, D. C.	Gregg, R. V.	McFarlane, J. J.
Brown, W. T.	Hansen, M.	McKay, C. N.
Browne, F. R.	Harry, C. M.	McKay, S. S.
Burrows, C. L.	Hart, R. H. B.	McKay, T.
Burton, A. J.	Hastie, G. T.	McLennan, W. K.
Bussell, G. J.	Hemming, P.	McVilly, I.
Cairnes, N. W.	Henty, W. M.	Nethercote, C. R.
Calder, D. A.	Hill, J.	Newport, F.
Callander, A. J.	Hillard, L. T. D.	Nicholls, C. J.
Campbell, C. F.	Hiller, G. L.	Nixon, J. F. N.
Chandler, B. R.	Horder, G. J.	Nixon, N. V.
Clark, J. H. P.	Hyland, C. K.	Orbuck, L. D.
Clemens, J. B.	Irving, R. B.	O'Sullivan, R.
Cliff, R. A.	Jones, E. J.	Palfreyman, D. B.
Coade, N.	Jones, J. McD.	Picken, J. H.
Coffey, E. O.	Kerr, K. C. M.	Pitt, W. G.
Coffey, J. S. K.	Kerr, R. J.	Pollard, R. G.
Cohen, J. B.	Kerrigan, N.	Rashleigh, A. F.
Cook, D. D.	Knight, C. A.	Rashleigh, W. F.
Cooper, K. N. W.	Kyle, J.	Raven, C. F.
Cooper, Dr. R. A.	Lalor, C. C.	Read, J. M.

List of Members, 1939-40 Season.

SENIOR MEMBERS—Continued.

Rees, J.	Shears, E.	Trickett, W. A.
Richardson, G. K.	Shears, H. P.	Tulloch, W. J.
Richardson, S. G.	Sheppard, G. M.	Turnbull, W. R.
Robertson, J. N.	Sloss, A.	Unsworth, I. T.
Robinson, Sir A.	Smith, K.	Vanderkelen, K. P.
Rogers, L. W.	Smith, E. J.	Vanderkelen, P. W.
Roper, L. W.	Smythe, H.	Varcoe, E. K. L.
Rorke, A. T.	Soward, R. S.	Ward, C. H. M.
Ross, J. G.	Spencer, H. T.	Ward, J. M.
Ross, W. G.	Spillane, J.	Watson, N. P.
Rosser, A. G.	Sprigg, J. G.	Webster, G. H.
Rowley, T.	Stephenson, C. E.	Weire, L. B.
Roxburgh, T. W.	Stirling, D. S.	White, F. N.
Rundell, K.	Story, G.	Wicks, J.
Rush, R. T.	Syme, R. Y.	Williams, M. S.
Sanderson, S. O.	Thursfield, R. W.	Wharton, P. L.
Scholefield, R. B.	Trehearne, A. G.	Winford, J. F.
Scott, N. K.	Trickett, G. E.	

JUNIOR MEMBERS.

Clarke, H.	McLean, D. V.	Seal, D. E.
Coyne, G. M.	Prendiville, E.	Shiels, P. G.
Fentiman, H. J.	Purdy, E. M.	Topp, R.
Kerr-Wilson, G.	Radcliffe, J.	White, D. C.
Morgan, W. T.	Sauerberg, F. J.	

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Burmeister, C.	Haworth, W. C.	Shannon, A. R.
Campbell, J. E.	Hill, L.	South, J.
Connelly, F. R.	O'Reilly, J.	Stooke, G. F.
Davey, G. H.	Pope, K.	Sturrock, J.
Gibbs, A. A.	Rush, H. R.	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

French, L. P.	McLaren, R.	Stooke, T. B.
Morgan, N.	Seammen, J. W.	Ternes, H.
	Smith, W. H. R.	

COUNTRY MEMBERS.

Ford, N.	Macrae, S. C. (decd.)	Reidy, J. J.
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REVENUE ACCOUNT for 12 Months ending 30th June, 1940.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
Subscriptions	£591 15 0	Repairs to Boats, Oars and Shed	£81 11 10
Less V.R.A. Capitation Fee	43 19 6	Depreciation—	
	£547 15 6	Boats, Oars and Sculls	£87 4 0
Donations	52 19 0	Boat House	50 0 0
Special Social Functions	35 0 0	Club Fittings	12 5 0
Entrance Fees—Club Races	17 13 6		
		General Expenses	149 9 0
		Lighting, General and Water Rates	92 12 5
		Insurance	29 9 3
		Interest	48 8 10
		Telephone	16 0 8
		Freight to Country Regattas	9 5 8
		Coxswains' Expenses—Country Regattas	8 5 0
		Entrance Fees—Regatta Races	15 19 0
		Trophies—Club Races	7 2 6
		Metropolitan Rowing Committee	21 6 0
		Upper Yarra Rowing Association	1 11 6
		Boat Staging	2 2 0
		Balance Transferred to Capital Account	2 2 0
			168 2 4
			£653 8 0

A. CLARKE,
Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
F. R. BROWNE, A.I.C.A.,
Hon. Auditor.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June, 1940.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Bank of New South Wales	£256 9 7	Boat House	£2,482 1 1
Sundry Creditors	77 17 1	Less Depreciation	50 0 0
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	9 4 0		£2,432 1 1
Boat Building Reserve	7 14 8	Boats and Sculls	£702 11 6
Capital Account—		Less Depreciation	75 2 6
Capital as at 30th June, 1939 ..	£2,779 11 10	Oars at Valuation	627 9 0
Add Balance Transferred from		Club Fittings at Valuation	113 0 0
Revenue A/c	168 2 4	Subscriptions Outstanding	50 0 0
Capital as at 30th June, 1940	2,947 14 2	Stock of Singlets on Hand	51 15 6
		State Savings Bank	14 15 0
			9 18 11
			£3,298 19 6

Audited and found correct,

F. R. BROWNE, A.I.C.A.,

Hon. Auditor.

A. CLARKE,

Hon. Treasurer.

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J. T. PICKEN & SONS
235 Franklin St., Melbourne