

Mercantile Rowing Club



MELBOURNE

SIXTY-THIRD

*Annual Report  
and  
Balance Sheet*

♦♦

Season 1942-43

# Mercantile Rowing Club

Princes Bridge,

Melbourne,

19th July, 1943.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sixty-Third ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Mercantile Rowing Club will be held at the Club-house on SATURDAY, 31st JULY, 1943, 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 4 p.m. on Saturday, 24th July, 1943.

By order of the Committee,

D. B. PALFREYMAN,

Hon. Secretary.

# Mercantile Rowing Club

**PRESIDENT :**

A. L. DOBBIE, Esq.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS :**

T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.	J. L. MOUNSEY, Esq.
R. A. COOPER, Senr., Esq. (ded.)	C. N. McKAY, Esq.
Dr. R. A. COOPER	Cr. T. S. NETTLEFOLD, O.B.E.
Sir GEORGE FAIRBAIRN	J. H. PICKEN, Esq.
J. M. MACFARLANE, Esq.	G. W. SMITH, Esq.
J. G. SPRIGG, Esq.	

**CAPTAIN :**

Mr. A. GORDON

**VICE-CAPTAIN :**

Mr. J. ROBERTSON

**HON. SECRETARY**

Mr. D. PALFREYMAN

**HON. TREASURER :**

Mr. C. A. R. CLARKE

**COMMITTEE :**

The following served on the Committee during the year:—

Mr. E. KENNY	Mr. E. SHEARS
Mr. J. BLAIR-HOLT	Mr. E. K. VARCOE
Mr. J. SPRIGG	Mr. J. JONES
Mr. J. H. BAILEY	

**HON. AUDITOR :**

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

**HON. SOLICITOR :**

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

**VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION.**

<i>Executive Members :</i>	<i>Representative Members :</i>	<i>Elected Member :</i>
Mr. A. L. DOBBIE	J. ROBERTSON	Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS
Mr. E. KENNY	D. PALFREYMAN	

**DELEGATES TO UPPER YARRA AMATEUR REGATTA ASSN. :**

Messrs. E. SHEARS, E. VARCOE

**DELEGATES TO METROPOLITAN ROWING COMMITTEE :**

Messrs. A. GORDON, J. BLAIR HOLT

**VICTORIAN AMATEUR SCULLING ASSOCIATION :**

M. S. WILLIAMS.

# THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT of the **Mercantile Rowing Club**

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31st July, 1943.

To the Members of Mercantile Rowing Club :

Gentlemen,—Your Committee has much pleasure in presenting the Sixty-Third Annual Report together with audited Balance Sheet covering the twelve months ended 30th June, 1943.

Further enlistments during the season have increased the number of members serving in the Forces to 154. We were very pleased to see so many of them present at the sheds during their leave.

It was also pleasing to see many interstate and country Servicemen put in an appearance at the week-ends.

Inter-Club racing was further restricted, and your Club was well represented in all events.

Combination racing was also on a reduced scale, and Club racing was confined to the "Sprigg Time Trial."

However, in spite of the fact that competitive rowing is to a large extent debarred, the sport still has a great deal to offer those who wish to gain the undoubted benefits derived from one or two regular rows each week. Every facility will be extended to those members who desire occasional exercise and relaxation.

Social activities were confined to a "Christmas social" and a golf match.

## Financial.

The Committee is appreciative of the staunch support accorded by members during the season, more especially perhaps by the Old Brigade.

The amount of subscriptions is large, but in this connection it might be well to consider the effect of the war on incomes, and also the difficulty a section of our members have in maintaining contact with the Shed.

It will be observed that a new item, "War Bond," appears in our assets. The Committee felt that the Federal Treasurer should receive the maximum support during the recent War Loan appeals.

Expenditure has been under strict control by the Committee in view of the difficult times ahead. It is expected that the cost of repairs and new boats in the future will be very much higher than we are accustomed to.

## Executive and Committee.

Our thanks are again due to Mr. A. Gordon for the able manner in which he has carried out his duties as Captain. The sound position of the Club at the present time is due in a large degree to his untiring and enthusiastic work.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. A. Clarke for his splendid work as Treasurer. He has now occupied this position with great credit both to himself and to the Club for the past 28 years. We hope that he will be able to carry on for many years to come.

Since the enlistment in the R.A.A.F. of your Vice-Captain, Mr. J. Robertson, his duties have been capably carried out by Messrs. E. Varcoe and J. Blair Holt.

That your Committee has taken a very keen interest in the Club's affairs is seen by the excellent attendances at meetings, twelve of which were held during the year. Attendances were as follows:—

J. H. Bailey .....	7	J. Blair Holt .....	11	J. N. Robertson .....	1
C. A. R. Clarke .....	12	J. McD. Jones .....	8	J. Sprigg .....	12
A. L. Dobbie .....	8	E. Kenny .....	11	E. Shears .....	10
A. Gordon .....	7	D. Palfreyman .....	12	E. Varcoe .....	11

### Membership.

As can be expected, quite a number of our members joined the Services during the past season, and have, in conformity with other years, been granted leave of absence. Fortunately these losses have, in some measure at least, been offset by the enrolment of new members. Despite this fact, however, members are urged to double their efforts to enrol new members in the coming season.

The membership list now stands:—

Life Members .....	8
Senior Members .....	67
Junior Members .....	4
Honorary Members .....	7
Associate Members .....	6
Country Members .....	2
Total .....	94

### Club-house, Boats and Oars.

To maintain the usual good appearance of the Boat-house, and preserve it from excessive deterioration, a small band of members enthusiastically led by Mr. J. Sprigg, have cleaned down the outside and are now repainting it. We wish to record our thanks to Sir Stephen Morell, Mr. V. F. Mason and Mr. J. Sprigg for their donations towards the cost of materials, and to all those willing helpers who have assisted in carrying out the renovations.

The sweeping and dusting of the Club-house was again carried out by members, Mr. K. Bilney being most helpful in this regard.

Great difficulty has been experienced in keeping the Club's fleet and oars in good order, as it is almost impossible to obtain the necessary materials and to arrange for repairs of a major nature to be carried out. Our thanks are due to all who assisted in boat maintenance during the year.

A special appeal is made to members that during the coming season they will be most careful to ensure that equipment is not misused in any way. All damage should be reported immediately to the Captain or other responsible officers of the Club, and, if possible, be repaired at once. Unfortunately this rule was not regularly observed during the past year.

## Donations.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the following for their generosity:—

J. Craig, R. A. Cooper, Senr. (deed.), Dr. R. A. Cooper, A. L. Dobbie, W. L. Gray, E. Kenny, A. Levy, Sir Stephen Morell, R. W. McDonald, J. L. Mounsey, V. F. Mason, Old Oarsman's Social Club, A. Parker, J. H. Picken, H. P. Shears, G. K. Sheppard, G. E. Trickett.

## ROWING.

### Inter-Club Events.

#### V.R.A. Regatta.

20th February, 1943.

*Challenge Fours*.—E. Shears (bow), D. Palfreyman (2), E. Varcoe (3), D. Fraser (str.), R. Williams (cox). Defeated in heat.

#### Metropolitan Regatta.

6th March, 1943.

*Challenge Fours*.—F. Jew (bow), D. Palfreyman (2), E. Shears (3), D. Fraser (str.), R. Williams (cox).

*Challenge Pairs*.—J. Blair Holt (bow), R. Bolton (str.), R. Williams (cox). Both of the above crews were beaten in their heats.

*Lightweight Novice Fours*.—W. Morrison (bow), J. Rees (2), A. Gordon (3), R. Duncan (str.), P. Duncan (cox). Won this event in good style.

#### Upper Yarra Regatta.

10th April, 1943.

*Challenge Fours*.—E. Shears (bow), F. Jew (2), D. Fraser (3), D. Palfreyman (str.), R. Williams (cox).

*Challenge Pairs*.—J. Blair Holt (bow), R. Bolton (str.), R. Williams (cox). Both of these crews were narrowly beaten in their heats.

*V.R.A. Four-oared Time Trial Round Como Island*.—Three crews from your Club rowed in this event but were unsuccessful.

*Challenge Eights*.—E. Shears (bow), H. Shears (2), A. Gordon (3), J. Sprigg (4), K. Bilney, (5); E. Varcoe (6), J. Blair Holt (7), D. Palfreyman (str.), R. Williams (cox). Beaten in this event.

#### Combination Racing.

3rd October, 1942.

*M. S. Williams Fours*.—Sixty oarsmen from all clubs took part, but your Club was not represented in the winning crew.

10th October, 1942.

*Young & Jackson Eights*.—J. C. Thomas and C. Lalor were in the winning crew.

7th November, 1942.

*Footscray Fours*.—Your Club was represented in the winning crew by D. Fraser and D. Palfreyman.

## Time Test Rowing.

This event is again being conducted in fours over the course from the Boat-house to Church Street Bridge and return. With the consent of the donor of the trophies, Mr. J. Sprigg, however, it was thought desirable to make it open for competition throughout the whole season, as it was felt that competitive events were certain to be restricted. Entries will be accepted until the afternoon of the Annual Meeting.

Last season nine crews competed, the winners being:—A. Gordon (bow), D. Palfreyman (2), E. Shears (3), E. Varcoe (str.), B. Johnson (cox).

## Trophies.

Last season the Captain's trophy was won by G. K. Sheppard.

## Social.

Your Committee, after much thought, decided that social activities should be reduced to an absolute minimum. This meant that two outstanding events of former years were not held, namely, "Opening Day" and "Annual Dinner."

On Saturday, 19th December, however, a very successful social was held at the Boat-house. Over ninety members and visitors were present, and a most enjoyable evening was had by all. The catering arrangements were left in the capable hands of Mr. J. Bailey, and your thanks are due to him for the excellent manner in which he carried these out.

The Annual Golf Match against Banks Rowing Club was held at The Emerald Country Club during February. The success of the Banks Club was due chiefly to the fine performance of Mr. W. Scates, who, we understand, made the "winning" stroke.

## With the Services.

**RETURNED.**—We were delighted to see at the Boat-house the following members who returned from overseas and Australian battle areas during the year:—

M. Bersten, J. T. Mitchell, J. Radcliffe, G. Stooke, C. Ward, M. Bailey, B. Bourke, V. Bourne, H. Braddock, D. Brooké, N. Cairnes, D. Calder, B. Chandler, J. Craig, J. Clemens, H. Dietrich, G. Epstein, J. Fletcher, R. Gibson, V. Galvin, W. Haworth, W. Henty, J. McD. Jones, D. Macrae, F. Macrae, D. Morgan, C. Nicholls, J. Peppard, K. Pope, J. Rees, S. G. Richardson, A. Rorke, S. Sanderson, J. Seammen, H. P. Shears, W. Shears, P. Vanderkelen, N. Watson, L. Weire, A. Atkins, G. Hiller, B. Grabham, R. W. McDonald, F. Newport, W. Ross, G. M. Sheppard, G. R. Sheppard, R. Thursfield, W. Wadey, J. Clark, R. Johnson, R. A. Parrett, K. Cooper, A. Rosser.

A number of others also returned, and we will be glad to welcome them when they find time to renew acquaintances on the river.

**GIFTS.**—Autographed souvenir photographs, together with Canteen Orders, were sent to members in the Forces for Christmas. Some of these, we understand, are still chasing members round the world.

To the prisoners of war whose addresses are known, permit parcels within the limits allowed by the International Red Cross, were sent. A

small balance of £3/15/11 remains in the fund subscribed by members in the previous season to provide comforts, and assist in the welfare of the members in the Services.

We record, with deep regret, the deaths on active service of the following members:—D. D. Cook, E. H. Barkley, R. Brewin, G. A. Lind, L. D. Orbuck and F. N. White. To the relatives of these members the Club extends sincere sympathy in their trouble.

We wish good luck to K. Braithwaite, J. Bussell, A. Dobbie, G. Hastie, G. Horder, N. Kerrigan, J. Major, F. Raven, T. Rowley, B. Scholefield, B. Spencer, D. Stirling, W. Trickett and J. Wicks, who are prisoners in enemy hands or missing, and trust they are all well.

To all the Service-men, we extend our best wishes for Good Health, Good Luck, and a Safe and Speedy Return.

### General.

An outstanding feature of the past season has been the way in which the older members have maintained their interest and activity in the Club. The Committee has gained much encouragement from this loyal support.

Members are again urged to devote as much time as possible to the coaching of novices. It cannot be too strongly emphasised how much the success of a club depends on this vital factor.

It is very pleasing to record that the close connection between Scotch College and your Club has been maintained.

During the year we received a visit from Mr. Harold Taylor, who for many years has been in business at Hall's Gap. Older members will recall that after our disastrous fire, it was chiefly due to Harold's untiring efforts as honorary architect, that our Club-house was so rapidly reconstructed.

We were also pleased to see another old member in Mr. Eric Counihan, who is now with the R.A.A.F. Members will no doubt remember that about twenty years ago, Eric was a leading coxswain, and afterwards was successful in winning a number of rowing and sculling races.

To Messrs. D. Calder, J. Clemens, G. Story and I. McVilly, who were married in the past season, we convey every good wish for their future happiness and prosperity.

Our congratulations are offered to Messrs. E. Shears, J. Thomas, M. Green, G. M. Sheppard and D. Palfreyman, and their wives, who who have had an addition to their families during the year.

Thanks are due to Mr. F. R. Browne, A.I.C.A., who has again faithfully carried on as Hon. Auditor.

Thanks are also due to Masters J. Shears, W. Shears, W. Morrison, B. Johnson, R. Williams, P. Duncan and J. Dunstan, for their services as coxswains.

### Conclusion.

It is most important that we all "pull together," especially so in difficult times such as these. During the year your Committee has received very fine support, and we trust the incoming Committee will receive close help and co-operation from all, for without this they cannot carry on satisfactorily.

On behalf of the Committee,

D. B. PALFREYMAN,

Hon. Secretary.

## Addendum.

Once again it is my privilege to express to the Executive Officers of the Club the sincere thanks of members for the excellent work done by them during the past season. The difficulties inseparable from carrying on successfully under war conditions have been added to by the fact that the present age for enlistment in the Defence Forces is 18 years. This has deprived the executive of the support which our younger members have given so excellently during the earlier years of the war, and has seriously affected the number of nominations for junior membership. Consequently, it is all the more to their credit that, under the capable leadership of your Captain, Mr. Alan Gordon, they are able to place such an excellent report before the members.

A factor of great value in maintaining the Club in a sound and vigorous condition is the continued support accorded by the older members, many of whom, in normal times, would have given up active rowing.

The favourable developments which have occurred during recent months in the war position give cause to look forward to the return of our members who are now serving in the various branches of the Defence Forces sooner than appeared possible a year ago. The presence at the Boat-house during the year of a number of those who returned to Australia with the 9th Division was the occasion of a happy reunion, and a foretaste of the happy days which we so anxiously look forward to when hostilities have ended in the victory of the Allied Forces.

To those serving in the Navy, Army and Air Force, and to those who, unfortunately, are prisoners of war, we send greetings and sincere wishes for their safety and well-being.

A. L. DOBBIE,  
President.

## Obituary.

By the death of Mr. R. A. Cooper, Senr., father of your esteemed member, Dr. R. A. Cooper, Mercantile has lost a valued friend and supporter. His association with the Club extended over a period of 40 years. It was brought about by the keen interest which his wife took in its welfare. She rendered invaluable services in connection with our social activities. On her untimely death, Mr. Cooper continued his interest, and for many years was one of your Vice-Presidents. The fact that his son served the Club first as a coxswain, then as a sculler and oarsmen, and later as coach added to his interest. His passing is felt particularly by the older members of the Club who knew of, and were greatly appreciative of, the great services rendered to it by the Cooper family.

Another link with the past has been broken by the death, at Canberra, of Mr. E. Yandell, financial secretary to the Commonwealth Treasury. In the years 1905 to 1908, Mr. Yandell was a keen member of the Club, and he had a successful rowing career. Pressure of work, and his transfer to Canberra, put an end to his active rowing, but like many other oarsmen long since resident in the Federal Capital, he was always interested in the welfare of the Club. The news of his death was received with much regret, especially by those of his contemporaries who still remain in the Club.

## List of Members, 1942-43 Season.

### LIFE MEMBERS :

Clarke, C. A. R.	Ivens, P. C.	Potter, W.
Dobbie, A. L.	Kenny, E.	Stooke, V.
Guinn, S.	Morell, Sir Stephen	

### SENIOR MEMBERS :

Akers, K.	Gregg, R. V.	Rees, J.
Appleby, J. P.	Hansen, M.	Rogers, L. W.
Batson, A. V.	Jew, F. W.	Rowe, P.
Bailey, J. H.	Jones, J. McD.	Rush, H. R.
Bilney, K. A.	Kerr, R. J.	Rush, R. T.
Blair-Holt, J.	Lalor, C. C.	Shears, E.
Bolton, R. S.	Lindblade, A. G.	Shears, H. P.
Browne, F. R.	Macfarlane, J. M.	Sloss, A.
Butler, L.	Mander, K.	Smith, K. A.
Burton, A. J.	Marsh, T. W.	Soward, R. S.
Cliff, R. A.	Miller, A. P.	Spillane, J.
Cooper, Dr. R. A.	Mounsey, J. L.	Sprigg, J. G.
Dixon, C. E.	McDonald, R. F.	Sullivan, B.
Dowd, M. C.	McGregor, I.	Sulzberger, P. H.
Duncan, A. R.	McKay, T.	Thomas, J. C.
Dunstan, J. T.	McLaren, R. L.	Turnbull, W. R.
Ferguson, R.	Nixon, N. V.	Unsworth, I. T.
Fraser, D. H.	Palfreyman, D. B.	Varcoe, E. K. L.
French, L. P.	Picken, J. H.	Wade, G. C.
Gordon, A.	Pitt, W. G.	White, D. C.
Green, M. E.	Pollard, R. G.	Williams, D.
Gray, W. L.	Robertson, J. N.	Williams, M. S.
Greenshields, J. A.		

### JUNIOR MEMBERS :

Hogan, D. F.	Wallace, W.	Williams, J. G.
Kerr, P.		

### HONORARY MEMBERS :

Burmeister, C.	O'Reilly, J.	Sturrock, J. McL.
Gibbs, A. A.	South, J.	Trickett, G. E.
Hill, L.		

### COUNTRY MEMBERS :

Ferrari, R.	Trehearne, A. G.
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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS :

Batten, W.	Grant, W.	Stewart, S. C.
Evans, E. A.	Morgan, N.	Tibbits, I. D.

## On Active Service.

Ainslie, J. B.	Gray, W. L.	Pope, K.
Atkins, A. H.	Gregory, C. J.	Radcliffe, J.
Appleby, J. P.	Harry, C. M.	Raven, C. F.
Bailey, M.	Harrison, G. J.	Rashleigh, A. F.
Balfe, N.	Hastie, G. T.	Reid, J. M.
*Barkley, E. H.	Haworth, W. C.	Rees, J.
*Barnfather, E. R.	Hemming, P.	Rigby, W.
*Bell-Towers, W.	Henty, W. M.	Richardson, S. G.
Bethune, H. F.	Hill, J. T.	Rorke, A. T.
Bernsten, M. O.	Hill, L.	Rose, A.
Bickerstaff, B. C.	Hiller, G. L.	Rosser, A. G.
Bickerstaff, H. A.	Holmes, B. M.	Ross, W. G.
*Black, P. A.	Horder, G. J.	Robertson, J. N.
Bourke, B. F.	Irving, R. B.	Rowley, T.
Bourne, V.	Johnson, B.	Roxburgh, T. W.
Braddock, H. P.	Johnson, R.	Sanderson, S. O.
Braithwaite, K. A.	Jones, E. J.	Scholefield, R. B.
*Brewin, R.	Jones, J. McD.	Seal, D.
Brooke, D. C.	Kerr, P.	Seammen, J. W.
Bucirde, R. J.	Kerrigan, N.	Shears, H. P.
Bussell, G. J.	Kirsch, L. C.	Shears, W. B.
Cairnes, N. W.	Lee, J.	Sheppard, G. K.
Calder, D. A.	Levy, A.	Sheppard, G. M.
Campbell, T. J.	*Lind, G. A.	Sloss, A.
Chandler, B. C.	Long, D.	*Smith, W. H. R.
Clark, J. H. P.	Macrae, D. M.	Spencer, H. T.
Clarke, A. H. G.	Macrae, F. A.	Spooner, J.
Clemens, J. B.	*Macrae, S. C.	Stirling, D.
Coade, N.	Major, J. F.	Stooke, T. B.
Cooper, K. N.	Marsh, E. W.	Stooke, G.
Cole, G. H.	Mander, K.	Story, G.
*Cook, D. D.	Meakin, A. R.	Stubley, J. L.
Craig, J. B.	Mitchell, J. B.	Syme, R. J.
Cripps, A.	Mitchell, J. T.	Thursfield, R. W.
Davey, G. H.	Mirams, J.	Trickett, W. A.
Davies, G. A. T.	Moll, L. L. B.	Tulloch, W. J.
Dickens, A.	Morell, R. T.	Turnbull, W. R.
Dietrich, H. O.	Morgan, D..	Vanderkelen, P.
Dobbie, A. W.	McDonald, R. F.	Volk, H.
Duncan, C. B.	McDonald, R. W.	Wadey, W.
Edwards, H.	McFarlane, J. J.	Ward, C. H. M.
Epstein, G. J.	McLean, D. V.	Ward, J. M.
Ferguson, R.	McLennan, W. K.	Watsford, H.
Fletcher, J. M.	McVilly, I. W.	Watson, N. P.
Fogarty, B. J.	*Nethercote, C. R.	Webster, G. H.
Fox-Lane, D.	Newport, F.	Weire, L. B.
Fraser, D. H.	Nicholls, C. J.	Wharton, P. V.
Galvin, V. C.	O'Halloran, J.	White, D. C.
Gartley, R. M.	*Orbuck, L. D.	*White, F. N.
Gibson, R. J.	Parrett, R. A.	Wicks, J.
Grabham, B. L.	Peppard, J.	Wilkinson, C. V.

\* Killed on active service.

**REVENUE ACCOUNT for 12 months ending 30th June, 1943.**

**MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB**

11

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
Subscriptions .....	£300 18 0
Less V.R.A. Capitation Fee ..	14 10 6
	2286 7 6
Donations .....	53 0 0
Interest .....	0 7 8
	97 10 0
	7 1 9
	21 16 9
	81 13 8
	10 4 1
	0 15 0
	0 10 6
	1 1 0
	97 4 3
	£339 15 2
	£339 15 2

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

C. A. R. CLARKE,  
Hon. Treasurer.

## BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June, 1943.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
Sundry Creditors .....	£18 8 3
Subscriptions Paid in Advance .....	9 4 0
Boat Building Reserve .....	7 14 8
Capital as at 30th June, 1942 .. £3,003 15 10	
Add Balance from Revenue A/c 97 4 3	
Capital as at 30th June, 1943 .. . . . . 3,101 0 1	
	Boat House .. . . . . £2,332 1 1
	Less Depreciation .. . . . . 50 0 0
	Boats and Sculls .. . . . . £519 0 0
	Less Depreciation .. . . . . 41 0 0
	478 0 0
Oars at Valuation .. . . . .	128 10 0
Club Fittings at Valuation .. . . . .	38 0 0
War Bond .. . . . .	100 0 0
Subscriptions Outstanding .. . . . .	57 2 0
Stock on Hand, Singlets .. . . . .	3 10 0
Bank of N.S. Wales .. . . . .	33 0 9
Savings Bank .. . . . .	10 10 2
Cash in Hand .. . . . .	5 13 0
	£3,136 7 0
	£3,136 7 0

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

C. A. R. CLARKE,  
Hon. Treasurer.

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