

Mercantile Rowing Club



MELBOURNE

SIXTY-FOURTH

Annual Report
and
Balance Sheet

::

Season 1943-44

Mercantile Rowing Club



Princes Bridge,
Melbourne,

15th July, 1944.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sixty-fourth **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Mercantile Rowing Club will be held at the Club-house on **SATURDAY, 29th JULY, 1944, 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, 22nd July, 1944.

By order of the Committee,

D. B. PALFREYMAN,

Hon. Secretary.

Mercantile Rowing Club

PRESIDENT:

A. L. DOBBIE, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.

Dr. R. A. COOPER

Sir GEORGE FAIRBAIRN (ded.)

A. G. LINDBLADE, 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. A. GORDON

HON. SECRETARY:

Mr. D. B. PALFREYMAN

VICE-CAPTAIN:

Mr. J. BLAIR-HOLT

HON. ASST. SECRETARY:

Mr. E. SHEARS

HON. TREASURER:

Mr. C. A. R. CLARKE

COMMITTEE:

The following served on the Committee during the year:—

Mr. J. H. BAILEY

Mr. E. KENNY

Mr. J. JONES

Mr. K. SMITH

Mr. J. G. SPRIGG

Mr. J. C. THOMAS

Mr. I. UNSWORTH

Mr. E. K. L. VARCOE

HON. AUDITOR:

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

HON. SOLICITOR:

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

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION.

Executive Members: Representative Members: Elected Member:

Mr. A. L. DOBBIE Mr. J. BLAIR-HOLT Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS

Mr. E. KENNY Mr. D. B. PALFREYMAN

DELEGATES TO UPPER YARRA AMATEUR REGATTA ASSN.:

Messrs. E. SHEARS, E. K. L. VARCOE

DELEGATES TO METROPOLITAN ROWING COMMITTEE:

Messrs. J. BLAIR-HOLT, K. SMITH

VICTORIAN AMATEUR SCULLING ASSOCIATION:

Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS



SIR STEPHEN MORELL

Joined the Club in 1891
President from 1905 to 1933

"A good and kindly man, beloved by all who knew him"

THE SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Mercantile Rowing Club

To the Members of Mercantile Rowing Club:

Gentlemen,—Your Committee has much pleasure in presenting the Sixty-fourth Annual Report and Audited Balance Sheet covering the twelve months ended 30th June, 1944.

The past season has been a most satisfactory one from every point of view. Competitive rowing has been on a greatly increased scale, and your Club was again well represented in all events. Numerous combination races were held, including the Picken-Williams Fours conducted by your Club, for which an excellent entry of ninety-seven oarsmen was received.

Club racing was confined to the Sprigg Time Trial.

Unfortunately it was not possible for a great many members to take full advantage of week-day rowing, but every week-end has seen a most excellent attendance.

It was very pleasing to see that several of the R.A.A.F. Stations conducted regattas during the year. These events created a good deal of interest, both in and out of the Services, boats and oars being lent by your Club on numerous occasions.

Further enlistments during the year have brought the number of members now serving in the Forces to 165.

Social events were dispensed with for various reasons.

Financial.

The Committee desires to thank the members for the way that subscriptions have been met during the past season. The amount outstanding, £14/14/-, is the lowest for a considerable period.

Evidence of economy in the Club's finances is shown by the fact that general expenses have been kept down to less than £7—a good effort.

Repairs to boats, oars and shed are also remarkably low at under £12. This is mainly due to force of circumstances, as at the moment it is impossible to get repairs effected outside the Club. In the past repairs have cost the Club as much as £150.

Insurance, the cost of which to the Club is £44, constitutes a formidable item, but obviously it is impossible to economise in this matter, as the property must be covered. The risk is regarded by the insurance people as a bad one.

Executive and Committee.

For the latter half of the season your Captain, Mr. A. Gordon, has unfortunately been absent from the State on war work. Our thanks are due to the Vice-Captain, Mr. J. Blair-Holt, for the capable and enthusiastic manner in which he carried out the Captain's duties.

Messrs. J. C. Thomas and J. McD. Jones enlisted during the year, and we wish to thank these gentlemen for their past services as Committee Members. One vacancy on the Committee was filled by Mr. I. Unsworth.

Twelve Committee Meetings were held during the year, and attendances were as follows:—

J. H. Bailey 7	J. McD. Jones 1	K. Smith 4
C. A. R. Clarke 11	E. Kenny 11	J. C. Thomas 2
A. L. Dobbie 5	D. B. Palfreyman 11	I. Unsworth 4
A. Gordon 5	J. G. Sprigg 11	E. K. L. Varcoe 12
J. Blair-Holt 12	E. Shears 11	

Membership.

It is very pleasing to record that 44 new members were enrolled this season, and it is hoped that members will continue to look for the right men and encourage them to take up the sport.

A further 12 members enlisted in the services and have been granted leave of absence until such time as they can once more avail themselves of the privileges of the Club.

The membership list now stands:—

Life Members	8
Senior Members	76
Junior Members	14
Honorary Members	7
Associate Members	11
Country Members	3

119

(List of members on active service given on page 16.)

Donations.

The Club desires to place on record its appreciation of material assistance received from the following gentlemen:—Messrs. J. Blair-Holt, V. F. Mason, J. G. Sprigg, G. Smith, T. F. Brennan, J. H. Picken, J. L. Stubley, J. N. Robertson, M. S. Williams, J. L. Mounsey, J. H. Clark, A. L. Dobbie, A. Gordon, E. Kenny.

Club-house.

The painting of the Club-house was completed early in the season, thanks to Mr. J. G. Sprigg and his enthusiastic band of helpers. The showers, cisterns and spouting were repaired during the year, and your thanks are due to Messrs. S. Sanderson and J. G. Sprigg for arranging for this work to be carried out.

Two rowing machines have been purchased and erected, and it is hoped that full use will be made of this equipment, particularly for the coaching of novices in the early stages of their training.

The sweeping and dusting of the Club-house was carried out by Messrs. K. Bilney, G. Tatnell, J. Shears, W. Shears and others, and we greatly appreciate this service.

In October considerable loss from a fire in the Boat-house was averted by Melbourne Grammar School boys, who observed smoke issuing from the Committee Room and rapidly extinguished it. Damage was confined to the writing desk and paintwork in the Committee Room.

We wish to record our thanks to those boys for their timely save.

The desk, which was damaged beyond repair, was replaced by the insurance company.

The fire was reported to the police, as the circumstances suggested that it may have been lit deliberately.

Boats and Oars.

Before this war your Club had probably the largest membership of any rowing club in Australia. With such a membership it was necessary to have a large fleet to adequately boat members. The policy of your various Committees for many years has been immediately to repair all damage to fleet and equipment, with the result that your fleet was kept in a very satisfactory condition. Those were the days when boat builders, tradesmen and repairers were handy and a telephone call or message commenced repair work.

For some time, however, it has been impossible to buy new boats or oars, and equally as impossible to obtain skilled tradesmen to effect repairs to our fleet. All repairs must therefore be made by members themselves. Many repairs can only be undertaken by those skilled in the use of certain tools. Messrs. K. Smith, E. K. L. Varcoe and A. Whitford were most helpful in this direction.

Your Committee greatly appreciates all help in boat repair and maintenance, and requests that members capable of using skilfully tools for wood and metal work should contact your Captain with offers of assistance.

A list of the Club's fleet at 30th June, 1944, is set out hereunder:—

RACING BOATS.	PRACTICE BOATS.	TUB BOATS.	
Best and Best.	S. C. Macrae 8	S. Guinn 4	
R. V. Gregg 8	C. F. Raven 8	H. Rush 4	
S. J. Morell 8	J. L. Mounsey . . . 8	J. H. Picken 2	
A. L. Dobbie 4	C. J. Nicholls . . . 8	A. G. Lindblade . . . 2	
Clinkers.	G. J. Horder 8	J. Watson 2	
J. H. Bailey 8	V. F. Mason 4		
J. G. Sprigg 8	A. P. Miller 4		
E. Kenny 8	H. G. Taylor 4		
L. B. Weire 4			
C. A. Clarke 4			
W. Potter 4			
W. Joseph 4			
R. A. Cooper 2			

Unfortunately only four of the Club's practice boats are at present in commission, so members will readily appreciate the seriousness of damage to equipment. A considerable amount of damage was due entirely to careless handling of boats and oars. The practice four H. G. Taylor was badly damaged, presumably as a result of being dropped, but no definite information is available. It is hoped, however, that repairs may be effected in the near future.

Obviously the ability to continue rowing depends entirely on the life of the remaining boats and oars. The Committee desires that every member should feel that the Club is his, and treat the equipment accordingly. Some notes on the handling of boats printed as an appendix to this report are commended to members for their observance in the future.

ROWING.

Inter-Club Events.

Metropolitan Regatta.

4th December, 1943.

Challenge Fours.—(No. 1) J. Blair-Holt (bow), D. B. Palfreyman (2), E. Shears (3), D. Fraser (str.), P. Duncan (cox). Drew in heat, narrowly defeated in final.

Challenge Fours.—(No. 2) K. Smith (bow), R. Bolton (2), A. Burton (3), E. K. L. Varcoe (str.), D. Williams (cox). Defeated in heat.

Novice Fours.—(No. 1) A. Whitford (bow), B. Butler (2), R. Hoskins (3), A. Gordon (str.), D. Williams (cox).

Novice Fours.—(No. 2) W. Wallace (bow), G. Wade (2), A. Batson (3), W. Morrison (str.), P. Duncan (cox). Both crews defeated in heat.

Novice Pairs.—W. Shears (bow), J. Shears (str.), D. Williams (cox). Won heat but defeated in final.

Upper Yarra Regatta.

29th January, 1944.

Challenge Fours.—K. Smith (bow), D. B. Palfreyman (2), J. Blair-Holt (3), D. Fraser (str.), P. Duncan (cox). Defeated in this event.

Light-weight Novice Fours.—W. Wallace (bow), G. Tatnall (2), W. Shears (3), J. Shears (str.), J. French (cox). Won heat and final in good style.

Novice Fours.—W. Morrison (bow), G. Smith (2), R. Hoskins (3), I. Unsworth (str.), D. Williams (cox). Won heat, but narrowly defeated in final.

Handicap Sculls.—This event was won comfortably by J. Williams. R. Bolton and K. Bilney also competed.

V.R.A. Regatta.

19th February, 1944.

Challenge Pairs.—E. Shears (bow), D. B. Palfreyman (str.), J. French (cox). Defeated in heat.

Novice Fours.—(No. 1) W. Wallace (bow), G. Tatnall (2), W. Shears (3), J. Shears (str.), D. Williams (cox). Won heat but beaten in final by two feet.

Novice Fours.—(No. 2) B. Johnson (bow), G. Smith (2), R. Hoskins (3), W. Morrison (str.), P. Duncan (cox). Defeated in heat.

Handicap Sculls.—K. Bilney was defeated in heat.

Metropolitan Regatta.

4th March, 1944.

Novice Fours.—(No.1) W. Wallace (bow), G. Tatnall (2), W. Shears (3), J. Shears (str.), D. Williams (cox).

Novice Fours.—(No. 2) A. Batson (bow), N. Mackey (2), R. Hoskins (3), W. Morrison (str.), J. French (cox). Both crews won their heats but were defeated in final.

Handicap Sculls.—R. Bolton was defeated in heat.

V.R.A. Challenge Fours.

18th March, 1944.

E. Shears (bow), D. B. Palfreyman (2), W. Shears (3), J. Shears (str.), J. French (cox). Defeated.

V.R.A. Challenge Eights.

1st April, 1944.

W. Morrison (bow), D. B. Palfreyman (2), E. Shears (3), K. Bilney (4), R. Hoskins (5), I. Unsworth (6), F. Oldfield (7), J. Blair-Holt (str.), J. French (cox). Defeated.

Combination Racing.

2nd October, 1943.

Picken-Williams Fours.—Fifteen members from your Club took part, but we were not represented in the winning crew.

9th October, 1943.

Young and Jackson Eights.—Not represented in the winning crew.

6th May, 1944.

South Melbourne Combination fours.—W. Morrison was in the winning crew.

Melbourne Cup Day.

For approximately fifty years one or more crews from your Club have made the trip to Footscray on Melbourne Cup Day. This year two eights and one scull, made up of the following members:—D. B. Palfreyman, E. Shears, J. Thomas, J. Blair-Holt, I. Unsworth, R. Hoskins, A. Gordon, B. Butler, J. G. Sprigg, K. Smith, L. Rogers, W. Wallace, W. Morrison, R. Soward, G. Wade, K. Bilney, G. Smith, J. French and P. Duncan, took full advantage of a fine day to keep up the old tradition. Possibly many members do not realise the enjoyable row and entertainment which this day affords, and it is to be hoped that next season will see an even larger number of starters.

Sprigg Time Trial.

This event has again been open for competition throughout the whole season. Eight crews have already been over the course, and it is expected that further good entries will be received before the afternoon of the annual meeting, which is the closing date. Your thanks are extended to Mr. J. G. Sprigg, who has fostered this Time Trial since its inception. Last season eight crews competed, the winners being:—D. H. Fraser (str.), E. Shears (3), D. B. Palfreyman (2), A. Gordon (bow), R. Williams (cox).

Trophies.

Last season the Captain's trophy was won by Mr. D. B. Palfreyman.

Easter Regatta.

Crews from Mercantile, Banks, Melbourne, Richmond and Albert Park went to Tocumwal for a regatta on the Murray on Easter Saturday.

Leaving Melbourne on Good Friday and returning on Easter Monday, the crews were the guests of the R.A.A.F., to whom, and

in particular Wing-Commander Connelly, their thanks are due for a memorable holiday. Richmond won the principal four-oared event, in which all the metropolitan crews, as well as Corowa and the Tocumwal Air Force crew, competed. Mercantile was represented by J. Bailey (str.), E. K. L. Varcoe (3), R. Bolton (2), J. Williams (bow), D. Williams (cox).

With the Services.

DECORATIONS.—We are proud to record that Squadron-Leader A. H. G. (Hugh) Clarke, who returned to Australia last Christmas, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for outstanding service in the European theatre of war.

RETURNED.—A very warm welcome was extended to the following members who visited the Club during their periods of leave:—C. Duncan, J. Craig, D. Calder, H. Shears, P. Hemming, G. Ross, D. Brooke, C. Ward, J. Clarke, V. C. Galvin, R. Gibson, R. W. McDonald, J. Peppard, J. T. Mitchell, J. Radcliffe, J. Rees, J. Robertson, J. McD. Jones, B. Johnson, A. Cripps, G. Sheppard, B. Bourke, J. Ferguson, D. Macrae, J. Thomas, R. Thursfield, J. Fletcher, H. Clarke, S. Newport, R. Johnson, W. Gray, R. Brewin, W. K. McLennan, H. Dietrich, L. Weire, G. Epstein, D. Morgan, W. Haworth, V. Bourne, M. Bailey, N. Cairns, A. Levy, G. Richardson, K. Cooper, B. Shears, J. B. Mitchell, G. Stooke, J. Lee, C. J. Nicholls, K. Pope, R. A. Parrett, C. Wilkinson.

We understand many others were also in Melbourne at various times, and we hope they will come along and renew acquaintances when the opportunity occurs.

We were very pleased to have with us at the last Annual General Meeting Lieut.-Colonel V. C. Galvin, and we express our great appreciation of his talk on his trip overseas.

GREETINGS.—Greeting cards were sent to all members in the services during the season, and we trust they were all delivered safely.

A donation of £7 was made to the Red Cross to provide fourteen parcels for prisoners of war. Unfortunately it is impossible to ensure that these parcels actually reach our own members, but it is known that parcels are reaching them.

We trust the following members, 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 of war or missing, are all well, and that they will be back with us soon.

Word has been received from Alec Dobbie, George Horder, Dave Stirling, Frank Raven and Bill Trickett. They all say they are fit and send greetings to members.

To all the servicemen our best wishes for good health, good luck, and safe return, are extended.

All members regret the loss sustained by Lieut.-Colonel V. C. Galvin in the death of his wife. Shortly afterwards he had to enter Heidelberg Military Hospital. Members will be delighted to know that he has made a good recovery and is now carrying on as usual.

With deep regret we record that the following members of the Club have paid the supreme sacrifice:—W. M. Henty and R. W. McDonald.

To the relatives of these members the Club extends its deepest sympathy.

General.

Although Messrs. J. G. Sprigg, E. Kenny, K. Smith, E. K. L. Varcoe, G. E. Trickett and J. Blair-Holt spent a great deal of time coaching novices, it is to be hoped that every member who has benefited himself from regular coaching will regard it as an obligation to lend a hand with this important work in the coming season.

The older members have again given their whole-hearted support to the Club, and we hope they will maintain their interest and activity.

During April we received a visit from Mr. H. Raven. Old members will recall that during the late twenties he was a prominent oarsman, and successfully competed at many regattas. Although having served some time in the A.I.F., Harold looked particularly well, and anxiously awaits any news of his brother Frank, who is a prisoner of war.

Captain W. Haworth, M.L.A., has been placed on the reserve of officers, and has resumed his civilian duties. He has been sighted on one or two occasions trying conclusions with seasoned veterans in the gymnasium. He has been, no doubt, physically tuning up for the Parliamentary battles of debate, and we trust he will again be a regular attendant at the Club-house.

Some months ago Mr. A. G. Lindblade suffered a painful accident, but all will be pleased to hear that he is now making a rapid recovery.

Best wishes are extended to Messrs. P. Hemming, R. Johnson, W. Birch, P. Wharton, I. Unsworth, C. Lalor and J. T. Mitchell, who were married during the year, and also to the following:—Messrs. A. P. Miller, F. Macrae, C. Duncan, D. B. Palfreyman, J. B. Clemens, V. Bourne and their good wives who have added to their families.

Mr. F. R. Browne, A.I.C.A., again carried out the duties of Honorary Auditor, and our thanks are due to him for this service.

A special word of thanks is due to Mr. Ray Todd for the great interest he takes in rowing and for keeping the sport before the public.

Once again Scotch College crews were afforded the use of the Boat-house and facilities during the regatta training periods, thus maintaining the long-established connection between the school and your Club.

Congratulations are offered to the Geelong College eight and to their coach, Mr. C. Saleh, on winning this year's Head of the River.

In thanking Masters J. French, R. Williams, P. Duncan and T. Owen, who acted as coxswains during the year, we should point out that owing to the increased activity at the shed considerable difficulty has been experienced in providing coxswains for all crews, and it is felt that this position could be rectified if members were to endeavour to attract suitable youngsters by pointing out the enjoyment and benefits to be derived from the sport.

The gymnasium has been well patronised, and has proved a decided asset, particularly during the winter months.

Conclusion.

The retiring Committee thanks members for their assistance, and hopes that the same support which is so essential for the successful conduct of the Club will be forthcoming during the approaching season.

For and on behalf of the Committee,

D. B. PALFREYMAN,

Honorary Secretary.

Addendum.

The sincere thanks of all members are due to Executive Officers of the Club, whose fine work, under the difficult conditions inseparable from wartime, has resulted in it being possible to submit such an excellent Report and Balance Sheet, covering the activities of the past season.

In this connection, reference should be made to the assistance rendered to them by many of our younger members, and a special word of thanks is due to Mr. J. G. Sprigg. His energy and enthusiasm is as unbounded as when he was Captain of the Club a number of years ago, and his work in connection with new members is particularly valuable.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Alan Gordon has found it necessary to tender his resignation as Captain, because his duties as an officer of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research necessitate his absence from Melbourne for lengthy periods from time to time. During his term of office in the 1941-42-43 and 1943-44 seasons, Mr. Gordon rendered the Club most valuable services, and our sincere thanks are tendered to him. He will be succeeded by Mr. J. Blair-Holt, who, as Vice-Captain, has capably carried out Mr. Gordon's duties when he has been away from Melbourne.

Once again the Club is indebted to Mr. J. Harvey Picken for his generosity in undertaking to supply the Annual Report and Balance Sheet without cost to the Club. This is a very big help, and is typical of the keen interest which he has always taken in the Club's welfare during his many years of membership. We thank him most cordially.

To all members 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. The favourable developments in all the war zones during recent months makes it possible to look forward to their return in the not too distant future. How happy we will be to welcome them home again.

A. L. DOBBIE,
President.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret we record the deaths of the following gentlemen, who were prominently associated with the Club:—

SIR STEPHEN MORELL.

The name of Sir Stephen Morell, who passed away on 6th July, 1944, will always be linked with the Mercantile Rowing Club because of the splendid services which he rendered it from the time of joining in 1891 until his death.

He was one of those who, in association with the late Mr. A. B. Sloan, caused the name of Mercantile to be regarded as one of the leading clubs in Victorian rowing, and, at the same time, laid its foundations in such a way that it has ever since been prominent in any movement for the advancement of the sport.

After a number of years as Vice-President, he was elected President of our Club in 1905, on the death of his predecessor, the late Mr. A. R. Blackwood. He filled this office with great distinction for 28 years. His long term was marked by untiring efforts in the Club's interest, and saw a steady increase in its strength, which necessitated extensions to the Boat-house and fleet, until to-day the Club possesses premises and equipment second to none in Victoria. His retirement in 1933 was consequently a matter for great regret.

Fortunately, however, it did not interfere with the continuance of his interest in the Club's welfare, of which he gave many tangible proofs up to the time of his death.

His activities were not confined to the Mercantile Club, and it is questionable if any other man has done so much for Victorian rowing. In 1936 his fine work, being fully appreciated throughout the State, was recognised by his election as President of the Victorian Rowing Association, an office which he filled with great benefit to all Victorian oarsmen until his death.

His name was perpetuated on the river in 1933 by the renaming of the Anderson Street Bridge as the Morell Bridge.

Sir Stephen was prominent in the Club's crews, and amongst other races was "bow" in the successful Championship Four in 1896, and the Championship Eights in 1896 and 1897. He also won a number of sculling races.

For many years he donated the trophies for the Morell Combination Eights. This event attracted large entries, twenty-two crews on one occasion, and did much to make members of the various clubs known to one another. The Morell Cup, presented by him for competition by Senior Eights at the Rowing Association Regatta, was yet another of his benefactions to rowing.

He was a member of the City Council for thirty-eight years, and Lord Mayor from 1926 to 1928, but these civic honours in no way lessened his interest in the sport which he loved so well. A feature which endeared Sir Stephen to all was the keen personal interest which he took in every member, including beginners. He was always ready to tender advice to them, not only in regard to rowing, but also in their business life. Many owe much to him in this direction.

Thus his death removes from this Club, and the rowing world, an outstanding personality, and one beloved by all.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Lady Morell and his family, one of whom, Major Rod Morell, has been a member of the Club for many years.

SIR GEORGE FAIRBAIRN.

The late Sir George Fairbairn was a Vice-President since 1907. He was an outstanding figure in Australian rowing, having stroked the Victorian crew which won the first eight-oared race for the Australian championship in 1878. He was a founder of the Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association (Australian Henley), and was its President at the time of his death. He was for some time President of the Victorian Rowing Association.

Mr. H. W. T. DAVIS.

Mr. H. W. T. Davis, who died suddenly in London on 17th March, 1944, rowed in the winning Victorian eight of 1895. In the same year he stroked the Mercantile crew which won the Senior Fours at Ballarat and Barwon regattas, and the Victorian Championship. Other members of the four were R. E. Dawson, now of Whittlesea (bow), the late A. B. Sloan (2), and the late H. Lindgren (3). The late Sid. Edwards, who coached many of Mercantile's best crews, said that this was the fastest four-oared crew he had ever seen. Mr. Davis was manager of an insurance company in the Far East for many years, and was actively assisting with the war effort in London at the time of his death.

Mr. V. F. MASON.

Mr. Mason, one of our foundation members, used to tell how a band of enthusiasts worked every week-end in filling up the swamp which was originally on the site of our present Boat-house.

For a number of years he dropped out of active association with the Club, but when this was renewed in 1934 he displayed keen interest in its welfare, and made many generous donations to its funds.

By his death another link with the early history of the Club is severed, but it is a tribute to the strong hold which rowing takes on those who take an active part in it to remember that his association extended over a period of sixty-three years, and that almost to the time of his death he was hale and hearty.

Mr. GEORGE LOGAN.

The death of Mr. George Logan, on 14th July, has severed yet another link with the earlier years of the Mercantile Club. Although it is now a number of years since Mr. Logan had taken an active part in rowing, he was formerly prominent in Club crews, and won a number of Maiden, Junior and Senior races. His racing career culminated in his selection in the Victorian crew which competed in the Interstate race at Hobart in 1910. He also competed in a number of contests for the Warehousemen's Boat Race, as a member of crews representing Paterson, Laing and Bruce Ltd., in which firm he rose to be managing director.

Possessed of an unassuming disposition, Mr. Logan nevertheless inspired confidence in all the crews in which he rowed, and was held in high regard, not only amongst members of this Club, but amongst others. His sterling qualities and fine sportsmanship gained for him many friends.

Mr. W. BATTEN.

Members of a decade or more ago will recall that Bill, as he was affectionately known to all, was for some time chief custodian of property. Of a bright and pleasing personality, he was happy at all times to repair equipment, as well as taking out novices and other crews. His prompt attention to minor repairs greatly assisted in the fleet and oars being maintained at a high standard of efficiency. Due to his help and interest in essential details, many social activities were very successful, and the Club is poorer for his passing.

Our sympathy is extended to relatives of these gentlemen.

List of Members, 1943-44 Season.

LIFE MEMBERS.

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

SENIOR MEMBERS.

Aspinall, J. O.	Gordon, A.	Pollard, R. G.
Batson, A. V.	Green, M. E.	Robertson, J. N.
Bailey, J. H.	Greenshields, J. A.	Rogers, L. W.
Batty, R. A.	Gregg, R. V.	Rush, H. R.
Bilney, K. A.	Hansen, M.	Rush, R. T.
Birch, W. C.	Hoskins, R.	Sharp, O. S.
Blair-Holt, J.	Jew, F. W.	Shears, E.
Bolton, R. S.	Jones, J. McD.	Smith, K. A.
Browne, F. R.	Kerr, R. J.	Somerville, J. M.
Burton, A. J.	Lalor, C. C.	Soward, R. S.
Butler, B.	Lindblade, A. G.	Spillane, J.
Butler, L.	Macfarlane, J. M.	Sprigg, J. G.
Cannon, R. H.	Marsh, T. W.	Starr, E. N.
Capp, R. M.	Mead, V.	Sullivan, B.
Cliff, R. A.	Mildren, D. E.	Thomas, J. C.
Cooper, Dr. R. A.	Miller, A. P.	Trickett, G. E.
Corteen, L.	Mounsey, J. L.	Unsworth, I. T.
Cumming, R.	McGregor, I.	Varcoe, E. K. L.
Dixon, C. E.	McKay, T.	Wade, G. C.
Dowd, M. C.	Nixon, N. V.	Walker, R. J.
Duncan, A. R.	Norton, F. W.	Wallace, W.
Dunstan, J. T.	Oldfield, F.	Webb, A. M.
Fraser, D. H.	Palfreyman, D. B.	Whitford, A. R.
French, L. P.	Picken, J. H.	Williams, L. E. R.
Frost, C.	Pitt, W. G.	Williams, M. S.
		Woods, L. D.

JUNIOR MEMBERS.

Edney, G. J.	McKeown, J.	Smith, G. M.
Lyons, F. W.	Richardson, R. H.	Tatnall, G. F.
Mackey, N. K.	Shears, J. D.	Williams, J. G.
Matheson, W.	Shears, T. W.	Woodbridge, R. H.
Milner, R. W.	Sissons, D. C. S.	

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Burmeister, C.	O'Reilly, J.	Sturrock, J. McL.
Gibbs, A. A.	South, J.	Wade, P. M.
Hill, L.		

COUNTRY MEMBERS.

Ferguson, J.	Ferguson, R.	Trehearne, A. G.
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Bligh, A. R.	Morgan, N.	Stewart, S. C.
Cox, G. F.	Morice, J. M. W.	Tibbits, I. D.
Evans, E. A.	Nugent, P. F.	Varcoe, E. K.
Grant, W.	Peters, T.	

On Active Service.

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

*Killed on active service.

REVENUE ACCOUNT for 12 months ending 30th June, 1944.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
Subscriptions £290 19 6	Repairs to Boats, Oars and Shed £11 16 8
Less V.R.A. Capitation Fee 23 13 6	Depreciation—
Donations £267 6 0	Boats, Oars and Sculls £42 15 0
Interest 54 18 6	Boat-house 50 0 0
Entrance Fees—Club Races 5 14 10	General Expenses 92 15 0
Entrance Fees—Regatta Races 9 2 0	Lighting, General and Water Rates 6 17 11
	Insurance 25 2 11
	Telephone 44 1 4
	Trophies, Club Races 2 9 10
	Metropolitan Rowing Association 7 2 6
	Balance Transferred to Capital 0 10 6
	Balance Transferred to Capital 146 17 2
£337 13 10	£337 13 10

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, 1944.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	£22 10 0	Boat-house	£2,282 1 1
Boat Building Reserve	7 14 8	Less Depreciation	50 0 0
Capital as at 30th June, 1943	£3,101 0 1		£2,232 1 1
Add Balance from Revenue		Boats and Sculls	£478 0 0
This Period	146 17 2	Less Depreciation	37 0 0
		Oars at Valuation	441 0 0
Capital as at 30th June, 1944	3,247 17 3	Club Fittings	122 15 0
		War Bonds	48 0 0
		Subscriptions Outstanding	300 0 0
		Stock on Hand (Singlets)	14 14 0
		Bank of New South Wales	1 12 0
		Savings Bank	10 10 2
			117 19 10
			£3,278 1 11

Audited and found correct.

F. R. BROWNE, A.I.C.A.,
Hon. Auditor.C. A. R. CLARKE,
Hon. Treasurer.

APPENDIX.

Handling of Boats.

The importance of adopting the correct method of carrying and placing boats in the water cannot be too strongly stressed, as it is certain that a considerable amount of damage to boats can be due entirely to careless handling.

In a rowing club it is of necessity a recognised principle that the stroke is in charge of the crew not only while rowing, but also when taking the boat from the Boat-house to the water and returning it to the racks.

Before attempting to move a boat from the racks it is necessary for the crew to be correctly spaced with bows opposite strokes. In order to avoid undue strain which might ultimately cause structural damage to the boat the word "lift" should be given by the stroke only. Care must be observed when leaving the Boat-house that riggers are not damaged by being knocked against other boats or against the sliding doors. Due to the rise and fall of the tide the staging is frequently slippery, and boats should be turned before this part of the staging is reached. So as to prevent falling or slipping, members should, on approaching the water, see that one foot is always firm against the protruding lateral ridge of the staging. Dependent on the tide crews must walk out into the water before attempting to float a boat.

In placing a boat in the water, each member of the crew should hold the boat with one hand and place the other under the boat, thereby helping it into the water. Before attempting to enter the boat it is necessary for every member of the crew to see that the boat is not only afloat, but that it will float when all members are seated.

There is only one way—the correct way—to get into or out of a boat, and that is by stepping crossways on the keel board or the seat runners, and at the same time placing the hands on both sides of the boat, thereby taking the main weight of the body.

On returning to the Boat-house, unless extreme weather conditions prevail, bow side will get out first and hold the boat for the stroke side. When taking the boat out of the water and returning it to the rack similar care must be taken as when leaving the Boat-house.

In placing the boat on the rack particular attention must be given that no riggers are resting on the racks. The stroke will then nominate a portion of the crew to hose and wash down the boat.

Oars.

Oars should be taken from the Boat-house prior to placing the boat on the water, and returned after the boat is restored to its rack. They should be placed on the bank, and not stood against trees or buildings where they may easily be knocked down and damaged.

Bow side oars should be placed on the racks provided on the right of the Boat-house, and stroke oars on the left.

Reporting of Damage.—All damage to boats, oars and other property should be reported immediately to the Captain.

WHOLLY SET UP
AND PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA BY
J. T. PICKEN & SONS
FRANKLIN STREET, MELBOURNE