

Mercantile Rowing Club



MELBOURNE

SIXTY-FIFTH
Annual Report
and
Balance Sheet

::

Season 1944-45

Mercantile Rowing Club

Mercantile Rowing Club



Princes Bridge,

Melbourne,

10th July, 1945.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sixty-fifth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Mercantile Rowing Club will be held at the Club-house on SATURDAY, 28th JULY, 1945, 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, 21st July, 1945.

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.

R. V. GREGG, Esq.

A. G. LINDBLADE, Esq.

J. M. MACFARLANE, Esq.

J. L. MOUNSEY, Esq.

C. N. McKAY, Esq.

Sir T. S. NETTLEFOLD, K.B.,

O.B.E.

J. H. PICKEN, Esq.

G. W. SMITH, Esq.

J. G. SPRIGG, Esq.

CAPTAIN:

Mr. J. BLAIR-HOLT.

HON. SECRETARY:

Mr. D. B. PALFREYMAN.

VICE-CAPTAIN:

Mr. K. BILNEY.

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. A. GORDON.

Mr. E. KENNY.

Mr. J. SHEARS.

Mr. J. G. SPRIGG.

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. E. KENNY.

Mr. K. BILNEY.

Mr. I. UNSWORTH.

Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS.

DELEGATES TO UPPER YARRA AMATEUR REGATTA ASSN.:

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

DELEGATES TO METROPOLITAN ROWING COMMITTEE:

Messrs. J. BLAIR-HOLT, J. SHEARS.

VICTORIAN AMATEUR SCULLING ASSOCIATION:

Mr. K. BILNEY.



J. BLAIR-HOLT
Captain, 1944-1945.

THE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Mercantile Rowing Club

To the Members of Mercantile Rowing Club:

Gentlemen,—Your Committee has much pleasure in presenting the Sixty-fifth Annual Report and Audited Balance Sheet covering the twelve months ended 30th June, 1945.

In reviewing the activities of your Club for the past season, we are glad to record a great improvement both in rowing success and in the general spirit of enthusiasm and co-operation.

Your Club was well represented at all major regattas, and the majority of combination races conducted by the various Clubs.

This year the Combination Race for the Picken-Williams trophies was conducted for eight-oared crews, and a very gratifying entry of 120 oarsmen made a most interesting and enjoyable day.

A combination four-oared race for Club Members was well supported, as was the Sprigg Time Trial.

With an increase in the number of regattas conducted this season, many more members were seen at the Club during the week, and large attendances were recorded each week-end.

Your Club again lent boats and oars to R.A.A.F. Crews competing in Service regattas.

Members in the forces now total 178, which is an increase of 13.

On Saturdays during the winter months, football has proved a great attraction, and many pleasant afternoons were enjoyed by everyone participating.

The gymnasium continues to attract an increasing number of enthusiasts, particularly during the winter months.

The following detailed record of the years' activity will more adequately show the part your Club has played in the sport.

Financial.

The Committee has pleasure in thanking members for the prompt payment of subscriptions during the season. This fact is gratifying and of great assistance in the Club's business affairs.

The cost of replacements is, naturally, exercising the minds of the Committee, and the payment of £4 each for oars purchased recently, may possibly be an indication of what we may have to pay for material when more settled conditions prevail.

Another serious difficulty at the moment, is sources of supply, which have been cut off by war conditions. Efforts are being made in this connection, and it is hoped that some progress may be reported in the near future.

Gratitude is tendered to those members who have done so much valuable work in reconditioning the fleet during the season.

Executive and Committee.

The Club has been very fortunate in having as Captain Mr. J. Blair-Holt, and your thanks are due to him for the able manner in which he carried out his arduous duties. He has inspired a feeling of harmony among all Members, and may finish this term of office confident in the knowledge that he has faithfully done his part to further the progress of the Club.

Thanks are also due to Committee Members whose interest and assistance has helped considerably in the smooth and successful running of the Club.

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

J. H. Bailey . . . 7	A. L. Dobbie . . . 4	J. G. Sprigg . . . 12
K. Bilney . . . 12	A. Gordon . . . 10	E. Shears . . . 11
J. Blair-Holt . . 11	E. Kenny . . . 8	J. Shears . . . 11
C. A. R. Clarke. 12	D. B. Palfreyman 10	I. Unsworth. . . 12
		E. K. L. Varcoe 11

Membership.

The addition of 38 new Members is gratifying, and indicates that the vitality of the Club is being maintained by the infusion of new blood.

During the year 5 Members enlisted in the services, and, in accordance with past procedure, have been granted leave of absence.

The membership list now stands as follows:—

Life Members	7
Senior Members	95
Junior Members	21
Honorary Members	8
Associate Members	8
Country Members	2

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List of Members on active service given on pages 16 and 17.

Donations.

The Club desires to record its appreciation of donations received from the following gentlemen:—

Dr. R. A. Cooper, S. Guinn, J. G. Sprigg, J. H. Picken, J. L. Mounsey, J. Blair-Holt, T. F. Brennan, G. Sheppard, A. L. Dobbie, J. H. P. Clark, E. Kenny.

Club-house.

A new lead flooring has been laid under the showers. This will help to preserve the wooden structure which was being damaged by water seeping through the old lead floor.

The roof was overhauled and a number of tiles was replaced.

During the year the City Council completed the asphaltting of the road past the Club-house and the approach to the Club. The improved conditions are greatly appreciated by all members who use the Shed regularly.

The Committee Room was repainted after the damage by fire last year.

The sweeping and dusting of the Club-house was carried out by Messrs. K. Bilney, G. Tatnall, J. Shears, W. Shears, W. Wallace, and others, and their efforts in this direction are appreciated.

During April vandals broke into the Shed and forced the lock on the desk in the Committee Room. Apart from the damage to the desk and the muddle of papers, no great damage was done. The matter was reported to the police, but the offender was not traced.

Boats and Oars.

New boats are still unobtainable, oars are difficult to secure, and it is practically impossible to arrange for repairs to be carried out. The Club is very fortunate therefore in having such Members as Messrs. A. Gordon, I. Unsworth and K. Bilney, whose efforts this year have helped to a great degree to keep the fleet in its present condition. Special thanks are extended to Mr. G. Stooke, who, following his discharge from the Navy, has devoted many Sunday mornings to effecting repairs to boats. Some others have helped with the repairs, but your Committee feels that in a Club the size of Mercantile there must be many more who could render valuable assistance. All who can do so are requested to contact the Captain and offer their services.

A list of the Club's fleet at 30th June, 1945, 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					

Towards the end of May another practice Eight, the C. J. Nicholls, was put back in commission. This has relieved the position somewhat for week-end rowing.

In November last the Club was fortunate to obtain a set of Eight Poppet Practice Oars from Messrs. Geo. Towns & Son, together with two sets of Sculls for use with the open boats. All these oars are being used continuously, and have helped considerably to relieve the pressure on busy days.

In June we obtained four more practice oars and fourteen racing oars. These will be invaluable next racing season.

It is felt desirable to draw attention of Members to the fact that oars bought this season cost £4/10/- each, and £190 plus sales tax was recently quoted in Sydney for a new racing eight. Members are again reminded that carelessness in handling equipment is not only expensive to the Club, but causes a great deal of inconvenience.

Coaching.

The coaching problem has again been a disturbing feature. There were many crews which had to carry on without any coaching during their training, and we must urge Members to give their support in the coming season.

We extend our thanks to Messrs. J. G. Sprigg, G. Trickett, A. Gordon, A. Lindblade, and S. Sanderson, who, at no little

inconvenience, have devoted so much time to this important work, and trust that we will again have their able assistance in the future.

Your Club has been very fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Tom Darcey, Tasmanian State Coxswain. He is in the R.A.A.F., and at present stationed in Melbourne. He has devoted quite a lot of time during each week and on Sunday mornings to coaching the younger oarsmen.

During February, Mr. Charles Saleh, former Geelong College coach, moved to Melbourne, and has since been coaching some of our younger members. Acting on his suggestion a picture night was arranged at which was shown a film on rowing. The thirty-four members present, apart from having a most enjoyable evening, greatly benefited from the talk given by Mr. Saleh. For his interest and valuable assistance given we extend our sincere thanks.

We appreciate the fine gesture of Columbia Pictures and the Department of Munitions in making available free of charge the film and theatre respectively.

To obtain the best results and permit the interchange in crews which is sometimes necessary during a regatta season, it is obvious that the style adopted by any Club should be uniform.

Some notes by Mr. C. Saleh, which are printed as an appendix to this report, will prove of great interest to Members.

ROWING.

Inter-Club Events.

Metropolitan Regatta.

9th September, 1944.

Advanced Fours.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), A. Whitford (bow), R. Williams (cox), J. South (coach). Defeated in heat.

Beginners' Fours.—R. Woodbridge (str.), H. Duncan (3), J. Neill (2), D. Powell (bow), J. French (cox), K. Bilney (coach). Defeated in heat.

Beginners' Lightweight Pairs.—B. Ridgway (str.), R. Cannon (bow), J. French (cox), J. Blair-Holt (coach). Defeated.

Beaufort — R.A.A.F. Regatta.

25th November, 1944.

Novice Fours, No. 1.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. French (cox). Won heat but defeated in final.

Novice Fours, No. 2.—R. Woodbridge (str.), D. Powell (3), J. Neill (2), M. Somerville (bow), J. Jordan (cox). Defeated in heat.

Novice Pairs.—I. Unsworth (str.), R. Hoskins (bow), R. Williams (cox). Defeated in heat.

Handicap Sculls.—K. Bilney was defeated.

Metropolitan Regatta.

2nd December, 1944.

Novice Fours, No. 1.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. French (cox). Won this event in fine style.

Novice Fours, No. 2.—R. Woodbridge (str.), D. Powell (3), J. Neill (2), M. Somerville (bow), J. Jordan (cox). Defeated in heat.
Novice Pairs.—I. Unsworth (str.), R. Hoskins (bow), R. Williams (cox). Defeated in heat.
Sculling Half-mile Dash.—K. Bilney. Won this event.

Upper Yarra Regatta.

27th January, 1945.

Challenge Fours.—D. Palfreyman (str.), J. Blair-Holt (3), D. Fraser (2), E. Shears (bow), R. Williams (cox). Won heat but defeated in final.

"C" Class Fours.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. French (cox). Defeated.

Novice Fours, No. 1.—D. Powell (str.), H. Duncan (3), R. Hoskins (2), J. Neill (bow), J. Jordan (cox), G. Trickett (coach). Comfortably won both heat and final.

Novice Fours, No. 2.—R. Woodbridge (str.), J. Hill (3), W. Morrison (2), M. Somerville (bow), J. Fielden (cox), A. Gordon (coach). Defeated in heat.

Handicap Sculls.—K. Bilney and J. Williams. Won easily by J. Williams.

V.R.A. Regatta.

17th February, 1945.

Novice Fours.—R. Woodbridge (str.), J. Hill (3), W. Morrison (2), M. Somerville (bow), J. Fielden (cox), A. Gordon (coach). Defeated.

"C" Class Fours, No. 1.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. French (cox).

"C" Class Fours, No. 2.—D. Powell (str.), H. Duncan (3), R. Hoskins (2), J. Neill (bow), J. Jordan (cox), G. Trickett (coach).

No. 1 crew narrowly defeated No. 2 crew after a very exciting race.

Handicap Sculls.—K. Bilney and J. Williams. Won comfortably by J. Williams.

Sculling Regatta.

24th February, 1945.

Sculling Half-mile Dash.—J. Williams won this event, with R. Bolton fourth.

Novice Lightweight Scull.—Won by J. Jordan with W. Morrison second.

Metropolitan Regatta.

3rd March, 1945.

Novice Fours, No. 1.—R. Woodbridge (str.), A. Batson (3), M. Ponsford (2), J. Hill (bow), J. Fielden (cox). Defeated in heat.

Novice Fours, No. 2.—G. Smith (str.), J. Donaldson (3), E. C. White (2), K. Wilson (bow), R. Duncan (cox), S. Sanderson (coach). Defeated in heat.

"C" Class Fours.—D. Powell (str.), H. Duncan (3), R. Hoskins (2), J. Neill (bow), J. Jordan (cox), G. Trickett (coach). Narrowly defeated in final.

Challenge Fours.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. French (cox). Won heat but defeated in final.

Challenge Pairs.—D. Palfreyman (str.), J. Blair-Holt (bow), R. Williams (cox). Defeated in heat.

Beaufort — R.A.A.F. Regatta.

10th March, 1945.

"C" Class Fours.—D. Powell (str.), H. Duncan (3), R. Hoskins (2), J. Neill (bow), J. Jordan (cox), G. Trickett (coach). Won this event in good style.

Challenge Fours.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. French (cox). Defeated.

Novice Fours, No. 1.—R. Woodbridge (str.), A. Batson (3), M. Ponsford (2), J. Hill (bow), J. Fielden (cox). Won heat but defeated in final.

Novice Fours, No. 2.—G. Smith (str.), J. Donaldson (3), E. C. White (2), K. Wilson (bow), R. Duncan (cox), S. Sanderson (coach). Defeated.

Handicap Scull.—K. Bilney finished second.

V.R.A. Challenge Fours.

17th March, 1945.

No. 1 Crew.—J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. French (cox).

No. 2 Crew.—D. Powell (str.), H. Duncan (3), R. Hoskins (2), J. Neill (bow), J. Jordan (cox), G. Trickett (coach). Both crews were defeated.

V.R.A. Sculling 1000 Metres.

17th March, 1945.

J. Williams and K. Bilney were both defeated.

V.R.A. Challenge Eights.

7th April, 1945.

J. Blair-Holt (str.), F. Oldfield (7), D. Powell (6), J. Neill (5), J. Shears (4), W. Shears (3), D. Palfreyman (2), W. Wallace (bow), J. Fielden (cox). Defeated.

V.R.A. Novice Eights.

7th April, 1945.

W. Humphreys (str.), J. Hill (7), M. Ponsford (6), I. Unsworth (5), G. Smith (4), W. Oberhansli (3), A. Gordon (2), M. Somerville (bow), J. Jordan (cox). Defeated.

V.R.A. Sculling, 2 Miles.

7th April, 1945.

K. Bilney was defeated.

V.R.A. Challenge Pairs.

28th April, 1945.

H. Shears (str.), J. Hill (bow), J. Fielden (cox). Defeated.

Combination Racing.

7th October, 1944.

Picken-Williams Eights.—Your Club was represented in the winning crew by J. Shears (str.), and H. Duncan (5).

14th October, 1944.

Young and Jackson Eights.—J. Blair-Holt stroked the winning crew with W. Wallace (bow).

November, 1944.

Stewart Tibbits Fours.—J. Neill rowed (3) in the winning crew.

16th April, 1945.

Corio Bay Fours.—J. Shears stroked the winning crew.

16th June, 1945.

Old Oarsmen's Eights.—In aid of the Albert Park Rowing Club. Your Club was represented in the winning crew by E. Shears (7).

Pair-Oared Event for Service Crews.

This event was won by R. Johnson (str.), B. Johnson (bow), both members of your Club.

Coxswains Fours.

Two races were held, both being won in fine style by the following crew from your Club: R. Williams (str.), J. Jordan (3), J. French (2), J. Fielden (bow), R. Fisher (cox).

Club Racing.

Combination Fours.

2nd November, 1944.

This event attracted a good entry of 32 Members, the winners being J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), N. Morrison (2), R. Capp (bow), J. French (cox).

Country Regattas.

RUTHERGLEN PATRIOTIC CARNIVAL.—On New Year's Day a patriotic gymkhana held at Lake Moodemere included several rowing events. Messrs. A. Gordon, W. Wallace, and G. Tatnall, together with a member of Corowa Rowing Club and Master J. French, coxswain, participated in an Open Fours race, winning their heat, but being defeated by inches in the final. Bill Wallace was a member of the crew which won the Combination Fours Race.

MULWALA REGATTA.—A crew comprising Messrs. J. Shears, W. Shears, D. B. Palfreyman and W. Wallace, with Master J. French, coxswain, won an Open Four-oared Event on Yarrowonga Weir on 24th February.

Both the above crews visited the Murray at the invitation of Mr. George Grimes, Secretary of the Corowa Rowing Club, and on their behalf the Club extends to him and Corowa their thanks for excellent hospitality.

These rowing holidays always prove to be most enjoyable, and are strongly commended to any who have not had the experience.

Melbourne Cup Day.

Melbourne Cup Day, 1944, saw two Eights, one Four and one Scull make the trip to Flemington under ideal conditions. A most interesting and enjoyable afternoon was had by all, and a warm welcome is assured any new starters for next year's outing.

Sprigg Time Trial.

Your thanks are extended to Mr. J. G. Sprigg, who has again been responsible for making this event possible. Great interest has been shown, and at the time of going to press sixteen crews have been over the course.

Last season nine crews competed, the winners being J. Shears (str.), W. Shears (3), G. Tatnall (2), W. Wallace (bow), R. Williams (cox). Time 26 min. 10 sec.

With the Services.

It was indeed magnificent news to learn early this year that hostilities had ceased in Europe and that Bill Trickett, Dave Stirling, Frank Raven, Tracey Rowley, Bert Spencer and Norm Kerrigan, who were prisoners of war, had been repatriated to England. Members will be delighted to know that all are well. They can be sure of a very warm welcome on their return to Melbourne. Cables of congratulations on their liberation have been sent.

DECORATIONS.—We are again proud to record that a further member of your Club in Flying-Officer Arthur Atkins has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

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. Bailey, C. Wilkinson, D. Calder, J. Ferguson, B. Grabham, P. Braddock, L. Weire, V. Galvin, P. Vanderkelen, J. Clark, J. Craig, D. Fraser, R. Richardson, G. Sheppard, J. Thomas, R. Thursfield, D. Brooke, H. Clarke, J. Neill, J. S. Neill, J. Jones, K. Cooper, D. Morgan, A. Levy, J. Rees, L. Moll, D. Sissons, W. Morrison, F. Lyon, A. Rosser, B. Chandler, J. Radcliffe, W. Wadey, W. Turnbull, A. Sloss, D. Seal, D. Long, A. Rorke, J. Stubbley, R. Gartley, J. Ainslie, B. Bourke, H. Edwards, C. Harry, G. Hiller, P. Kerr, J. Lee, J. T. Mitchell, F. Newport, K. Pope, W. G. Ross, C. Ward, G. Webster.

We trust that K. Braithwaite, J. Bussell, A. Dobbie, G. Hastie, G. Horder, J. Major, R. Scholefield, J. Wicks, who are prisoners in Japanese hands, are all well.

To all the Members in the Services we extend our best wishes for their good health and a safe and speedy return.

It is with deep regret we have to record the deaths on Active Service of Gordon Davies and Bill Matheson. Our sincere sympathy is extended to their relatives.

General

Your Club has been very fortunate over a period of years in having a number of Members who have made valuable donations. All will be pleased to learn that Mr. J. T. Dunstan has promised to give the Club a new racing boat. For such a generous and timely offer, it is indeed hard to find words to adequately thank the genial and popular donor. In the past many Members have felt the Club has been an asset to them, and on their part they have been prepared to give perhaps more than they have received. We know that all Members will express appreciation and thanks for this very generous offer.

The years seem to fall lightly on Mr. Bert James, and our thanks are due to this gentleman for the capable way in which he despatched crews for our Picken-Williams Combination Race. Owing to the large number of novice oarsmen, who had not previously competed in a race of this nature, the despatch of crews presented great difficulties, but many years of experience with this class of racing enabled Mr. James to place crews in the starter's hands in almost record time. While the Victorian Rowing Association has such able officials, Members may rest assured that their affairs are in capable hands.

Members will be glad to know that Max Bailey is again well after medical observation and two operations at Heidelberg Military Hospital, followed by a convalescent period at Portsea. He has now

been discharged from the A.I.F., and is relieving his brother Jack in their business.

As a result of his strenuous work in the past five years, Jack Bailey is confined to his bed. Members wish this popular ex-captain and successful senior oarsman a speedy recovery.

We are very grateful to Mr. F. R. Browne, A.I.C.A., who has again given his services as Honorary Auditor.

To the following Members, who were married during the year, our congratulations and best wishes are extended: H. P. Braddock, J. B. Ainslie, B. L. Grabham, R. V. Gregg, C. Harry, J. Radcliffe, K. A. Smith, W. B. Shears, A. Whitford, C. V. Wilkinson.

We also tender our congratulations to P. Appleby, E. Shears, P. Hemming, J. Thomas, R. Bolton, J. Mitchell, and their wives, who have added to their families.

Our Coxswains, Masters J. French, D. Williams, J. Jordan, R. Fisher, M. McGregor, J. Fielden, R. Duncan, T. Kendall have rendered very good service.

The connection between Scotch College and your Club has been maintained, school crews using the Boat-house for some weeks during the season.

We have pleasure in extending to Melbourne Grammar, and to their coach, Mr. W. Ricketts, your congratulations on winning this year's "Head of the River."

To that enthusiastic oarsman, Mr. Ray Todd, who is so well known to Members of all Clubs, we extend our thanks for the efficient manner in which he continues to inform the public about rowing.

All old Members were early this year pleased to see Harold Egeberg and Keith Kennedy. We hope their next visits to Melbourne will not be so long delayed.

We were more than delighted one Regatta Day this year when Mr. Gibbs, an uncle of Alan Gibbs visited the Club-house and watched with interest the racing. He will be remembered for the hospitality and support he extended to Members who visited Rutherglen and Lake Moodamere for regattas and Christmas camps.

Early this year the Albert Park Rowing Club had the misfortune to lose by fire their boat-house, entire fleet and all equipment. We were glad that they had the opportunity to buy two practice fours as the nucleus of their new fleet. In considering what could be done for Albert Park, your Committee consulted the Albert Park Captain, Mr. T. Warburton, who advised that practical assistance in the form of equipment would be most appreciated. The subsequent offer to lend Albert Park the G. J. Horder until a practice eight became available for purchase was promptly accepted.

Your Club extends to Albert Park its best wishes for early re-establishment.

Congratulations are extended to our Vice-President, Sir Thomas Nettlefold, on his having been so highly honoured by His Majesty the King, in appreciation of his splendid work as Lord Mayor of Melbourne during three strenuous years of war, and of the many fine jobs he has done during those difficult years. His many friends in rowing circles in Victoria are delighted at this fine recognition of his outstanding qualities as an organiser and administrator.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion the retiring Committee wishes to thank the Members for their support throughout the season, and solicits similar support for the incoming Committee.

On behalf of the Committee,

D. B. PALFREYMAN,

Honorary Secretary.

Addendum.

Once again it is my privilege to express to the officers of the Club, headed by your Captain, Mr. J. Blair-Holt, the sincere appreciation of all members for the fine work which they have done during the past season. As a result, the Club is in a particularly healthy condition, and the prospects for the coming year are definitely most promising.

The successful termination of the war in Europe, and the satisfying progress which is daily becoming more pronounced in the war against Japan, should make it possible during the 1945-46 season to again resume competitive rowing on a pre-war scale, a matter which is at present under consideration by the Rowing Association.

When this comes about, our Club should be in a position to be worthily represented because of the excellent type of young members available for Regatta crews, and of the enthusiasm of officers and rank and file alike, which has been so pronounced during the past season. This has largely been brought about by the manner in which new members have quickly been made to feel at home, and to take an intimate interest in all Club activities. In this connection special reference should be made to Mr. J. G. Sprigg, whose enthusiasm continues unabated after many years of splendid service to the Club.

Special reference should be made of the fact that Mr. Alex Clarke has completed his 30th year as Hon. Treasurer of the Club—a remarkable record. His interest is as keen as ever, and the services he has rendered have been invaluable.

In our last report, appreciation was expressed of the generosity of Mr. J. Harvie Picken, in having supplied the Annual Report and Balance Sheet without cost to the Club. Once again we are indebted to him for this fine gesture, which has been of great help to the Treasurer. Mr. Picken can be assured that he has our sincere thanks for the continued interest he shows in the Club's welfare.

To all Members serving with the Navy, Army and Air Force we send greetings and sincere wishes for their safety and well-being. Recently we have had the satisfaction of knowing that those who were prisoners of war in Europe have reached England safely, and are in good health. Most of them are on the way back to Australia, and on July 7th we had the pleasure of welcoming the first of them, Lieut. Norman Kerrigan. It is hoped that our Annual Meeting will see a number of them with us, which would make it a memorable occasion. Bill Trickett remained in England so that he could row with one of the Australian crews at Henley-on-Thames Regatta.

Unfortunately it is not possible to write so happily regarding those of our members who have been prisoners of war in Japanese hands since soon after Japan entered the war. News of them is scanty, and what has been received gives cause for anxiety regarding their welfare. We can only hope that with the progress which is being made in this war zone, the time will soon arrive when they too will be released.

A. L. DOBBIE, President.

Obituary.

It is with regret that the deaths of the following former members are recorded: Sir Arthur Robinson, Mr. George Ferguson, Mr. J. R. Morrison.

SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON'S membership of the Club was brought about by his connection with Scotch College, which brought him into

intimate association with Mercantile. Although Sir Arthur was not a rowing Member, he took a keen interest in our welfare. We share in the regret of Melbourne citizens at the loss of a man who took such a prominent part in the business and civic life of the City over a period of many years.

MR. GEORGE FERGUSON was a most valued member and was prominent in the Club's Regatta and championship crews. He started his racing career by "stroking" the winning Maiden Four at Footscray in 1905, and followed this up by a "double" Maiden Eight at Barwon and Ballarat regattas. He gained Interstate honours when he rowed "bow" in the successful Victorian crew of 1907. He also rowed in the same seat in the 1908 and 1909 crews, which finished in second position. His active association with Mercantile ended with his transfer to Sydney, but he always retained his interest in the Club. His death was the result of an accident, when he was struck by a motor car, and sustained injuries which terminated fatally after a long illness.

MR. J. R. MORRISON came to the Club as a recruit from Scotch College in 1909. He started his racing career auspiciously by winning his Maiden Four at Seymour regatta a few weeks later and quickly following this with the Maiden Eight at Melbourne regatta. Unfortunately his services were lost to the Club when he left Melbourne to take up his residence in the Western District. He too retained his interest in Mercantile, and was one of the first to contribute towards the fund for rebuilding the Boat-house after its destruction by fire.

During the season, Mr. Roy Thursfield and Mr. Jack South sustained bereavements in the deaths of their father and brother respectively.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to their relatives.

List of Members, 1944-1945 Season.

LIFE MEMBERS.

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

SENIOR MEMBERS.

Aspinall, J. O.	Cliff, R. A.	Greenshields, J. A.
Batson, A. V.	Cooper, Dr. R. A.	Gregg, R. V.
Bailey, J. H.	Corteen, L.	Hansen, M.
Batty, R. A.	Cumming, R.	Hill, J.
Bilney, K. A.	Dixon, C. E.	Hoskins, R.
Birch, W. C.	Donaldson, J. C.	Huntly, C. S.
Bissett, I. J. W.	Dowd, M. C.	Jones, J. McD.
Blair-Holt, J.	Duncan, A. R.	Kerr, R. J.
Bolton, R. S.	Duncan, R. G.	Lalor, C. C.
Broughton, O. S.	Dunstan, J. T.	Lindblade, A. G.
Browne, F. R.	Edney, G. J.	Macfarlane, J. M.
Burton, A. J.	Fraser, D. H.	Macpherson, A.
Butler, B.	French, L. P.	Mahoney, H.
Butler, L.	Frost, C.	Marsh, T. W.
Cannon, R. H.	Gordon, A.	Mead, V.
Capp, R. M.	Green, M. E.	Miller, A. P.

Milner, R. W.	Powell, D. B.	Stooke, G.
Mollard, K. F.	Rogers, L. W.	Sullivan, B.
Mounsey, J. L.	Rush, R. T.	Tatnall, G. F.
McCombe, C.	Sharp, O. S.	Trickett, G. E.
McDonald, F. G.	Shears, E.	Unsworth, I. T.
McKay, T.	Shears, J. D.	Varcoe, E. K. L.
McKeown, J.	Shears, T. W.	Wade, G. C.
Neill, J. S.	Shoppee, C. L.	Wallace, W.
Nixon, N. V.	Sissons, D. C. S.	Whitford, A. R.
Oberhansli, W.	Smith, C. H.	Williams, J. G.
Oldfield, F.	Smith, G. M.	Williams, M. S.
Palfreyman, D. B.	Smith, K. A.	Wilson, K. J.
Page, G.	Somerville, J. M.	Woodbridge, R. H.
Picken, J. H.	Soward, R. S.	Woods, L. D.
Pitt, W. G.	Sprigg, J. G.	Wright, P. A.
Pollard, R. G.	Starr, E. N.	

JUNIOR MEMBERS.

Ashton, E.	Martin, A. J.	Scott, R. N.
Balstrup, G. W.	Morcom, E. G.	Spencer, F. D.
Bland, G. J.	Murrell, C. G.	Stewart, G. J.
Chitty, J. W.	Neill, J.	Tippett, H.
Dakin, A. E.	Petallock, L. G.	White, E. C.
Duncan, H. D.	Payton, T.	Willder, I. D.
Humphreys, W.	Ponsford, H. M.	Woods, K.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

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

COUNTRY MEMBERS.

Trehearne, A. G.	Reidy, J. J.
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Cox, G. F.	Morgan, N.	Tibbits, I. D.
Evans, E. A.	Peters, T.	Varcoe, E. K.
Grant, W.	Stewart, S. C.	

On Active Service.

*Ainslie, J. B.	†‡Braithwaite, K. A.	Craig, J. B.
Atkins, A. H.	†Brewin, R.	Cripps, A.
Appleby, J. P.	Brooke, D. C.	Davey, G. H.
*Bailey, M.	Bucirde, R. J.	†Davies, G. A.
Balfe, N.	†Bussell, G. J.	Dickens, A.
†Barkly, E. H.	Cairnes, N. W.	Dietrich, H. O.
†Barnfather, E. R.	Calder, D. A.	†Dobbie, A. W.
†Beltowers, W.	Calder, T. J.	Duncan, C. B.
Bethune, H. F.	Chandler, B. C.	Edwards, H.
Bernsten, M. O.	Chitty, J. W.	Epstein, G. J.
Bickerstaff, B. C.	*Clark, J. H. P.	*Ferguson, J. M.
Bickerstaff, H. A.	Clarke, A. H. G.	Ferguson, R.
†Black, P. A.	Clemens, J. B.	Fletcher, J. M.
Bligh, A. R.	Coade, N.	Fogarty, B. J.
Bourke, B. F.	Cooper, K. N.	Fox-lane, D.
Bourne, V.	Cole, G. H.	Fraser, D. H.
Braddock, H. P.	†Cook, D. D.	Galvin, V. C.

- Gartley, R. M.
 Gibson, R. J.
 *Grabham, B. L.
 Gray, W. L.
 Gregory, C. J.
 Harry, C. M.
 Harrison, G. J.
 †Hastie, G. T.
 *Haworth, W. C.
 Hemming, P.
 †Henty, W. M.
 Hill, J. T.
 *Hill, L.
 Hiller, G. L.
 Hogan, D. F.
 Holmes, B. M.
 †Horder, G. J.
 Huntley, C. S.
 Irving, R. B.
 Johnson, B.
 Johnson, R.
 Jones, E. J.
 Jones, J. McD.
 Kerr, P.
 Kerrigan, N.
 Kirsch, L. C.
 Lee, J.
 Levy, A.
 †Lind, G. A.
 Long, D.
 Lyons, F. W.
 Mackey, N. K.
 Macpherson, A.
 Macrae, D. M.
 *Macrae, F. A.
 †Macrae, S. C.
 †Major, J. F.
 Marsh, E. W.
 Mander, K.
 †Matheson, W.
 Meakin, A. R.
 Mitchell, J. B.
 Mitchell, J. T.
 *Mirams, J.
 Moll, L. L. B.
 Mollard, K.
 *Morell, R. T.
 Morgan, D.
 Morrison, W.
 McDonald, R. F.
 †McDonald, R. W.
 McFarlane, J. J.
 McLean, D. B.
 McLennan, W. K.
 *McVilly, I. W.
 Neill, J.
 *Neill, J. S.
 †Nethercote, C. R.
 Newport, F.
 Nicholls, C. J.
 O'Halloran, J.
 †Orbuck, L. D.
 Parrett, R. A.
 Peppard, J.
 Ponsford, H. M.
 Pope, K.
 Radcliffe, J.
 Raven, C. F.
 Rashleigh, A. F.
 Reid, J. M.
 Rees, J.
 Richardson, R.
 Richardson, S. G.
 Rigby, W.
 Robertson, J. N.
 Rorke, A. T.
 Rose, A.
 Ross, W. G.
 Rosser, A. G.
 Rowe, P.
 Rowley, T.
 *Roxburgh, T. W.
 *Sanderson, S. O.
 †Scholefield, R. B.
 Seal, D.
 Seammen, J. W.
 Sharpe, O. S.
 Shears, H. P.
 Shears, W. B.
 Sheppard, G. K.
 Sheppard, G. M.
 Shoppee, C. L.
 Sissons, D. C. S.
 Sloss, A.
 †Smith, W. H. R.
 Spencer, H. T.
 Spooner, J.
 Stewart, G. J.
 Stirling, D.
 Stooke, T. B.
 *Stooke, G.
 Story, G.
 Stubbley, J. L.
 Syme, R. J.
 Thomas, J.
 Thursfield, R. W.
 Trickett, W. A.
 Tulloch, W. J.
 Turnbull, W. R.
 Vanderkelen, P.
 Volk, H.
 Wadey, W.
 Ward, C. H. M.
 Ward, J. M.
 Watsford, H.
 Watson, N. P.
 Webster, G. H.
 Weekes, W. H.
 Weire, L. B.
 Wharton, P. V.
 White, D. C.
 †White, F. N.
 †Wicks, J.
 Wilkinson, C. V.
 Williams, D.
 Williams, L. E. R.
 Wilson, R.
 † Prisoner.

* Discharged.

† Killed.

‡ Prisoner.

REVENUE ACCOUNT for 12 months ending 30th June, 1945.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
Subscriptions	Repairs to Boats, Oars and Shed
Less V.R.A. Capitation Fee ..	Depreciation—
Donations	Boats, Oars and Sculls
Interest	Boat House
Entrance Fees—Club Races	General Expenses
£384 13 6	Lighting, General and Water Rates
25 8 0	Insurance
£359 5 6	Telephone
54 10 6	Trophies, Club Races
12 8 6	Metropolitan Rowing Association
13 16 0	Upper Yarra Regatta
	Amateur Sculling Association
	Balance Transferred to Capital
	£440 0 6
	£60 17 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, 1945.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	£1 4 6	Boat House	£2232 1 1
Boat Building Reserve	7 14 8	Less Depreciation	50 0 0
Capital as at 30th June, 1944	£3247 17 3		£2182 1 1
Add Balance from Revenue, this period	155 11 2	Boats and Sculls	£441 0 0
		Less Depreciation	44 0 0
Capital as at 30th June, 1945	3403 8 5		397 0 0
		Oars at Valuation	222 10 0
		Club Fittings	48 0 0
		War Bonds	500 0 0
		Subscriptions Outstanding	21 1 9
		Bank of New South Wales	£31 4 7
		Savings Bank	10 10 2
			41 14 9
	<u>£3412 7 7</u>		<u>£3412 7 7</u>

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

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

APPENDIX

The essentials in a successful style are that it must produce pace and be a pleasure to the oarsman. It is with this in mind that I recommend the following style, which is a natural, rational action and not to be confused with what is termed "Fairbairnism."

THE GRIP OF THE OAR.

The hands should be a hand's space apart, with the inside hand gripping firmly and the outside hand only a light grip, the inside hand being the controlling hand throughout the stroke.

The method of propulsion is by shoving the boat along and not trying to lift it. The method of shoving is by a drive with the legs and a simultaneous backward draw with the body and arms.

Realising that the rowing stroke is identical with the action of picking up a piece of paper from the floor, it necessarily follows that the legs must begin the movement and it is commonsense that the body and arms follow on.

KEEP ON YOUR FEET.

The feet should be firmly placed against the foot plates with the knees in a natural position—that is, a few inches apart. It is immaterial whether an oarsman rows with his knees together or a little apart, but it is essential that he is on his feet.

The fear that the oarsman will "shoot the slide" and not gain the full benefit of the leg drive can be obviated by ensuring that he is working close to the water with the blade. However, his slide is bound to be on the move prior to the blade gripping the water. This is merely the slack taking up, and, if anything, adds to the power applied.

FREE AND EASY.

The recovery should be a "free and easy" float away of the hands from the body, giving the impression of "turning the handle of a mangle."

The recovery is all important, as it is the beginning of the "follow through," which allows the boat to have its maximum run between the strokes.

After the blade has been recovered from the water, the oarsman's movement should be one of ease and perfect relaxation, allowing the run of the boat to work him into that strong position forward where he should poise prior to driving the blade to the water, the poise enabling the oarsman to time the blade to the water. It is wrong for the oarsman to pull on his toe straps, as this eliminates the natural poise or balance, and also is back pedalling against the forward pace of the boat.

LOOSE AND LAZY.

The oarsman's attitude should be such that he refuses to allow anything to put him out of his stride; this eliminates any chance of developing a hurried movement. Be "loose and lazy," or "free and easy"; "keep on your feet."

In conclusion, I would like to add that I do not suggest that this method of propulsion will produce exceptional pace. That depends upon the crew themselves, but I do say that it is a commonsense manner of gaining the maximum pace from the minimum of effort.

CHARLES SALEH.

Rule of the River.

It is advised that, briefly, the Regulations under the Upper Yarra Traffic Act of 1909 relating to the Rule of the River prescribe—

1. (a) Every boat shall be kept to the right side of the River, and in meeting shall pass with the left side of one next to the left side of the other.

The effect of this is that boats going up the River shall keep to the South Bank and boats coming down the River shall keep to the North Bank.

- (b) Boats proceeding down the River to the boat-houses on the South Bank near Princes Bridge shall pass through the centre arch of Prince's Bridge before crossing the stream, and shall then return to the staging at such boat-houses through the south arch of such Bridge.
- (c) Coaches of racing crews desirous of stopping a crew for the purpose of giving instruction shall bring the boat as close to the bank as possible before stopping it, and shall not cause any interference to any boat or boats following.

2. Over the past few years observance of the Rule of the River has become very lax, and with a view to overcoming this the Committee of the Victorian Rowing Association at its meeting on Wednesday, 6th June, 1945, adopted the following By-Law:

"Every member of the Association shall at all times conform to and comply with the laws or by-laws of the Authority controlling the waters upon which he may be rowing or sculling and it shall be the obligation of the stroke of every crew and of every sculler to see firstly that his boat keeps to the correct side of the river or water upon which he is rowing and that secondly he or his coxswain obeys the directions of officials appointed or approved by the Association to control the movement of boats upon any occasion. Any stroke or sculler who deliberately or carelessly breaks this by-law shall in addition to any penalty under Rule XX, if found guilty by the Committee of the Association, or any sub-committee appointed by it to hear the charge against him, be suspended from rowing with any club belonging to this Association for a period of three months."

3. This By-Law is now in operation.