

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB

MELBOURNE



70th Annual Report and Balance Sheet

SEASON 1949-50

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB



Princes Bridge,
Melbourne, S.C.I.
29th May, 1950.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Seventieth ANNUAL MEETING** of the **MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB** will be held at the **CLUB HOUSE** on **SATURDAY, 24th JUNE, 1950, at 7.45 p.m.** (The Annual Smoke Night will be held at the conclusion of the Meeting.)

BUSINESS:

1. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Previous General Meeting.
3. To elect Office-bearers for the ensuing year.
4. To consider the recommendation of the Committee that Messrs. A. G. Lindblade and F. R. Browne be elected Life Members.
5. Presentation of Trophies.
6. General.

Nominations for Office-bearers for the ensuing year will close at the Club House at 4.00 p.m., Saturday, 17th June, 1950.

By order of the Committee,
A. B. KOHN, Hon. Secretary.

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB

President:

A. L. DOBBIE, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.

Dr. R. A. COOPER.

R. V. GREGG, Esq.

E. KENNY, 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.

M. S. WILLIAMS Esq.

Captain:

Mr. D. J. R. MORGAN.

Vice-Captain:

Mr. H. P. SHEARS.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. A. B. KOHN.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. J. N. ROBERSTON.

Committee:

Mr. R. R. AITKEN.

Mr. N. W. CAIRNES.

Mr. L. L. B. MOLL.

Mr. W. T. MORRISON.

Mr. J. D. SHEARS.

Mr. R. W. THURSFIELD.

Mr. E. K. 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 Members:*

Mr. A. L. DOBBIE.

Mr. D. MORGAN.

Mr. N. W. CAIRNES.

Mr. E. KENNY.

Mr. H. SHEARS.

Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS.

Delegates to Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta Association:

Mr. L. L. B. MOLL, Mr. W. MORRISON.

Delegates to Metropolitan Rowing Association:

Mr. R. AITKEN, Mr. J. SHEARS.

Representative to Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association (Henley):

Mr. R. W. THURSFIELD.

Delegate to Victorian Amateur Sculling Association:

Mr. K. BILNEY.

THE SEVENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Rowing Club

To the Members of Mercantile Rowing Club:

Gentlemen,

In presenting to you the Seventieth Annual Report and Balance Sheet it is pleasing for your Committee to report that your Club has completed one of the most successful seasons in its long history. The standard of rowing, particularly in the Junior division, has been of a high order.

The winning of both the Senior and Junior Premierships has emulated the feat of the Club in its Jubilee Year. This distinction, of winning both premierships on separate occasions, equals the fine record of Albert Park. Richmond has won the double once, in the season 1935-36.

The past season has been a record one in the number of victories attained, and it is worthy of note to mention that in seventy-one starts your Club was successful in winning thirty-four races. The Club ushered in the season with six wins at V.R.A. and Henley, and a perusal of the list of your representatives at the different regattas will show that large entries were sent to practically every fixture throughout the season. Three Championship Honours were won, viz., The Champion Fours, Champion Junior Eights, and the Champion Lightweight Fours.

Throughout the season Mercantile has been fortunate in having the services of a number of promising young members. With these, and other young men, we can look forward with confidence to the coming season. It is to be hoped that the successes of the past season will encourage others to swell the ranks of the self-sacrificing coaches.

The trips by coach to the country regattas were a great success, and the participants had a most enjoyable time. The Christmas Regattas, at Nagambie, Yarrawonga and Rutherglen, are increasing in popularity among the members. The hospitality of the Rowing Fraternity is never seen to greater advantage than on these occasions.

A large number of oarsmen and supporters attended other regattas, particularly Ballarat and Barwon. The flooded condition in Gippsland rivers at Easter caused the Bairnsdale Regatta to be abandoned, and the Club did not send any of the large number of crews in training to compete in the Sale Regatta, which was held on a 3-mile course on Lake Gutheridge.

The review of the rowing at the Empire Games shows that the Australian oarsmen achieved a remarkable feat in winning four of the five events which were held. The Australian Eight-Oared

Championship resulted in a win for the excellent New South Wales representatives, with Victoria second. The Sculling Championship for the President's Cup was won by M. T. Wood, the Olympic Champion, with Victorian representative, R. V. Rawlins, one foot away in second place.

The social activities of the Club this season were again very successful, and the thanks of all members are due to the Committee which organised these activities.

A more detailed account of the activities of the Club for the season is submitted for your review.

Financial

The rising costs are increasing the difficulties which rowing clubs face. The increase in subscription fees helped the financial position of your Club considerably; but even with this increase it is difficult to finance the replacements of boats and oars. Many generous members have helped materially by donations, and although this cannot be considered a stable source of finance, year by year these donations have overcome many problems. It is of interest to note that the V.R.A. is also finding the current costs a big problem. Recently the rules of the Association were amended to meet the expense of representation in the King's Cup and the President's Cup races each year.

It will be seen from the Financial Report that a large amount of the year's expenditure has been for the purchase of new craft and oars. A Tub Four has cost the Club over one hundred pounds, while the purchase of oars is also expensive, as a set of ten, purchased in Sydney, cost forty-seven pounds.

The repair work carried out at working bees helps keep down the amount of money spent on repairs to your Club's property. The age of many of the craft necessitates a heavy repair bill—but members who use the fleet can reduce these costs by careful use of equipment.

The amount of outstanding subscriptions this year is larger than usual, and members are urged to help the Treasurer by paying their dues early in the season.

Executive and Committee

It was unfortunate that his transfer to the country was responsible for the resignation of Mr. D. Crichton from the office of Honorary Secretary.

Up to the time this report was placed in the hands of the printer, nine regular meetings of the Committee have been held.

The attendances were as follows:—

D. Morgan 9	D. J. Crichton . . . 3	W. Morrison . . . 9
A. Dobbie 5	E. Varcoe 6	J. Robertson . . . 9
H. Shears 9	R. Thursfield . . . 8	A. Kohn 9
N. Cairnes 6	L. L. Moll 9	J. Shears 8
E. Kenny 3	R. Aitken 8	J. Sprigg 8

Membership

Seventeen new members were elected during the year, and the membership now stands at:—

Life Members	7
Senior Members	149
Junior Members	33
Honorary Members	21
Country Members	14
Associate Members	20
Total	244

Donations

The Club desires to place on record its appreciation of material assistance from the following, to whom we convey your sincere thanks:—The family of the late Sir Stephen Morell, Messrs. J. Mounsey, J. Sprigg, J. Blair-Holt, S. Guinn, D. Morgan, M. S. Williams, J. H. Picken, A. L. Dobbie, T. McKay, R. V. Gregg, E. K. L. Varcoe, W. V. M. Bailey, J. Beattie.

Boats and Oars

A complete list of the Club's fleet is set out hereunder:—

RACING BOATS	PRACTICE BOATS	TUB BOATS
Best and Best	S. C. Macrae . . . 8	N. W. Cairnes . . . 4
S. J. Morell 8	C. F. Raven . . . 8	S. Guinn 4
R. W. Thursfield . 4	J. L. Mounsey . . 8	J. H. Picken . . . 2
A. L. Dobbie 4	C. J. Nicholls . . 8	A. G. Lindblade . 2
G. T. Hastie 2	G. J. Horder . . . 8	J. Watson 2
Lawrie Moll, Scull.	V. F. Mason . . . 4	Scull No. 1.
	A. P. Miller . . . 4	Scull No. 2.
	H. G. Taylor . . . 4	

CLINKER RACING

J. H. Bailey 8	E. Kenny 8	L. B. Weire 4
J. G. Sprigg 8	A. R. Shannon . . 8	

Noticeable absentees from the above list are the Tub Four, R. T. Rush, and the Clinker Pair, R. A. Cooper. These boats were sold to the Yarrowonga Rowing Club in December, 1949.

At the conclusion of the King's Cup race, the Best and Best racing eight, "Westralia," was purchased from the Western Australian Rowing Association. Our priority for a racing eight from Messrs. G. Towns and Sons has been transferred to the W.A. Rowing Association as part of the purchase conditions of the "Westralia." A racing eight, which is on order with Mr. G. Green, of Sydney, should be made available shortly. The Tub Four "N. W. Cairnes" was a new boat purchased from Mr. H. Lounder, in Adelaide. Orders have been placed for more new craft, and the possibility of obtaining bondwood tub pairs is being investigated.

Coaching

Much of the success of our crews this year has been due to the members who have coached during the season. The Club is indebted to these gentlemen, and it is hoped that those who have benefited from coaching in the past will consider it an obligation to coach others during the coming season.

As coaches, the following gentlemen have rendered valuable service during the past season: Messrs. W. Shears, H. Shears, N. Cairnes, C. Saleh, J. Ferguson, D. Morgan, G. Hiller, K. Connolly, A. G. Lindblade, J. R. Shears, G. B. Johnson and W. Morrison.

Members who have taught beginners the fundamentals of the sport have done excellent work, and, like the coaches of racing crews, have sacrificed much in order to carry out this work. These gentlemen have organised a team to coach beginners on week day evenings during the winter period.

Rowing

The British Empire Games — 1950

The success of the Australian Oarsmen of the Empire Games, held in New Zealand recently, was of great interest. Four of the five events which were held were won by the Australian representatives. Our congratulations are extended to this contingent which represented your country.

The only Victorian competitors, Messrs. J. Webster and W. Lambert, won the race for Coxswainless Pairs, very comfortably. The successful New South Wales eight in the 1949 Australian Championship won the Empire title for eight-oared craft by one foot from New Zealand. Olympic Champion, M. T. Wood, won the Single Sculls event, and, with W. Riley, also won the Double Sculls race. The Haberfield four, which won the test race at Ballarat, was not successful in the four-oared event, which was won by the New Zealand crew.

Mr. E. Kenny, a member of your Club, was Rowing Manager at the Games, and Mr. H. Wilkes, a former Mercantile member, was General Manager. The success and harmony of the Australian contingent speak volumes for the ability of these gentlemen.

British Empire Games Test Races

A Four-oared Test Race was held at Lake Wendouree on Saturday, 3rd December, 1949. Your Club was represented by G. I. Holyman (bow), P. M. Macpherson (2), L. L. B. Moll (3), R. R. Aitken (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), C. Saleh (coach). They won their heat and in the final were third to Haberfield.

The Coxswainless Pairs Test was held on the Nepean River in N.S.W. Your representatives, W. L. Wallace (bow), and H. P. Shears (stroke) were unsuccessful.

Australian Championship

6th May, 1950.

The Australian Eight-oared Championship for the King's Cup was rowed on the Lower Yarra course. This race resulted in a win for the excellent New South Wales crew, which completed the course 56½ seconds faster than the previous record time. The Victorian crew, which finished second, four lengths behind New South Wales, rowed excellently.

This crew comprised: W. Wallace (Mercantile), bow; A. Kingsbury (University), 2; M. Christie (Melbourne), 3; L. Moll (Mercantile), 4; D. MacGlashin (University), 5; L. Weber (University), 6; G. Barrett (University), 7; I. Everist (University), stroke; A. Bennett (University), cox; R. Aitken (Mercantile) and J. Hibben (Preston), emergencies; R. Todd, coach.

The Sculling Championship for the President's Cup resulted in a win for M. T. Wood, with Victorian R. Rawlins one foot away in second place. This race was 1 minute 38.3 seconds faster than Cecil Pearce's record of 17 min. 8.5 secs., established in 1938.

To the successful crew and coach who won the Championship for New South Wales for the third successive year, to Mr. Wood, who won the President's Cup for the fifth successive year, and to Duncan Brown, a former member of your Club, who coached the Queensland crew, we extend our sincerest congratulations.

Congratulations are also due to Lawrie Moll and Bill Wallace, who gained a seat in the Victorian crew; to Bob Aitken as emergency, and to Messrs. J. South and C. Saleh, who were King's Cup selectors.

State Championship Events

Champion Eights (2½ miles).—This race was conducted on the Lower Yarra course on February 18, 1950, and was won by University, with Mercantile second. We congratulate this crew for their excellent win, and also Messrs. J. Ferguson and C. Saleh, who coached the crew during the season.

The Mercantile crew comprised: W. Wallace (Bow), J. Peterson (2), H. Duncan (3), P. Macpherson (4), H. Burke (5), D. Powell (6), L. Moll (7), R. Aitken (Stroke), W. Bailey (Cox), H. Shears (Coach).

Champion Fours (2,000 Metres).—This event was rowed on the Lower Yarra on December 17, 1949, Mercantile winning from Preston, thus retaining the title which was won last year.

Mercantile representatives were: G. I. Holyman (Bow), P. Macpherson (2), L. Moll (3), R. Aitken (Stroke), W. Bailey (Cox), C. Saleh (Coach).

Champion Pairs.—This race was postponed three times through bad weather and was finally rowed on the Lower Yarra course. The Club's representatives—W. Wallace (Bow), H. Shears (Stroke), W. Bailey (Cox)—were unable to start in this event because of King's Cup training. The race was won by the Preston pair.

Champion Sculls (2½ miles).—This was won by R. Rawlins (Melbourne) on a row-over on February 18, 1950.

2,000 Metre Sculling Championship.—This race was rowed on March 25, 1950. R. Rawlins (Melbourne), won this event from J. Forsyth and R. Williams, both of Mercantile.

Champion Junior Eights.—This year the race was rowed on March 25, over 2,000 metre course on the Lower Yarra. Your representatives won this race from Corio Bay and Banks. The crew comprised: A. Kohn (Bow), J. Peterson (2), F. Noble (3), M. Keely (4), J. Rowe (5), D. Olliff (6), R. Day (7), J. Shears (Stroke), M. Lee (Cox), N. Cairnes (Coach).

Champion Junior Lightweight Eights.—This race was rowed on March 23, 1950, and resulted in a win for Ballarat City from Corio Bay. Mercantile were not represented.

Champion Junior Lightweight Fours (2,000 Metres).—This race was rowed on December 17, 1949, and resulted in a comfortable win for Mercantile representatives, who were: G. Robertson (Bow), R. Richardson (2), J. Robertson (3), A. Kohn (Stroke), J. Drew (Cox), W. Shears (Coach).

Regattas

Melbourne Regatta

19th November, 1949

Your Club had the greatest success for many years at this Regatta.

Senior Fours.—I. Holyman (Bow), P. Macpherson (2), L. Moll (3), R. Aitken (Stroke), W. Bailey (Cox), C. Saleh (Coach), won this event in fine style.

Senior Pairs.—W. Wallace (Bow), H. Shears (Stroke), W. Bailey (Cox), C. Saleh (Coach), lost the final to Preston.

Junior Eights.—W. Wheatland (Bow), J. Peterson (2), H. Burke (3), D. Olliff (4), H. Duncan (5), D. Powell (6), J. Kidd (7), J. Shears (Stroke), M. Lee (Cox), N. Cairnes (Coach). This crew won the event very comfortably.

Junior Fours.—J. Robertson (Bow), R. Mounsey (2), G. Hyett (3), A. Kohn (Stroke), A. Connolly (Cox), K. Connolly, lost the final to Banks.

Maiden Eight.—G. Robertson (Bow), N. Browning (2), J. Pearce (3), D. Roach (4), F. Noble (5), D. Seal (6), S. Smith (7), A. Purves (Stroke), P. Harrison (Cox), G. Hiller (Coach), won the final against strong opposition.

Maiden Four.—G. Cohen (Bow), R. Smith (2), H. Mahoney (3), C. Murrell (Stroke), P. Yunghanns (Cox), D. Morgan (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Maiden Pair.—R. Anderson (Bow), R. Richardson (Stroke), J. Drew (Cox), W. Shears (Coach), won this event by two feet.

Handicap Sculls.—R. Williams lost the final to J. Prime, of Yarra Yarra.

Henley Regatta

26th November, 1949

Mercantile was represented by the same crews as for the V.R.A. Regatta, with the exception of R. Williams, who replaced D. Roach in the Maiden Eight.

Senior Four.—This crew lost to Haberfield.

Coxwainless Pairs.—W. Wallace (bow), H. Shears (stroke), won this event from W. Lambert and J. Webster.

Junior Eight.—This crew lost to Sydney by one foot after a gruelling race.

Junior Four.—This crew was unsuccessful.

Maiden Eight.—G. Robertson (bow), R. Williams (2), J. Pearce (3), N. Browning (4), F. Noble (5), D. Seal (6), S. Smith (7), A. Purves (stroke), P. Harrison (cox), G. Hiller (coach), won the final by a narrow margin and completed a fine double with V.R.A.

Maiden Four.—Your representatives were unsuccessful.

Nagambie Regatta

26th December, 1949

Junior Eight.—J. Robertson (bow), R. Mounsey (2), J. Carr (3), J. Peterson (4), H. Burke (5), D. Powell (6), W. Wheatland (7), A. Kohn (stroke), M. Lee (cox), N. Cairnes (coach). This eight narrowly won the event from Banks.

Senior Pair.—W. Wallace (bow), H. Shears (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), were unsuccessful.

Junior Four.—W. Wheatland (bow), D. Powell (2), H. Burke (3), J. Shears (stroke), M. Lee (cox), N. Cairnes (coach), won comfortably from Wahgunyah.

Junior Pairs.—J. Robertson (bow), A. Kohn (stroke), P. Harrison (cox), won this event easily.

Maiden Fours.—The Club was represented by two crews in this event.

No. 1 Crew.—R. Anderson (bow), J. Forsyth (2), J. Pearce (3), N. Browning (stroke), P. Yunghanns (cox), W. Shears (coach).

No. 2 Crew.—R. Day (bow), M. Keeley (2), D. Murray (3), R. Olliver (stroke), P. Harrison (cox), J. Ferguson (coach).

This race was rowed in heats and the final resulted in a narrow win for the No. 2 Crew over the No. 1 Crew.

Maiden Pair.—W. White (bow), K. Wilson (stroke), J. Drew (cox), were unsuccessful.

Yarrowonga Regatta

31st December, 1949

Your Club was represented by the same crews as for the Nagambie Regatta, except for the Maiden Four No. 2 and the Senior Pair, which later were representatives at the Colac Regatta.

Junior Eight.—This crew was successful.

Junior Four.—This crew was successful.

Junior Pair.—This crew was successful.

Maiden Four.—The No. 1 crew was successful.

Maiden Pair.—This crew was unsuccessful.

Rutherglen Regatta

1st February, 1950

The personnel of the various crews were the same as the previous regatta at Yarrowonga, with the exception of W. Morrison, who replaced R. Mounsey in the Junior Eight, and J. Peterson, who was a substitute for J. Shears in the Junior Four. D. Powell then went into the stroke seat of this crew.

Junior Eight.—This crew was successful in a treble win.

Junior Four.—Your representatives were successful in completing a treble.

Junior Pair.—This crew won the event, thus completing a treble win.

Maiden Four.—This crew was successful.

Maiden Pair.—This crew was defeated.

Colac Regatta

1st January, 1950

Maiden Four.—The Maiden Four No. 2 competed, but were unsuccessful.

Champion Pairs.—The race was postponed because of the rough condition of the course.

Upper Yarra Regatta

28th January, 1950

Senior Eight.—W. Wallace (bow), P. Macpherson (2), H. Duncan (3), H. Burke (4), I. Holyman (5), D. Powell (6), L. Moll (7), R. Aitken (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), H. Shears (coach), were successful in this event.

Junior Four.—J. Robertson (bow), J. Peterson (2), S. Smith (3), A. Kohn (stroke), M. Lee (cox), N. Cairnes (coach), won this event.

Junior Pair.—W. Morrison (bow), J. Shears (stroke), P. Yung-hanns (cox), were defeated.

Lightweight Junior Four.—E. White (bow), R. Anderson (2), G. Robertson (3), R. Richardson (stroke), P. Harrison (cox), J. Shears (coach). This crew was successful.

Maiden Four.—H. Mahoney (bow), D. Williams (2), F. Noble (3), N. Daniels (stroke), J. Murphy (cox), W. Shears (coach), were unsuccessful.

Maiden Pair.—J. Pearce (bow), N. Browning (stroke), P. Yung-hanns (cox), W. Morrison (coach), won this event.

Handicap Sculls.—J. Forsyth scored an easy win.

Albert Park Regatta

31st January, 1950

Senior Eight.—W. Wallace (bow), P. Macpherson (2), H. Duncan (3), H. Burke (4), G. I. Holyman (5), D. Powell (6), L. Moll (7), R. Aitken (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), H. Shears (coach), won the event.

Junior Four.—J. Robertson (bow), J. Peterson (2), S. Smith (3), A. Kohn (stroke), M. Lee (cox), N. Cairnes (coach), won this event.

Junior Pair.—Was unsuccessful.

Lightweight Junior Four.—Was defeated.

Maiden Four.—Was defeated.

Maiden Pair.—Was unsuccessful.

Ballarat Regatta

25th February, 1950

Senior Eight.—W. Wallace (bow), J. Peterson (2), H. Duncan (3), P. Macpherson (4), H. Burke (5), D. Powell (6), L. Moll (7), R. Aitken (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), H. Shears (coach), were defeated.

Senior Four.—H. Duncan (bow), P. Macpherson (2), L. Moll (3), R. Aitken (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), H. Shears (coach), were successful in this event.

Champion Pairs.—This was declared no race, but was later re-rowed on the Lower Yarra.

Junior Eight.—S. Smith (bow), A. Kohn (2), J. Pearce (3), N. Browning (4), F. Noble (5), D. Olliff (6), N. Daniel (7), J. Shears (stroke), M. Lee (cox), N. Cairnes (coach), were defeated in this race.

Junior Pair.—J. Robertson (bow), K. Bilney (stroke), W. Kerr (cox) were unsuccessful.

Maiden Four.—G. Robertson (bow), D. Williams (2), H. Mahoney (3), D. Seal (stroke), P. Yunghanns (cox), W. Morrison (coach) were defeated.

Maiden Pair.—J. Martin (bow), C. Murrell (stroke), W. Kerr (cox) were defeated.

Lightweight Junior Pair.—R. Anderson (bow), R. Richardson (stroke), J. Drew (cox), D. Morgan (coach) were defeated.

Barwon Regatta

4th March, 1950.

Senior Eight.—Your representatives, as at Ballarat, were defeated.

Senior Four.—H. Duncan (bow), P. Macpherson (2), L. Moll (3), R. Aitken (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), H. Shears (coach) won this event.

Junior Eight.—This crew was defeated.

Junior Pair.—Your crew was defeated in the final.

Maiden Eight.—M. Murray (bow), J. Virtue (2), J. Forsyth (3), R. Granowski (4), R. Day (5), M. Keeley (6), J. Rowe (7), R. Oliver (stroke), P. Harrison (cox), W. Shears (coach) were successful in this event.

Maiden Four.—Your Club representatives were unsuccessful.

Maiden Pair.—Were defeated.

Lightweight Junior Pair.—R. Anderson (bow), R. Richardson (2), J. Drew (cox), D. Morgan (coach), were successful.

Mildura Regatta

8th April, 1950.

Open Eights.—E. C. White (bow), R. Richardson (2), J. Forsyth (3), P. Macpherson (4), H. Duncan (5), D. Olliff (6), W. Craig (7), J. Shears (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), won this event by one length.

Senior Fours.—H. Duncan (bow), P. Macpherson (2), L. Moll (3), H. Shears (stroke), W. Bailey (cox), won this race easily.

Senior Pair.—L. Moll (bow), H. Shears (stroke), W. Bailey (cox) were successful.

Wentworth Regatta

10th May, 1950.

Senior Four.—As at Mildura, your crew was successful.

Senior Pair.—Your crew was again successful.

Premiership Points

SENIOR				Club	Wins	Pts.	
Club	Wins	Pts.					
Mercantile	9	57	Melbourne	—	2		
Melb. University	5	48	Nagambie	1	2		
Preston	8	24	Footscray City	1	2		
Wendouree	4	14					
Melbourne	3	5	JUNIOR				
Wahgunyah	2	4	Mercantile	21	114		
Haberfield (N.S.W.)	1	4	Barwon	8	52		
Albert Park	1	2	Banks	7	42		
Ballarat City	1	2	Albert Park	9	38		
Banks	—	2	Corio Bay	4	34		
Yarra Yarra	1	1	Wendouree	9	24		
Warrnambool	1	1	Yarra Yarra	6	22		
			Power House	4	20		
			Mildura	5	18		
			Hawthorn	2	12		
			Sydney (N.S.W.)	1	8		
			Torrens (S.A.)	1	8		
			Wentworth	1	8		
			Ballarat City	2	6		
			Ballarat	2	4		
			Preston	2	4		
			Richmond	2	4		
			Bendigo	2	4		
			Rutherglen Lake	1	2		
			Warrnambool	1	2		
LIGHTWEIGHT							
Ballarat	18	70					
Corio Bay	3	20					
Rutherglen Lake	5	16					
Mercantile	3	14					
Barwon	1	8					
Nestanglo	2	8					
Ballarat City	2	8					
Yarra Yarra	2	6					
Banks	—	4					
Warrnambool	1	2					

To Ballarat Rowing Club, winners of the Lightweight Pennant, we extend your congratulations.

Head of the River

The Club's congratulations are extended to the Geelong Grammar crew and coach for the excellent manner in which the crew won this race.

Again three of the six coxswains in this race have steered for Mercantile.

Our happy association with Scotch College was again continued this year. Mr. Charles Saleh, a member of the Club, coached the Scotch College crew.

Club Races

PRESIDENT'S FOURS

This event was again conducted in conjunction with Ladies' Day. The President, Mr. A. L. Dobbie, presented trophies to the successful crew, which comprised: G. Cohen (bow), R. Richardson (2), J. Kidd (3), C. Murrell (stroke).

MORELL COMBINATION EIGHTS

Once again the family of the late Sir Stephen Morell generously donated trophies for this popular event. Mercantile members in the winning crew were: J. Shears (stroke), W. Shears (7), D. Seal (4). The proceeds of this event were donated to the V.R.A. Empire Games Finance Appeal.

GUINN PAIRS

This event resulted in an excellent entry of twelve crews. The Preston Club was invited to join in our Club events, and the winning crew was stroked by J. Hibbin (Preston), with R. Day (Mercantile) bow; P. Wilson was coxswain.

ALEX. CLARKE CLUB FOURS

This race was rowed as a memorial to the late Mr. C. A. R. Clarke, who was for many years Treasurer of the Club.

Eight crews raced in this event, and the winners were: W. Morrison (bow), J. Martin (2), H. Duncan (3), H. Shears (stroke), P. Yunghanns (cox).

PICKEN-WILLIAMS EIGHTS

Once again Mr. J. H. Picken and Mr. M. S. Williams have generously donated trophies for this event. The race drew a large entry, and was held on May 27.

Mr. M. S. Williams presented the trophies to the winning crew, which comprised: G. Cohen, N. Marr, P. Vanderkelen, R. Mounsey, J. Robertson, H. Duncan, J. Rowe, J. Shears, P. Yunghanns (cox).

SPRIGG TIME TRIAL

The Sprigg Time Trial will again be conducted for trophies donated by Mr. J. Sprigg. This event will terminate on the night of the Annual Meeting. This year the trial will be to the Dock Head and returning. The crew will contain not more than two senior men, and at least two lightweight or novice oarsmen. The winners of this event last year were: J. Martin (bow), J. Pearce (2), F. Noble (3), J. Peterson (4), H. Burke (5), D. Seal (6), S. Smith (7), D. Powell (stroke), P. Harrison (cox). Time, 43 mins. 47-2/5 secs.

HARLEQUIN TIME TRIAL

The Harlequin Rugby Club has again donated trophies for a time trial for four-oared crews. The course is to Spencer Street and return. As the event does not terminate until the day of the Annual Meeting, it is not possible to name the winning crew in the report. The winners of this event last year were: A. Kohn (bow), J. Pearce (2), H. Duncan (3), R. Aitken (stroke), W. Bailey (cox). Time, 11 mins. 36 secs.

Points Competition

Captain's Trophy: The Captain, Mr Deane Morgan, has again donated a trophy for competition among the members. Only a few points separate the leading competitors, and the result of the competition will not be known until the Annual Meeting. Last year the trophy was won by Mr. R. Aitken from Mr. J. Shears.

Coxswain's Trophy: This shield, presented by Mr. Max. Bailey, for the champion coxswain of the Club, was won by Master M. Lee and W. Bailey. The trophy for the most improved coxswain, presented by Mr. E. K. L. Varcoe, was won by Master J. Drew.

A trophy of an oar was presented by Mr. J. Beattie for the competitor gaining the most points for regatta racing during the season, resulting in a win for Laurie Moll from Alan Kohn.

Our thanks are due to the coxswains, who, although not successful in the above competitions, have rendered great service to the Club during the season.

Boat Christening

On the 29th April, two new boats were named. Dr. R. A. Cooper introduced Mrs. N. W. Cairnes, who christened the new Tub Four the "N. W. Cairnes," and Mrs. Saleh named the Double-Scull the "Chas. Saleh." Both ceremonies were carried out in the usual Mercantile manner.

Anzac Day

On Anzac Day, the memorial ceremony was held at the Club-house, and after a moving address by our President (Mr. A. L. Dobbie), supported by Major George Horder, a wreath was placed on the Honour Board. Captain Cunningham, of the Salvation Army, sounded the Last Post.

Social Activities

Ladies' Day: This year Ladies' Day was again a success, and good racing in the President's Fours was seen. The member who attended to the afternoon tea did an excellent job.

Annual Dinner: The Annual Dinner was held at Tattersall's Hotel on Friday, 2nd December, and all present voted it the most enjoyable function in recent years.

Dances: During the year, several Cabaret Dances were held at the "Dorchester." These were excellently organised and were very enjoyable, particularly the dance on the King's Cup night, when it was our privilege to extend hospitality to a number of the King's Cup oarsmen. Our thanks are due to Mr. Ron Richardson and Mr. Geoff. Bade, who were responsible for these functions.

General

On the Sunday prior to the King's Cup there was a parade of oarsmen from all Clubs, and your Club had nearly 80 members afloat. To the onlookers and those participating, it was an inspiring sight. Mick Williams, Frank Morris and Frank Raven were the brains trust behind this grand idea.

It was a shock to learn of the severe accident sustained by George Robertson while returning home from training for the Easter Regatta. We hope that his stay in Prince Henry's Hospital will be brief, and he will soon be down at the Club. We are pleased to report that Mr. J. South is moving about the Club after the illness which kept him away from many activities, including the King's Cup. We are also pleased to note that Dick Williams is recovering from the injuries he received in a car accident early in May. Mr. W. Turnbull has also been confined to his bed, and we are looking forward to seeing his cheerful countenance at the Club.

We were delighted to have the West Australian Eight as our guests during their period of training, for the King's Cup. Jim Child (manager) and George Orgill (coach) presented souvenirs of the Swan to two of our most revered members.

The appointment of Mr. Ted Kenny as President of the Australian Rowing Council was welcomed by the Club, and we congratulate him on his achievement.

Mr. Harry Butler and Mr. Cotter James, as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively, and Mr. Norman Cairnes, Honorary Assistant Secretary of the Victorian Rowing Association, have carried out their duties in a capable manner, and they deserve our thanks for their sterling work.

The thanks of all members are due to the representatives of the "Argus," "Herald" and "Sun" for the space they have made available to Mercantile in particular, and rowing in general, during the past year.

Masters W. Bailey, M. Lee, J. Drew, A. Connolly, P. Harrison, P. Yunghanns, J. Murphy, P. Wilson, C. de Fraga and W. Kerr have rendered the Club great service as coxswains during the year.

Our congratulations and good wishes for the future are extended to the following, who have joined the ranks of the benedicts:— Messrs. A. Atkins, J. Ferguson, B. Johnson, H. Mahoney, J. Sprigg, R. Anderson and T. McNiff.

Our congratulations are extended to Ivan Black, Dave Stirling, Jack Jones, Jim Neill and Jack Fletcher on additions to their families.

The relations with our sister rowing clubs continue in a friendly spirit. In particular, Ron Marsh, Captain of Richmond, and Jack McBean, Captain of Banks, have rendered us every assistance.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to Messrs. J. Seamen, J. Peterson, C. H. M. Ward, D. Calder, and E. K. L. Varcoe, who suffered bereavements during the past year.

Our congratulations are extended to A. Kohn for his success in the "Herald" Shield for Sculling.

Jack Mitchell and Bill Gray attended to the catering for the reunion at Clubhouse on Anzac Day, and those participating expressed their thanks for the excellent curry.

For many years the catering for the Smoke Night has been left in the capable hands of Max. Bailey, and your thanks are due to him for the choice things he has provided. Our thanks are also due to Pat Trouchet, who, last year, donated a case of crayfish.

Your thanks are due to Bill Morrison for bringing the Constitution up-to-date.

If any member has copies of Annual Reports prior to 1934, they would be appreciated, as it is our intention to bring all our records up-to-date.

The working bee parties, Herb. Shears, Harry Duncan, Lawrie Moll, Bill White, Jack Shears, Bob Aitken, and others, have given up their leisure time to remedy the carelessness of some of their fellow members to keep the fleet in a rowable state.

The cleanliness of the Clubhouse is due in no small measure to the efforts of Graham Richardson and Tom McNiff; Irwin Green, Keith Wilson, Doc. Martin and Jim Pearce have also helped. Syd. Sanderson has supervised the maintenance of the heater so that you can enjoy your hot shower.

As evidence that the Club is not forgotten when old members have left our ranks, the Club has received a letter from Rev. A. Saxon, of Queensland, who rowed with the Club early in the century and left the Club forty years ago. His regards are extended to any of his fellow oarsmen of those days who are still with us.

We cannot let the occasion pass without a reference to our esteemed President (Mr. A. L. Dobbie), who has given a lifetime of service to this Club, and we wish to place on record the appreciation of this Committee for the splendid manner in which he has helped us with his sound advice and guidance.

The retiring Committee thanks members for their co-operation and support during the year, and hopes that the same assistance will be rendered to the incoming Committee in the approaching season.

For and on behalf of the Committee,

Hon. Secretary.

Addendum

The highly successful season which has just concluded could only be attained by first-class organisation and leadership. These qualities have been shown by your Committee, headed by your Captain, Mr. Deane Morgan, who has rendered great service to the Club in that capacity during the last three seasons. It must be a matter of great satisfaction to him that, after winning the Junior Premiership, and just losing the Senior Premiership by only four points in the 1948/49 season, the highly coveted "Double" has been gained under his leadership.

He has had excellent support from his Vice-Captain, Mr. H. P. Shears, who also has completed three years of service in that office, and from the Committee.

To all these gentlemen are due the sincere thanks of all members.

Special reference must be made to Mr. N. W. Cairnes. Apart from his excellent work in coaching crews throughout the season, his long experience as a former captain and many years as a committeeman have been of great value to the executive. It says much for his enthusiasm, that during the season he accepted the office of Assistant Hon. Secretary of the Rowing Association, thus following the example of other members who have done excellent work for Victorian rowing, apart from club interests.

The Club has been fortunate in having had so many members willing to devote a great deal of time to coaching, and to them and the crews who trained so well, can be attributed its success in both premierships.

One vital feature has been the excellent work carried out by the small band of enthusiasts who have effected repairs to the fleet. Without their efforts it would have been impossible to maintain the boats in a satisfactory condition, owing to the lack of boat builders in Melbourne.

Our thanks are also due to those members who have so successfully carried on the social activities of the Club.

A. L. DOBBIE, President

List of Members, 1949-50

LIFE MEMBERS

Dobbie, A. L.	Mounsey, J. L.	Sprigg, J. G.
Guinn, S.	Picken, J. H.	
Kenny, E.	Potter, W.	

SENIOR MEMBERS

Abromwich, W.	Crichton, D. J.	Leggett, J. K.
Aitken, R. R.	Dalby, H.	Lemaire, J. E.
Anderson, H. R.	Davies, M. H.	Lindblade, A. G.
Appleby, J. P.	Dennis, D. C.	McKinley, G. A.
Aspinall, J. O.	Dobbie, A. W.	McNiff, T. F.
Atkins, A. H.	Dowd, M. C.	Macartney, J.
Bade, G. F.	Duncan, H. D.	MacFarlane, J. M.
Bailey, J. H.	Duncan, R. G.	Macpherson, P. M.
Bailey, M.	Dunstan, J. T.	Mahoney, H.
Barnett, C. G.	Epstein, G. L.	Mason, A. D.
Bilney, K.	Fairbairn, J. L.	Meates, R. A.
Black, I. O.	Farmer, J. G.	Miller, A. P.
Blair-Holt, J. A.	Ferguson, J. M.	Moll, L. L. B.
Bolton, R. S.	Ferguson, R.	Morrell, D. R.
Bourke, B. F.	Fletcher, J. M.	Morell, R. T.
Bradshaw, J. W.	Ford, H. L.	Morgan, D. J. R.
Brettell, F. W.	Forsyth, J. R.	Morrison, W. T.
Brooke, D. C.	Fosdick, L. V.	Morton, R. J.
Broughton, O. S.	Fullagar, R.	Mounsey, R. J.
Browne, F. R.	Galvin, V. C.	Murrell, C. G.
Browning, N. G.	Gordon, A.	Naylor, D. H. L.
Burke, H. B.	Gray, W. L.	Naylor, M. C. L.
Cairnes, N. W.	Green, I. M.	Newport, F.
Calder, D. A.	Hansen, M. E.	Nixon, N. V.
Carr, J. P.	Hiller, G. L.	Oberhansli, W.
Castieau, G.	Holyman, G. I.	Pearce, J. W.
Clarke, A. H.	Hyett, G. S.	Peterson, J.
Clark, J. H. P.	Johnson, G. B.	Pitt, W. G.
Clemens, J. B.	Jones, J. McD.	Poole, L. E.
Cohen, G. R.	Joseph, K. M.	Poore, L. H.
Connolly, K.	Kain, B. F.	Pope, K.
Cooper, K. N.	Kerrigan, N.	Powell, D. W.
Cooper, R. A.	Kidd, J. D. S.	Raven, C. F.
Corteen, L. K.	Koch, A. A.	Richardson, D. J.

SENIOR MEMBERS (Continued).

Richardson, R. H.	Smith, R. W.	Varcoe, E. K. L.
Richardson, S. G.	Smith, S. M.	Virtue, J.
Roach, D. F.	South, J.	Wallace, W. L.
Robertson, G. A.	Soward, R. S.	Wade, P. M., Jnr.
Robertson, J. N.	Spencer, H. T.	Ward, C. H. M.
Rogers, E. A.	Stammers, K. A.	Watson, N. P.
Rogers, L. W.	Stirling, D. S.	Webster, G. H.
Rorke, A. T.	Stooke, G. F.	Wheatland, W.
Rush, R. T.	Tatnall, G. F.	White, E. C.
Sanderson, S. O.	Taylor, G. D.	Wilkinson, C. V. H.
Seal, D.	Thomas, J. C.	Williams, J.
Shears, E.	Thursfield, R. W.	Williams, M. S.
Shears, H. P.	Trehearne, A. G.	Wilson, K. J.
Shears, J. D.	Trouchet, P. A.	Wright, M. E.
Smith, G., Jnr.	Turnbull, W. R.	Yunghanns, M. W.
Smith, R.	Vanderkelen, P.	

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Benjamin, R. L.	Martin, J. R.	Saunders, J. F.
Boyle, F. L.	Moir, J. D.	Smith, J.
Butt, G.	Mortimer, J. C.	Smith, G. W.
Carlyon, T. S.	Murray, M. D. G.	Sprigg, J. B.
Craig, W. J.	Noble, F.	Thyer, R. S.
Cranswick, D. W.	Oliver, R.	Trickett, R. W.
Day, R. S.	Olliff, D.	Walker, R. A.
Daniel, N. F.	Petersen, J. S.	Warner, I. H.
Granowski, W. O.	Purves, A. H.	Wischer, K. G.
McKaige, R.	Rush, P.	Williams, D. F.
Malcolm, J. B.	Rowe, J. S.	Williams, R.

COUNTRY MEMBERS

Bligh, A. R.	Hidcock, C. W.	Rees, J.
Cooper, W. A.	Langtry, J.	Rose, W. H.
Duncan, A. R.	McKay, T.	Stubley, J. L.
Gluyas, W. R.	McKenzie, J.	Syme, R. York
Gregg, R. V.	Neill, J. A.	

HONORARY MEMBERS

Burmeister, C.	Kerr, R. S.	Seamen, J. W.
Burton, A. J.	Mitchell, J. T.	Sloss, A.
Butler, L.	Nicholls, C. J.	Stephenson, C. E.
Davey, G. H.	O'Reilly, J.	Stooke, T. B.
Evans, E. A.	Palfreyman, D. B.	Trickett, W. A.
Green, M. E.	Rush, H. R.	Wade, P. M., Snr.
Hill, L.	Saleh, C. G.	Weire, L. B.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Bannerman, W. G.	Horder, G.	Palfreyman, F. G.
Beattie, J. W.	Kendall, W. J.	Smith, U. R.
Birch, W. C.	Koch, A.	Stewart, S. C.
Dennis, C. F.	Long, D. M.	Strong, D. J.
Grant, W. J.	Murphy, H.	Tibbits, I. D.
Grimes, G. H.	Nelson, H. E.	Varcoe, E. K.
Harry, C. M.	Nicholls, D. R.	

REVENUE ACCOUNT for 10 months ending 30th April, 1950.

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions	£817	4 6
Less V.R.A. Capitation Fee ..	50	0 0
	£767	4 6
Donations	35	6 9
Entrance Fees, Club Races	10	4 0
Interest	18	8 11
	£831	4 2

EXPENDITURE

Repairs to Boats, Oars and Shed	£110	8 3
Depreciation	36	8 1
General Expenses	121	14 8
Lighting, General and Water Rates	51	2 2
Insurance	77	10 2
Telephone	9	15 7
Trophies, Club Races	23	4 8
Freight to Country Regattas	109	19 0
Entrance Fees, Regatta Races	29	1 6
Upper Yarra Regatta	2	2 0
Coxswains' Expenses, Country Regattas	8	7 6
Boat Staging	2	2 0
V.R.A. Dues and Fees	1	10 0
Balance Transferred to Capital Account	247	18 7
	£831	4 2

Audited and found correct,

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

J. N. ROBERTSON,
Hon. Treasurer.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th April, 1950.

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
Sundry Creditors	£59 18 9	Boat House	£2,082 1 1
Subscriptions paid in advance	2 16 6	Boats and Sculls	£592 17 0
Boat Building Reserve	7 14 8	Less Depreciation	46 11 0
Capital as at 30th June, 1949 . . £3,800 13 2		Oars, at Valuation	546 6 0
Add Balance from Revenue	247 18 7	Club Fittings	326 0 9
this period		Commonwealth Bonds	72 10 0
Capital as at 30th April, 1950	4,048 11 9	Bank of New South Wales	500 0 0
		State Savings Bank	267 1 9
		Subscriptions Outstanding	293 0 3
		Stock, Singlets and Badges	275 5 6
			23 18 1
	<u>£4,119 1 8</u>		<u>£4,119 1 8</u>

Audited and found correct,

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

Hon. Auditor.

J. N. ROBERTSON,

Hon. Treasurer.

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