

## VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

The second annual meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held on Saturday afternoon, in Edwards's boathouse, Mr A Nichols occupying the chair, and a very large number of members being present.

Mr. T H Young, the hon secretary, read the report of the committee, the principal portion of which were as follows: - In submitting the second annual report of the transactions of the Victorian Rowing Association, your committee have every reason to congratulate you upon the improved position of aquatics in the colony, and the prospects of the approaching season. In accordance with a resolution carried at the last annual meeting, a committee was formed by 10 gentlemen being then elected and power was given to clubs forming the Victorian Rowing Association, and willing to guarantee £10 each towards the funds of the association, to send each a representative as a member of such committee. The following clubs furnished the guarantee and availed themselves of the permission, viz, the Banks, Civil Service, Footscray, Melbourne, University, Warehousemen, and Yarra Yarra.

The committee, numbering altogether 17 members, commenced with £55 18s. 5d. in hand and have now to the credit of the association £73 2s. 9d., after paying all the expenses of a very heavy season, including as it does the late intercolonial race, besides the usual Melbourne regatta The boating season was opened with scratch eight oar races on the 11th November, 14 crews competing. The prizes (the gift of Mr B Rolls) were won by Messrs. Coates (stroke), Ridge, Ochiltree, E Coates Levers, Grant, Hunter, Walker, Rushworth (cox). It is the intention this season of the committee to hold the opening scratch eights on the Albert-park lake. The change of course will, it is anticipated, benefit the competitors, besides affording the public a better opportunity of witnessing the contests than heretofore. The opening day is fixed for the 12th October.

It was mentioned in last years report that a challenge for an eight-oar contest had been issued on behalf of this colony by your committee to the oarsmen of New South Wales, and accepted by them. After some trouble and anxiety your committee succeeded in getting an eight together, consisting of Messrs. R Ward, J Booth, W C Bray, H Irvine, W H Tuckett, J M Simson, T H Young and G Fairbairn (stroke), with Fred Edwards as coxswain. Your committee have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the thoroughly earnest manner in which the crew underwent a long and tedious preparation for the contest, and that too, at about the hottest part of the summer. The crew showed by their regularity at practice and in other respects that they fully appreciated the honourable, yet arduous task set them.

It is needless to remind you that our eights efforts were crowned with success, and consequently the aquatic championship of the Australian colonies is now held by Victoria. The race was rowed on the 6th March last, and was witnessed by a very large concourse of the public, who showed a hearty interest in the friendly struggle for the blue riband of the water. The Melbourne Annual Regatta was held on the Saltwater River course on the 9th April, and proved to be one of our best and most successful aquatic displays. The attendance of the public was more than ordinarily large, whilst the racing was nearly all good and in some instances first class.

Your committee have again to acknowledge their indebtedness for a prize presented by the proprietors of *The Australasian* to the winner of the challenge sculls. The committee also received from Mr Beaney, prior to his departure for Europe, 20 guineas, to be rowed for under the auspices of the association for which your committee desire to express their best thanks. In the face of the large amount necessary for the next season's expenditure (a crew having according to arrangement to be sent to Sydney) our committee were in considerable doubt as to where a challenge cup would be got to take the place of the prize won by the Melbourne club. They have much pleasure in announcing that these doubts have been dispelled through the liberality of the Hon W J Clarke, M. L. C., who has promised a hundred guineas to purchase a challenge cup for the senior eight-oar race at the regatta. The committee have expressed their thanks to Mr Clarke for his kindly support, and they trust that his cup may long be the cause of spirited contests on the river.

The balance sheet which was also read by the hon secretary, showed that the receipts during the past year amounted to £472 11s. 6d., besides £55 8s 5d brought forward from the previous year. The expenditure was £454 11s. 2d., and there was a balance left to bring forward to the present year of £73 2s. 9d.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr B Rolls, the report and balance sheet were adopted.

Messrs Carlile, Ward and Kemp were unanimously elected to fill three vacancies on committee.

Mr. T. H. Young then proposed the following addition to rule 4 - "A president shall be elected annually at a general meeting of the members, the person so elected to hold office for 12 months and to be ex officio during the term of his office chairman of the committee, but not subject to rule 8 "

Mr J A Levey seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Mr M J Clarke, M.L.C., was elected president with acclamation.

Mr. H Hodge drew the attention of the members to the number of clubs shirking the responsibility of procuring funds for the association, and at the same time enjoying its privileges. He trusted the members of such clubs would endeavour to give the association all possible assistance in the direction he pointed out.