

THE VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION. (1879, September 22). *The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957)*, p. 7. Retrieved December 31, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5956452>

THE VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of members of the Victorian Rowing Association was held on Saturday afternoon in the upper room of Edwards's boathouse, which had been fitted up for the occasion The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Chatfield Tyler. and there was a large number of members in attendance. Mr. J A. Levey, the hon. secretary of the association, read the following report -

" In submitting the third annual report of the Victorian Rowing Association your committee have much pleasure in noticing the increased interest which has been taken in rowing during the past 12 months as evidenced by the large number of entries received for the Melbourne annual regatta and for the various regattas at Barwon, Ballarat, Colac, and Bairnsdale.

The balance sheet which will be submitted by the honorary treasurer to your notice shows for the first time in the history of the association a deficiency (£53 18s 8d ) which, seeing that the year was started with a credit balance (£73 2s 9d ), cannot be considered as quite satisfactory, but the expenses of the intercolonial race at Sydney, amounting to £291 0s 8d , more than accounts for this result. It is, however, confidently submitted that the next race, which will probably be rowed in April, 1980, will again place our accounts on a satisfactory footing. At the same time, your committee would urge the great necessity for the members being more assiduous in collecting funds, seeing that your committee are not in a position to make any thing out of gate money, as is done by cricketing and football associations. Before passing from this subject your committee would wish to bear testimony to their appreciation of the good fellowship of the Melbourne Football Club in augmenting the funds of the Rowing Association, and also to the liberality of the president of this association on more than one occasion.

With reference to the intercolonial race, your committee can but express regret at the defeat we received, but without in any way wishing to detract from the credit due to the splendid crew matched against us, would, in fairness to the Victorians, state that if the weather had been a little more propitious we should in all probability have been able to show a different result Your committee were quite satisfied with the crew as selected, as they did all in their power, both individually and collectively, to score a win; and desire to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the individual members of the crew for their gallant efforts; Mr. Charles Vickers for coaching the crew in Melbourne, Sydney Edwards, for gratuitously training the crew in Sydney and especially the rowing community of New South Wales, for the fair and manly way in which they conducted everything in connection with the race itself, and the handsome manner in which they treated the crew personally.

The opening of the rowing season was celebrated by Scratch Eights on the Albert-park Lake on the 12th October. Fourteen crews competed, and a good afternoon's sport was given. The winning crew consisted of Messrs. H Grant, C F Clarke, Gunn, Bamber, Easdown, O'Neil, Hunter, and Jackson (stroke); W Jerrome (cox ). The locality, however, was not much appreciated by the great body of rowing men.

The annual Melbourne regatta, which took place on the Saltwater River on the 15th March, was most successful, the number of entries being the largest ever received, and the principal prizes being

won by clubs outside Melbourne, and which have not hitherto occupied such distinguished positions. Your committee are glad to observe this, as it will necessitate the older clubs using increased exertions to regain their pride of place, and thus stimulate healthy competition in the aquatic world.

The Clarke Challenge Cup - a magnificent trophy manufactured by Messrs. Walsh Bros and presented by the president of the association, the Hon. W. J. Clarke - brought forward four crews, and the race resulted in a well earned victory to the Corio club. The Grand Challenge Cup (the prize being the special gift of Mr. Beaney) was won by the Footscray club, and the Leader Challenge Cup by the Hawthorn club. The Challenge Sculls were won for the second time by Mr. W H Tuckett of the Banks club, and your committee have to again thank the proprietors of "The Australasian" for the special prize presented for this race. The experiment of an All Comers Sculling Race was tried at this regatta, and your committee are glad to be able to record that it passed off most satisfactorily. They trust that their efforts to establish races of this kind will meet with every encouragement and support from the professional oarsmen for whom it has been placed on their programme, and they venture to express the hope that at no far distant date we shall have professional men able to compete with the best scullers in any part of the world. The first prize in this race won by Sydney Edwards, and the second (a special gift from the Hon. F. T. Sargood) by Robert Edwards.

By the time of the next regatta your committee trust that the various clubs will have availed themselves to some extent of the latest rowing improvement, viz , swivel rowlocks, but at the same time they would urge on all clubs the advisability of paying far greater attention to form and style than has been done for the last few seasons.

A few alterations have been made in the regulations and bye laws for the management of the associations and regattas. Most of them are only matters of detail, the more important being that for the future a winner in the Maiden Gig Race will be eligible to compete for the Maiden Clinker Race, and that it will not be necessary for a member of two or more clubs to declare prior to date of entry for the regatta with which club he intends to row.

In conclusion, your committee would again urge upon you the necessity of increased exertion, in fostering and encouraging the sport in which would take so much interest by every means in your power. "

The report, together with the balance sheet, which was also read, were adopted on the motion of the chairman.

Mr. T. H Young proposed the following motion -

"That this meeting of rowing men connected with the clubs forming the Victorian Rowing Association respectfully request the committee of the association to withdraw the recently placed restrictions on the use of sliding seats in maiden races at the Melbourne regatta."

Mr. G Lewis seconded the motion, which was carried by 30 votes against 28.

The Hon W J Clarke was re-elected president of the association.

Messrs. B Rolls and R Ward retiring members of the committee, were also re-elected.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.