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## VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

The annual general meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held at the Athenaeum on Wednesday last, Mr. Arthur Nichols in the chair. There were about 150 persons present.

The chairman, having briefly explained the object of the meeting, called on the hon. secretary, Mr. J. A. Levey, to read the committee's report for the past year, which was as follows: -

*Gentlemen, - In presenting to you the fourth annual report of the Victoria Rowing Association your committee have much pleasure in being able to chronicle nothing but success during the whole year 1870-80.*

*The third intercolonial contest between the sister colony at New South Wales and ourselves was rowed on Victorian waters on the 10th April last, and resulted for the second time in a win for Victoria. The crew, consisting of Messrs. Upward, Brown, R. Booth, Tuckett, J. Booth, Irvine, Nichols, and Stackpoole, with Fred. Edwards as coxswain, were most assiduous in their training, and earned the thanks of all rowing men for the proud position in which they have once more placed us. The New South Wales crew, under the able direction of Mr. P. J. Clark, were in Melbourne for a fortnight preceding the race, and your committee have much pleasure in being able to state that every exertion was made so that our visitors might enjoy themselves. Special thanks are due to His Worship the Mayor of Melbourne and Mr. Councillor Garton, not forgetting our friends at the Pivot, who gave the Sydney men a pleasant day's outing at their beautiful town.*

*The opening of the rowing season for 1879-80 was celebrated by a procession of boats on the Upper Yarra on 26th October last, which attracted a large gathering of spectators; upwards of 40 crews took part in the affair. Notwithstanding the large increase in the number of clubs during the last few years, and the consequently increased difficulty in arranging affairs of this kind, your committee were able to carry out this inaugural demonstration with the greatest satisfaction.*

*The annual Melbourne Regatta took place on the Saltwater River on the 21st February; the contests for nearly all the principal races were close and exciting. The Footscray club takes pride of place as holders of the Clarke Challenge Cup, having won the senior eight-oared race after a hard struggle with the Corio club. The Grand Challenge Cup was won by the Corio club, the Leader Cup by the Hawthorn club for the second time, and the Challenge Sculls for the third time by Mr. W. H. Tuckett, of the Banks club, who has now become the final winner of this trophy, which has been struggled for for 20 years by numerous able scullers. In*

*connexion with this, your committee have much pleasure in being able to announce that Messrs. Young and Jackson have signified their intention of presenting fresh challenge sculls to the association, to take the place of the old ones. Your thanks are also due to the proprietors of " The Australasian" for the handsome yearly prize presented by them to the winners of this race.*

*At this regatta the experiment of rowing the maiden races on fixed seats was tried. There were good entries for these races, but, apparently, the innovation was not found much favour with rowing men, and your committee have decided to remove the restriction of the use of sliding seats in these races for the future. Your committee are glad to be able to record that the attendance at the regatta showed a marked increase on that of previous years.*

*You may remember that at the regatta of 1879 the experiment of an all-comers' sculling race was tried for the first time. The result was most satisfactory, and this induced your committee to initiate a race for the professional championship of the colony. Thanks to the exertions of one of your committee (Mr. Michie) sufficient money was collected to purchase a £50 trophy, to be held by the champion for the time being, and finally won under certain rules and regulations. The rules for these contests for the championship were carefully prepared by your committee, and the first competition took place over the Lower Yarra course on the 29th May; the race was won by Elias Laycock, of New South Wales, beating five other competitors.*

*The balance-sheet for the past year shows a most satisfactory state of affairs. Starting with a deficiency of £55 1s. 2d., your committee have been able to successfully carry through the Melbourne Regatta, the Intercolonial Race, and the Professional Race, and now enter upon a new season with a credit balance of £83 18s. 4d. It must not be forgotten that this credit balance is due almost entirely to the amateur dramatic performance on the 22nd June last, got up in aid of the funds of the Association. The thanks of all rowing men are due to the members of the committee who took in hand and managed the entertainment so successfully, and also to the other gentlemen who so kindly came forward and assisted them. It is to be regretted that rowing men themselves did not patronise the affair more liberally, or else the financial success would have been much greater than it was. Whilst on the subject of finance, your committee would wish to record their thanks to your worthy president, the Hon. W. J. Clarke, Mr. Hartley Williams, and the Melbourne Football Club for their special donations to the funds.*

*During the year 21 committee meetings have been held, the attendance being as under: - Elected Members -Mr. Carlile, 7; Mr. Hood, 5; Mr. Kemp, 15; Mr. Michie, 15; Dr. Morton. 13 (on leave of absence since June last); Mr. Nichols, 18; Mr. Ridge, 12; Mr. Rolls (on leave of absence during the whole year), nil; Mr. Ward, 16; Mr. Young, 14. Representative Members -Mr. Shew, 12; Mr. Ievers, 15; Mr. Irvine, 16; Mr. Langwill, 12; Mr. Levey, 20; Mr. Raleigh, 6. Ex Officio-Mr. Colville, 15.*

*During the year your committee have directed their attention to amending the rules where found necessary, so as to prevent as far as possible difficulties arising in the future in their interpretation, or in any matters connected with rowing. None of these, however, call for any special mention in this report, except one passed by your committee lately, providing that no club in Melbourne or suburbs shall be allowed to compete at any Melbourne regatta unless it have a representative on the committee of the association. This rule was brought forward and passed after a special meeting of rowing men at the Melbourne Athenaeum on the 22nd July last to discuss the " manual labour " question (referred to hereafter), where it was clearly stated by nearly every speaker that the clubs competing in the regattas and not represented on the committee of the Association, felt it their duty, now that they took a much more prominent part in rowing matters than they had previously done, to come forward and assist the present committee both with advice and funds. In connexion with this, your committee would wish to point out to you that in sending a representative to the committee of the Association, a club does not guarantee the sum of £10 sterling out of its own funds, but simply guarantees that the representative will obtain collections amounting to £10.*

*With reference to the " manual labour " question, it seems almost work of supererogation to speak of it at length here, seeing that you have yourselves settled the same, at all events for the time being, at the special general meeting mentioned already. At the same time your committee must express their most earnest hopes that the arrangements made will be found to work satisfactorily and for the general good of rowing among all classes, and that the committee, strengthened as it will be by representatives from all the leading metropolitan and suburban clubs, will be able to work harmoniously together, and increase the already increasing interest taken in our sport.*

*The recent floods have caused a stoppage to any great amount of rowing just now. This is to be regretted, as your committee propose to hold the next regatta early in the season, before the hot weather sets in, and whilst Melbourne is full of visitors at the Exhibition, and also so as to give the men selected to row in the next Intercolonial race as much rest as possible before they commence training. Luckily the Melbourne clubs have sustained no direct loss through the floods, and your committee wish the same could be said of our friends at Geelong, but unfortunately the Barwon and Geelong Grammar School clubs have had their boathouse and boats swept clean away, and have sustained a very heavy loss. Your committee think that it is the duty of all rowing men to give them every assistance, and will be glad to see some effort made to help them in a pecuniary way. In accordance with rules 5, and 6, the president and two members of the elected committee (Messrs. Hood and Michie) retire, and it will be necessary for you to elect gentlemen to fill their places from those nominated in accordance with rule 5.*

*Before concluding, your committee would wish to bear testimony to the assistance rendered them at all times, and on all sides, in furthering any matters connected*

*with rowing, and would like to make special mention of the press and the commissioners of the Melbourne Harbour Trust and their officers, particularly Captains Fullarton and Scott.*

*And now, gentlemen, your committee have but to once more express their hopes that the next season, which is opening with such good prospects, may be as satisfactory and pleasant to all as the one now being left behind.*

A balance-sheet was also read by the hon. secretary, detailing the particulars of receipts and expenditure for the year. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, stated that the association had commenced the year with a debt of £50, and he had now much pleasure in stating that there was a cash balance in hand amounting to £83 18s. 4d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Geo. Henderson, and carried unanimously.

The Hon. W. J. Clarke was then elected president, on the motion of Mr. J. A. Levey.

The election of two members to fill the vacancies caused by the retirement of Messrs. J. A. Levey and A. D. Michie was next proceeded with. Five candidates, including the retiring members, were proposed, Messrs. Boyd, Spencer, and Purse being the additional aspirants for the vacant seats. Mr. Geo. Henderson proposed, "That the candidates should give some expression of their views on the leading rowing topics." Seconded by Mr. Shew. An amendment was, however, proposed and carried, "That the business of the meeting be proceeded with." A ballot was then taken, Messrs. T. H. Young and Ievers having been appointed scrutineers, with the following result Boyd, 75; Purse, 77; Levey, 43; Michie, 33; and Spencer, 30.