

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION. (1891, September 29). The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 – 1957), p. 10. Retrieved April 8th 2024, from: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/8637036>

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held at Young and Jackson's Hotel last night. There was a very large attendance. Owing to the absence from the colony of Mr. H. G. Turner, the president, the above was taken by Mr. Thomas Ellison, vice-president.

Annual Report

The annual report dealt very exhaustively with all the competitions which had taken place under the auspices of the association during the year. The following are extracts:

"Owing to the great devastation caused by the recent flood, the river has not latterly presented the healthy appearance which it usually does at this period of the year. You are all doubtless aware that, we were visited by one of the most disastrous floods that it has ever been our lot to chronicle. The water rushed down the river with tremendous force, carry-ing everything before it. Fortunately the boat houses and boats at Prince's-bridge received very little damage; but the Boroondara Rowing Club, whose boat house was located at Hawthorn, had the misfortune to lose boat-house, boats and all. The club intends making an effort shortly to recoup their loss, when it is hoped the more fortunate clubs will lend a helping my hand. It may be some time before the river will regain its former condition."

"In the last report the liabilities were set down as £54 17s. 2d., and the assets at £72 15s. 11d., but accounts not rendered at the date of that report brought the liabilities up to £69 14s. 1d., whilst the assets realised only £5 10s. 11d., or £17 5s. less than their estimated value, the failing off being due to the small price obtained for the one-streak racing eight-oared boat. Still your committee are pleased to be able to state that all the liabilities have been met and the treasurer's balance-sheet shows a small credit balance, amounting to £31 12s. 7d.: the total profit on the year's undertakings being £49 3s. 3d. Generally the clubs have been more prompt in their payments and this has enabled the hon. treasurer to meet the accounts as they were presented. If the present economical system of working be continued for another year, the association should be placed on a good sound footing. The number of active (or rowing club) members on the roll is now 726, or an increase for the year of 136."

"The dates for competitions during the first part of the season have been fixed as follows: - Opening of the season by a procession of boats, October 3; Four-oared Championship of Victoria (Lower Yarra), October 24; Sculling Championship of Victoria (Lower Yarra), November 9 (Prince of Wales's Birth-day); Claymore Trophy Eight-oared Race (Lower Yarra), December 19."

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet. He thought they must be considered satisfactory by every member present. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps the most

gratifying paragraph was that which stated that the association had won another victory through its representatives in the annual intercolonial eight-oared race. This was the sixth victory in succession which had been won by Victoria. (Hear, hear.) He was sure he might invoke on behalf of the Boroondara Club the sympathy and assistance of their fellow oarsmen, owing to the misfortune they had sustained in the disastrous flood. He hoped all would cordially assist in the effort which was to be made on behalf of that club. The members will be glad to learn of the satisfactory condition of the finances. This year finished with a credit balance and without any of those appeals to the generous supporters of the association which had been made in previous years. There was a very gratifying increase of members; 136 had been enrolled, which now made the total 726. This made the association the strongest in numbers in Australia as well as the foremost in rowing (Hear, hear.) The attendance of the members of the committee had been very regular, and the business of the association had been diligently looked after. To that circumstance much of the success of the association must be attributed. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. Upward seconded the motion. The opening of the season by a procession of clubs had been adopted after much consideration, and had proved a success. This course would be followed again on the following Saturday, and the Yarra Yarra Club, which held the championship, would head the procession. The competition for the championship oars had evoked great enthusiasm, and all the clubs took part in it. This was gratifying as it was purely for honour, the trophies being very small. This showed that amateur rowing was going ahead. The contests were doing a great deal of good, and other colonies were following the example. Lately the New South Wales Rowing Association had established a pennant on exactly similar conditions. The fact that there was a credit balance was especially gratifying, considering that the subscription had been reduced from 5s. to 2s. 6d. The time had arrived when the association should take into consideration the advisability of instituting intercolonial contests on amateur lines with South Australia and Tasmania. There seemed to be no hope of such a thing in regard to New South Wales, but he believed the colonies he had mentioned would be glad to enter into such an arrangement. It could not, perhaps, be undertaken this season, but early arrangements should be made if they were to come off during the following season. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. R. Horsburgh thought it would be degrading to the association to be "sat on" by New South Wales. He therefore hoped the suggestion made by Mr. Upward of getting up annual matches with South Australia and Tasmania would be adopted. The association should take a firm stand against the "white-shirt" brigade of New South Wales.

Mr. T. Gilchrist thought that if the Public Works department would not continue the snagging of the river, it might lend the plant to the association for a few days, otherwise the procession might be spoiled.

The report and balance sheet were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The president and vice presidents were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Eight candidates having been nominated for seven vacancies on the committee, a ballot took place, and the following were elected:- for three years Messrs. W. Horsburgh (Yarra Yarra),

G. Harrison (Richmond), W. H. T. Davis (Mercantile), W. A. Jones (Civil Service); for two years - Mr. S. H. Gowdie (Albert-park); for one year - Mr. T. Hopkins (Melbourne City) and Mr. H. Diddams (Albert-park).

VOTES OF THANKS

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the secretary (Mr. W. B. House), and the meeting terminated