

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION. (1892, October 1). *Leader* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1862 – 1918, 1935), p. 18. Retrieved April 8th 2024, from: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/196897440>

ROWING NOTES.

By OUTRIGGER.

The 16th annual meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held last Monday evening, when there was an excellent attendance of members, and keen interest was manifested by them in the several subjects submitted. The report and balance sheet, prepared by Mr. W. B. House, hon. secretary and treasurer, were favorably commented upon by all present. The report detailed the work done by the association during the past season, as already referred to, including the holding of championship races and the adoption of rules for the better conduct of regattas, while the balance sheet set out fully all the items of receipts and expenditure, and showed that the funds had been carefully guarded.

The matters dealt with in the report embraced the following :- Opening of the season, Championship Four Race, Championship Sculling Race, Claymore Trophy Eight-oared Race, annual regatta, Championship Eight- oared Race, provincial and other regattas, intercolonial races (inclusive of the Inter-University Race), improvements to the river, alterations in rules, finances and coming events. The report generally showed that amateur rowing in Victoria is steadily progressing, and, notwithstanding the great increase in the number of races provided by the association, the clubs in and around Melbourne have never been more lightly taxed than they are at present. The total receipts for the year, including a credit balance from the previous season of £31 12s. 7d., amounted to £269 7s. 8d., while the total expenditure was limited to £226 12s., leaving the sum of £42 15s. 8d. to carry forward. The liabilities are nil, so that the association may fairly be said to be in as good a position as ever.

Though the members of the committee have each assisted to produce such a satisfactory result of the year's work, the main credit is due to the able and energetic secretary, Mr. House, a fact recognised by the hearty vote of thanks accorded him and never better deserved. The meeting approved of the nominations made for the offices of president and vice-presidents, which were as follow: — President Mr. H. G. Turner; vice-presidents Messrs. E. L. Zox, M.P.; F. Stuart, M.P.; T. Ellison; T. F. Morkham ; H. T. Jordan and G. E. Upward. The two last named were present and returned thanks. The appointment of members of committee resolved itself into the placing of those nominated for different terms. Messrs. J. Mitchell, J. J. Haverty, J. F. Warren and H. Diddams were elected for three years, Mr. W. Ogden for two years and Mr. A. J. Shepherd for one year.

In accordance with notice Mr. House submitted the following proposition : - " That the expenses attendant on the representation of the association in any annual intercolonial eight-oared race shall be defrayed out of a separate fund, to be established for the purpose, and every member of the association shall be required, on a resolution of the committee, to contribute to such fund a sum not exceeding 2s. 6d. for any one season. Such contribution shall be collected in the same manner as the ordinary subscriptions are now collected, all associated clubs to be responsible for the amounts due by their respective members."

The proposal did not meet with favor, and themover, acting upon a suggestion, subsequently withdrew it. Several speakers pointed out that many of the clubs could ill afford to bear such a tax, especially at the present time, and that if the regatta losses could be reduced the proposed tax would be quite unnecessary. The members present readily consented to a proposition submitted that the course for the next regatta should be fixed at the meeting, and there-upon discussed the relative merits of the Upper Yarra and Albert Lake. There appeared to be an almost equal difference of opinion as to the fairness of the two courses, but there was a strong majority in favor of the Upper Yarra on account of its convenience for competing clubs, and as being more likely to popularise rowing. The discussion was carried on in a good natured spirit, and now that the committee will have their hands strengthened by the voice of the general meeting, there will be a wish on all sides that the financial result of the next regatta will, by combined energy and good management, prove the wisdom of the course adopted.

The formal opening of the rowing season 1892-93 is to take place this afternoon. The ceremony will be a procession of boats' crews, headed by the Yarra Yarra champion eight-oared crew. Last year the procession was markedly successful, but there does not appear to be so much life in the clubs at present, and the gathering of oarsmen does not promise to be so large. However, it is to be hoped that all the associated clubs will muster as strongly as possible, and give onlookers some idea of the enthusiasm that can be displayed for the sport. The procession is to go in single file from below Princes-bridge, where the crews are to assemble, to Richmond, and upon the return some manoeuvres are to be carried out in front of the boat houses. It is of course, understood that all crews and scullers who take part in the procession must wear the colors of their respective clubs. A sub-committee has been appointed to carry out all necessary arrangements, to which Mr. Diddams, of the Albert Park club, is acting as honorary secretary.