

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION. (1896, September 29). Sportsman (Melbourne, Vic.: 1882 – 1904), p. 6. Retrieved April 8th 2024, from: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/227738909>

ROWING

By " Coxswain."

NOTES.

The twentieth annual general meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held at Young and Jackson's Hotel on the 21st inst., Mr. Upward, one of the vice-presidents, being in the chair, and about sixty members present. The annual report, as presented by the hon. secretary, Mr. Jas. Macfarlane, was a very complete one, and dealt with every item of interest during the season.

A new feature of the report was the introduction of the records, as compiled by the "Sportsman," of the races for the eight-oared, four-oared, and sculling amateur championships of Victoria. The hon. treasurer's balance-sheet was not so acceptable as those of several seasons previously, nearly every under taking resulting in a debit balance. The receipts and expenditure of the Intercolonial race showed a deficiency of £31 ; those of the annual regatta a deficiency of £40 ; and the championship fours a shortage of £14 10s. The liquid assets appear short of the liabilities by £78 11s 3d. ; whilst the real debit at the close of the previous season was £56, so that the finances are actually £22 worse than at the beginning of the season.

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows : — President, Mr. H. G. Turner (re-elected) ; vice-presidents, Messrs. P. Ellison, T. F. Morkham, E. L. Zox, M.L.A., F. Stuart, G. E. Upward, Chas. Miller, A. M'Cracken (all re-elected), and Jas. Aitken ; committee, Messrs. Gibbs, Lupton, Gowdie, House, Goland, Davis, Hancock, and Hayes, the first six being elected for two years, and the last two for one year. Mr. Levy moved that the present system of classification of oars men be abolished, and that a system of handicapping be substituted. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which was lost.

Mr. House then moved—" That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable to so alter the definition of an amateur as to exclude from amateur rowing competitions all persons who compete for cash in any branch of athletics." This was seconded by Mr. Shepherd, and, after discussion, carried by 81 votes to 21. On the motion of Mr. Shepherd it was decided to call especial general meeting of the association for the 26th October, to deal with the new role bearing on the subject to be submitted by the committee.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting. The V.R.A. committee, for whom Mr. House was acting in regard to the proposed alteration of the amateur definition, secured a majority at the general meeting of nearly two to one, but it was only as regards the date from which the proposed new rule should take effect that there was any real difference of opinion. Mr. Gilchrist, on behalf of those who opposed the committee, asked that the matter should be delayed for – another season. Some of the committee are anxious that the new rule should come into operation at once. No doubt both sides could be brought together by a committee promise, which would appear to be the best way of settling the matter, as such a course would obviate any great differences between members of one body.