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ROWING

By " COXSWAIN."

The annual general meeting of the Victoria Rowing Association, held last evening, virtually signals the commencement of the new rowing season, and clubs will begin immediately to prepare their crews for the opening regattas, which, as I pointed out a couple of weeks back, are likely to be more numerous than in previous years. The particular form of celebrating the opening of the season 1899-1900 has not yet been determined, but it is more than probable that, scratch races will be selected as the most suitable, but whether four-oared or eight-oared races is a matter that depends upon the boats available.

It may be taken as a compliment to the retiring office-bearers and committeemen of the V.R.A. that all were re-elected save one committeeman, who declined re-election on account of his inability to devote the time to the position.

The committee's report was of its usual lengthy character, and dealt in a concise manner with the events of the past season, and contained many interesting records of the principal rowing events conducted by the Association. The competition for the rowing premiership, which was won, by the Ballarat Rowing Club, is duly set forth, showing that that club was first, with a total of 240 -points, the next best being Albert park, with 232. whilst the third on the list, the Ballarat City club, totalled only 47 points.

The balance-sheet showed that, though the season commenced with a debit balance of £68 10s 3d, there was at the conclusion a surplus of assets over liabilities of £5, 13s 4d, so that the actual surplus on the season's working was £74 12s 7d. The total receipts for the year amounted to £331 4s 4d, and the disbursements to £228 11s, the credit at bank being £2 13s 4d. The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:

Patron, his Excellency Lord Brassey; President. H. Gyles Turner, Esq.; vice-presidents. Messrs. T. Ellison. G. E. Upward, J. Aitken. T. F. Morkham. E. L. Zox. M.L.A., W. Davidson, C. Miller, and Cr. Wm., Strong; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. J. Shepherd; hon. secretary, Mr. G. A. Grant : committee. Messrs. B. Warr. J. M. Macfarlane, L. Nolan, A. J. Shepherd, D. Hancock, and A. B. Sloan.

The President, Mr. H. G. Turner, who occupied the chair, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, referred to the various items of interest therein, and congratulated the members on the success which attended the work of their committee, and on having again won the inter-colonial race.

Mr. Zox, who seconded the report, was, as usual, very happy in his remarks, and eulogised the good work of the association, which he hoped to see extended.

Mr. Upward having supported the motion, it was carried unanimously. Mr. Shepherd moved, in accordance with notice, that regatta regulation: 5 be amended, so that championship races

may be rowed over a course of two miles, instead of three miles, as at present. The proposition was seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried. Mr. Shepherd also moved that members be entitled to receive two lady's tickets of admission to regattas held by the association, instead of one, as at present.

Mr. Grant seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. Grant, it was decided to amend the amateur definition, providing that anyone who intended competing for a cash prize, and to retain his amateur status, he shall notify his intention to the committee of the association.

On the motion of Mr. House, a special vote of thanks was accorded to



for the very valuable work he has rendered to the association during the past year.

The hon treasurer, Mr. Shepherd, was presented with a handsome liquer stand by the president, on behalf of the members, as a mark of their appreciation of the services rendered by him during his two years of office.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

The selectors of the Victorian crew have not yet definitely decided upon the eight oarsmen to represent the colony in the intercolonial race next month, but it is understood that a final choice will be made within the next couple of days, the only requirement now being definite replies as to their willingness to row from two or three oarsmen whose inclusion de pends now upon themselves. If these express their readiness to accept seats in the boat the final selection will probably be— J. Donald (str), A. Chamley, A. B. Sloan, N. Hughes, T. Davies, L. Nolan, A. Dawson, and J. Blackburn. If, as, anticipated, C. Donald elects to represent Victoria in the sculling race, there will be little to find fault with in the choice. There are, however, in the Ballarat club a couple of oarsmen whose claims to seats are very strong.