

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION. (1900, September 22). Leader (Melbourne, Vic.: 1862 – 1918, 1935), p. 18. Retrieved April 8th 2024, from: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/198179705>

ROWING NOTES.

BY OUTRIGGER.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held on Monday evening last, at Young and Jackson's Hotel. Mr. Ellison, one of the vice-presidents, occupied the chair, and the attendance of members was fairly numerous. The report of the association's work of the past year contained references to several matters, the principal of which was in connection with the settlement of the amateur qualification for intercolonial races. The full text of the resolutions passed at a conference, and subsequently approved by the rowing associations of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland, together with the amateur definition of an oarsman, was agreed upon: —

- I. — That in future each colony shall row the races, represented by amateurs who conform to the definition of an amateur agreed to at the 1896 conference, such definition to commence as from 1st January, 1897.
- II. — That the course of the races shall be not less than three miles, except when rowed in Melbourne, when the course shall be not less than two miles and a half.
- III. — That the races be rowed on still water or with the tide.
- IV. — That the race of 1900 be rowed at Brisbane; that of 1901 at Sydney; that of 1902 at Adelaide; and that of 1903 at Melbourne; and shall continue in that order; but if a New South Wales, Queensland, South Australian or Victorian crew fail to compete in a race, the right to have the race rowed in its turn upon that crew's home water will be forfeited.
- V. — That the coxswains be not less than 8 st. in weight.
- VI. — That the race be rowed each year on a date between the 15th April and 15th May. The 1896 definition referred to in the first resolution is as follows: —
 1. Anyone who has never entered for a race advertised as for "watermen."
 2. Anyone who has never, competed in any competition for a "stake," "money" or "entrance fee" in any branch of athletics.
 3. Anyone who has never earned, or partially earned, his living by rowing, or taken money — either directly or indirectly— in recognition of his skill in rowing.
 4. Anyone who has never taught, pursued or assisted in athletic exercises of any kind as a means of livelihood.
 5. Anyone who has not been employed in or about boats for money or wages.
 6. Anyone who has never competed in a boat race in connection with which a wager or bet is recognised.
 7. Anyone who is not disqualified as an amateur in any other branch of athletic sports.
 8. Anyone who is not or has not been within a period of three years a bookmaker.

It will be observed that the definition is adopted as commencing from 1st January, 1897. (Anyone who has not since 1st January, 1897, &c.) Since the passing of the resolutions and the adoption of the amateur definition, matters have gone smoothly, both in regard to intercolonial rowing and Victorian regattas and races. No attempt has been made to alter the decision arrived at, and it is unlikely that one will be made.

A complete record is made in the report of the intercolonial races rowed during the year, the eight-oared race, won by the Victorians, and sculling race, won by J. J. Daley, of New South Wales, rowed in Melbourne on 18th November 1899, and the eight-oared race, won by the Victorians, and sculling race, won by M. J. Slack, of Queensland, rowed at Brisbane on 12th May, 1900. The record of previous intercolonial races— eights, fours and sculls— is also set forth in the report.

Then follow the records of the Victorian championship races, with a suitable reference to the success of the Albert Park club, whose representatives won all three championship events of the past season. The winners at the Melbourne annual regatta are recorded, and reference is made to the Upper Yarra and provincial regattas, the points, premierships, the attendances at committee meetings and to forthcoming events, while thanks are recorded to those who have specially assisted the association.

Well deserved thanks were recorded in the report to Mr. Geo. Grant, who for two years has filled in a very satisfactory manner the position of hon. secretary. At the early part of the season, Mr. A. J. Shepherd retired from the post of hon. treasurer, and his place was taken by Mr. H. Hughes. The new treasurer will not have an easy task, if he accomplishes as much valuable work as his predecessor.

The financial position of the association is satisfactory, considering the heavy demands made upon the funds by the holding of two intercolonial races in one season. The liabilities amount to £92 19/5, and the assets to £48 5/9, a deficiency of £44 13/8. In receipts for the year, £25 14/6 was obtained from hon. members, £21 19/ in donations for the intercolonial race of 1899, and £19 18/6 towards the expenses of the race of this year at Brisbane.

For the two races, the clubs represented in the crews contributed £53, while £28 12/6 only was received as club members' subscriptions. Two items of expenditure — fares of crew to Brisbane £58 10/ and £29 10/ for residence — give some idea of the cost of sending a crew away.

Of course, there are other expenses, such as the hire of a boat, the employment of trainers, and purchase of oars, &c to be added. The report and balance sheet were adopted, on the motion of the chairman, and the meeting proceeded to elect office-bearers for the new season. The following were appointed:— President, Mr. Henry Gyles Turner; vice-presidents, Messrs. Thos. Ellison, G. E. Upward, W. Davidson, Jas. Aitken, Cr. Wm. Strong, T. F. Morkham, C. Miller and W. Siddeley; hon. secretary. Mr. Louis S. Lazarus; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. J. Hughes; committee, Messrs. T. Davies, G. Lupton, W. Potter, W. B. House, M. Rohan and G. A. Grant