



The

BALMAIN

RAG



DECEMBER 1931

Official Organ of the Balmain Rowing Club.

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Well, I don't know about you, but I haven't yet got over the win we had. Have you?

My word, wasn't it great to see the old black and gold sneaking past the post with yards and lengths to spare. Instead of the usual deadly silence, everybody's throats roaring at their top. That's the stuff.

I think we all deserved it. Six good years gone past and not a "skerrick" could we get. Yet here we are with a brand new stroke a few making their first appearances at Association regattas and they pull it off.

The "Rag" dips its lid to the whole crew. Not without a sense of a prophet for you will remember what I said in the last issue that this "eight" was a "moral" to win. I suppose you all thought I was talking about their morals.

Now we will start on the thanking everybody stunt. From Mr. Sharp down to the newest member we all had an interest in that eight and will all share in the victory. At one time or another we all lent a hand whether it was to help them with the boat or give them a row when they were a few short. So you see when this crew won we all had a win.

Of course the coaching of Jack Mc Queen, the enthusiasm of the captain and even the help of "Old Joe" stand out in the practical part of the business.

And what about our dear little coppers, Messrs. Crew & Co. Christmas is coming, I know, but I think that the latest effort of the Balmain Rowing Club will convince members that the officials and committee were acting in the best interests of the Club when they sent these trouble-makers about their business.

To the winners, my final wish is they do the same thing again. Nobody knows what a win does to the rest of the outside world. Somehow, everyone you meet seems to have read that Balmain has won a race. All the old hands show an enlivened interest in us and who knows we will have before long our one desire, a thriving membership.

# BOATS CAPSIZE—FIVE RESCUED

## HUNDREDS SEE KIDDIES SAVED BY OARSMEN

WATCHING MOTHER'S TERROR ON SHORE—  
ROWING PROGRAMME POSTPONED

### FERRY PICKS MEN FROM HARBOR

Hundreds who went yesterday to see Leichhardt Rowing Club's president's trophy race were treated to an exciting rescue by oarsmen of two kiddies capsized from a sailing skiff off Rodd Point.

The mother of the children, terror-stricken, watched from the shore, and so much was the programme upset that the races were postponed until next Sunday.

*The oarsmen, incidentally, reached the struggling children just in time. Their father was striving to succor them; but he, too, was in difficulties.*

"Bump": Following complaints that the mass hysteria engendered by the newspapers was bad for the boys, Melbourne Great Public School heads moved the annual Head-of-the-River event from Saturday to Friday. The result this year was a dislocation of the business of the city far more complete than that created by the slaughtermen's strike. Even on the boats' day, Thursday, the swarms of adoring flappers was enough to pack both sides of the river for a mile or more. If the schools really wanted to remove the fixture from the list of national carnivals they would stage it on the lower Yarra. As it is, the city being handy, more beer is drunk—and spilt—on the two days than at any other Australian festival, the Melbourne Cup not excluded. The truth is that the event is reckoned a magnificent advertisement for the schools. Parents are more swayed by the athletic achievements of those seminaries than by their scholastic records.

OFF Rodd Point, about a quarter of a mile from the club's sheds, an Italian's sailing boat capsized, and he was thrown into the water with his two children, aged five and two.

Two pairs, W. Williams, A. Burns, N. Ladkin (cox), and J. Day, W. Cambridge, Carl Schweiker (cox), put out in skiffs, and succeeded in getting the youngsters aboard.

Another rowing boat picked up the father.

The club's captain, T. Williams, Chris Kayser, and Tom King assisted in resuscitation when the boats reached shore, and later the children were allowed to go home.



SOME of the competitors who participated in the winning of the J. B. Sharp Cup and the River Clubs' championship. Several of those in the picture took part in the rescue of two children off Rodd's Point.

"Swivel": That visit from world's champion professional sculler Ted Phelps (B. 19/8/31) can be counted on for a certainty if finance can be arranged. George Towns, once world's champion, has the matter in hand and can command a £500 stake, with £200 for Phelps's expenses. The Englishman is willing provided the money for expenses is raised to £500. It is probable that he will take less. Even if he decides to agree to £300, it will cost the supporters of Burns £1000, lumping Phelps's expenses, the Australian stake and Burns's training expenses together.

"Shell": Bob Pearce continues on his devastating career. Last week he won the Canadian sculling championship, beating Ken Myers, the American sculling representative at the last Olympiad, and Peter Wright, hitherto undefeated Canadian champion and a winner of the Diamond Sculls. In an earlier heat Pearce met and defeated Billy Miller, who had just won the American amateur title at Philadelphia, so he made a pretty clean job of it.

NEXT REGATTA.

As the Tourist Book says "Where the glorious willows caress the slow moving never-ending Nepean" well that's where the next regatta will be held.

Nepean, in their usual generosity, have granted the Club the use of one of their boats. The clubs ambassadors to the Court of Bacchus, Messrs Bow and Nix, were responsible for this kind act.

The crew comprises

Stroke.	H. Holt.
3	A.T. Nix.
2	L. Bellamy
Bow.	N. Boshell

GOOD LUCK.

Well Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to everybody. This is not the usual Bull. But I hope you all get a Job. If you don't, I might be joining you all very shortly. The secretary says he may be doing the same. Who knows?

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DIDDLINGS DURING THE MONTH.

Who is the little boy at Gladesville who is singing "Parted" in his bath these days?

All his affairs of the heart have gone the way of all lovers and last month he even lost his "mo"

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Last Sunday we were talking to an old member, Cocy Fahy, by name. Well all he told us about the old members, and what they did makes me think that I ought to be wearing a halo. You never heard such beauts. The worst of it was these coves used to win races galore. Here we are model members of society. Never swear. Never do anything yet only last Saturday week we have our first win in six years. Does'nt it make you think.

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You can tell all your "good sorts" to start saving up for a new dress. Early in the New Year we intend to have a card party and they may be asked to help if you are all very good.

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Old Joe has'nt lost the art yet. You should have seen him up at Lane Cove rowing along with Bill Nix. They just about broke evens to get to the finish. All the newspapers that had photos of the race included Joe and Bill in the camera study. They could just as well put "Balmain winning their race on Saturday. Their pacers are also seen in the picture!"

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Neal Boshell has whispered that they may have another party. The last time Neal went to see his girl he did'nt take his pajamas and had to borrow a pair of hers. You can imagine the mix-up there would be if we all went to Neal's and missed the last bus home.

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Ron. Bow has an absent look about him of late . I don't know whether the lady herself is absent or whether Ron has given up eating peanuts but nothing has been reported missing from the plate.

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IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS AFTER THE RACE

Stroke. Of course, I knew we would win. As I said to the acting-Chief Justice in court this morning "Sir, you have no conception of the powers of the crew." For which he awarded me the case with costs. So you see, how could I lose.

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7 You may tell readers of the "Rag" that I am very glad to have won to-day. I have only been rowing about three months and being such a "raw recruit" it is pleasant to see that although I never train we could pull such a hard tussle. I will always treasure my trophy, whatever I decide, It will be the first thing I have ever won and I am sure my grand-children will always want to hear about my very first race.

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6 As I says to the boss this morning ."Well, look here big boy if this crew does'nt win you can give me the sack." (I am glad to tell readers of the "Rag" that on the following Monday the boss assured me of permanent employment).

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5 It gives me the greatest pleasure to give the "Rag" a special interview. Being a very busy man. I have been constantly employed for the last seven years, on and off. My ferwent love for the 7 man has been my inspiration and of course but for our efforts the crew would never have won. I regret to say I am so shy. Modesty is one of my paramount virtues and usually I never swear or say one word.

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4 All I want to say is that I am glad we had an opportunity of racing to-day. Of course we won . As I am so pale-looking it enabled me to get a bit sunburnt. It is a long time since I have been so red in the face.

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3 As I have been racing for the last 17 years it comes no surprise to win a race. My mother, of course, has never been in a boat in her life and is very nervous of me. However she might let me row a bit longer now.

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2 I am sure Nance will be pleased. I do hope she is listening-in . After winning this race I can honestly say her pajamas are lucky

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Bow. I wish to thank the "Rag" for this authentic interview with me. I have been rowing for years now and as I am so heavy I have won all races. My weight , of course. Still, as I am very busy on that £3,000,000 45 storey building in town you can see what an effort it is to devote a single minute of that time to training. Of course, as soon as another depression starts you may be sure of me rowing again.



It's a pity this photo is a bit on the dark side. Still it shows quite a lot. Here are the victorious eight after their race. The other crews have a "Howthe helldidtheydoit" look on their faces. Reggie looks quite a small prawn beside the other "steerers".

Look at the hilarity in our boat. The 7 and 5 men decide to shake hands on it. I would like to hear the language they are swearing in.

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Last Saturday we tried to do likewise. With a brand new four only, having their first race this season, and three of that four making their debut in association racing, it speaks well for the Black and Gold that they landed a fourth place.

That was with only a weeks combination. The result can only be imagined with a longer period of training such as the winning eight.

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