

**THE
BALMAIN
RAG**

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Our long holiday draws near to its close and next month we start our season in earnest.

It will be our greatest opportunity to show the Rowing world that our Club is not the waning force that they are sure to be led to believe.

It does not require any stretch of imagination to visualise the rumors and whisperings going on at present just across that water.

Nobody wants a resurrection of the past and the only answer to our detractors is the giving of our very best in all our performances.

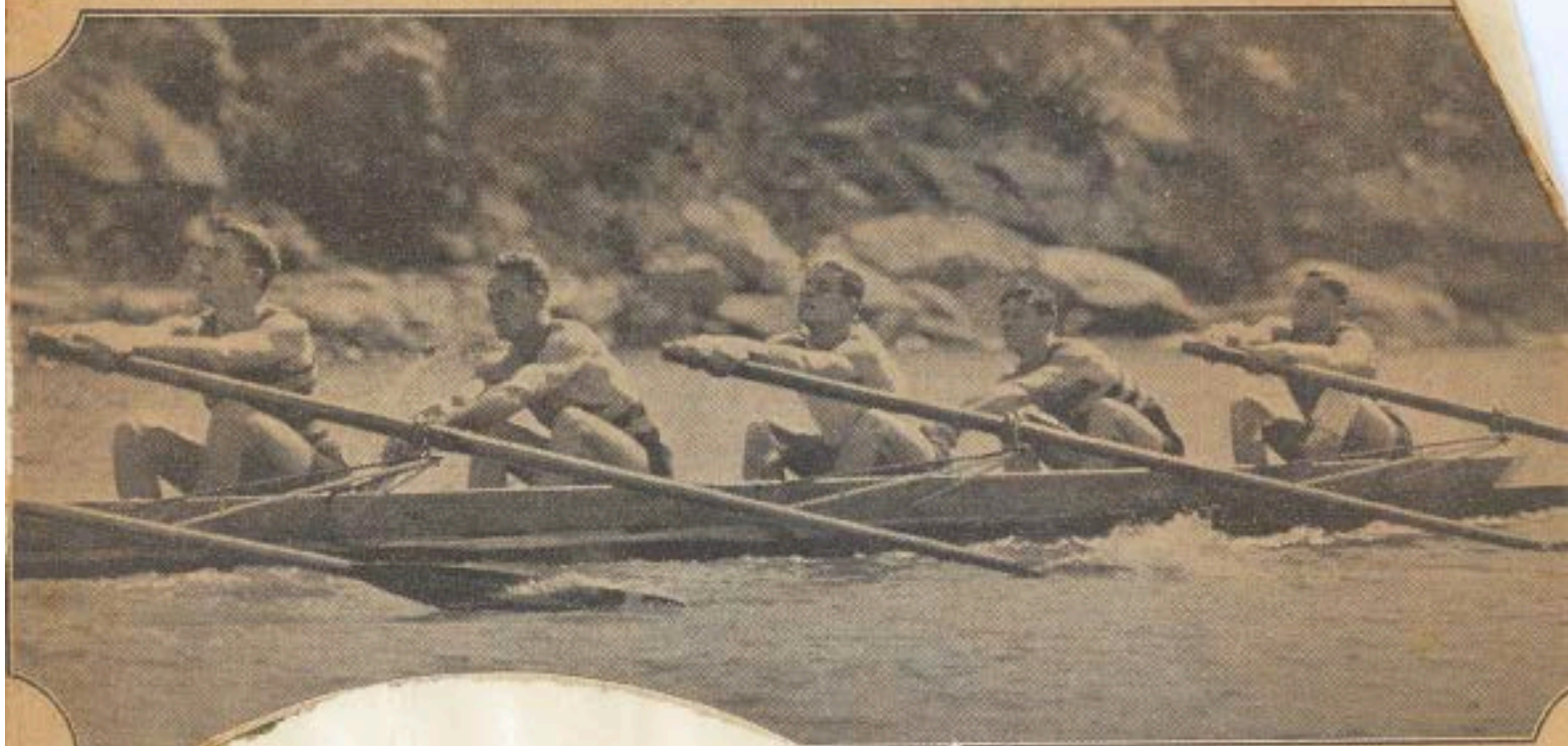
Perhaps we have not the quantity of members other clubs possess but what we have got is quality and owing to the small membership each member is able to be coached and trained in the most efficient manner.

Not so very long ago we had a gentleman in our club who had one object in life with regard to rowing, that was to get all the new members straight into races as soon as possible. Very good plan, no doubt, but the same gentleman was very non-plussed one-day when another member, a bit older than himself, asked him what these novices were going to do when the gun went off.

So you see, being a member of our Club has its advantage in that you are given special coaching and training in all parts of the game, then, when you are proved proficient not only selected as a member of the crew but you form the nucleus of a new training staff for the benefit of other coppers who may join.

Truly, the slow road is the surest to success.

MOSMAN OARSMEN MAKE AN EARLY START WITH TRAINING



SWINGING into action.—One of the Mosman crews, which commenced training yesterday for the opening of the season.



INTENT FACES and taut muscles of the Mosman eight, who had their first pre-season training spin yesterday. The crew is: R. Butler (stroke), N. Shepherd (7), N. Kieley (6), T. Beasley (5), J. Bennett

The Combined Regatta committees are now well under way. The last meeting I attended on the shed verandah raced along like a bush-fire, notwithstanding a few ribald remarks from the gentry on the Point.

The secretary this year is one, Doug. Bowden, by name, from Glebe. The treasurer is no other than our own A.T. Nix. Mr. Bowden who bristles with suggestions, owes his inspirations, no doubt, to the atmosphere of his employment, which, they tell me, is Tooth's Brewery.

The proceedings at one time threatened to become boisterous when one of the Glebe gentlemen discovered a flea. However we disowned that one.

It will suffice members to say that the Regatta will be held on our own course and will be greater than ever despite a few more additions to the "Dole Fleet".

If looks could drown, a few of those boats would have caressed Davy Jones long ago.

The Anniversary Day regatta this year was one of the best so far. I had the company of the secretary and a rather devastating blonde on this occasion.

It was our happy lot to meet Mr. J.J. Booth, one of the originals of the Club, who regaled us with all the old-time stories that never grow old.

Mr. Booth entertained us all the afternoon and it was no wonder that we were profoundly ignorant of the winner of the "eighteens"

On disembarking at the Fort who should be seen displaying a vivid black and gold tie but the world-famous Bill Beach. This strapping youth of 82 still holds his back as though he had a bone in it and not a jellyblubber and looks good for another twenty years.

Altogether a good day.

Of the crews Murray Braid seems to be the only maiden. If he can reproduce the form on the water that his father gave on the running-track he should go a good way.

Occasional flashes of Mr. Braid's athletics can still be seen in his daily tear down the Darling St. Hill for the 8-50 boat.

From a scenic point of view St. Ig's at Riverview would take some beating while its appointments for sports of all kind would make it an ideal hotel if they only took in week-end guests.

Here, then, we spent the annual Rendezvous of the Association. While the two leading clubs failed to send their cream of crews along the day proved to be anything but sour.

What with swimming in the morning and racing in the afternoon and a giant luncheon in between, it was a real red-letter day. My back certainly showed the red part of it.

Our dinner was partaken on the usual large rock placed there by Mother Nature or Father Lockington, one of the two. Many and varied were the menus and these were only equalled by the fragrant cigars supplied by the hospitable S.H.P. Burns (Ald). Water melons took the place of the usual cocktail. These giants had been nurtured by Geoff. Thornton and I might say that that same young man looked anything like a melon in the water in the relay race.

After all these good things had been witnessed and eaten we decided to wend our way home but not until we saw Sid. Sharp display a brilliant flash of old form in clearing away from the field in the two races held.

And who should be there to see us off the premises but Mr. Sid and Porter and Corny Mc Namara.

Last Sunday by the grace of God and the disgrace of Mr. Mares we were to have gone to St. Ig's again. Some of us got there.

Well we had a great day all to ourselves. Mr. Joe Andreoli proving an ideal host and prince of good-fellows. Geoff Thornton came to light with some succulent steak which went the way of all good things and never tasted better. As for the light-weights they looked as if they would be sadly in need of the doctor on the Monday for treatment of swollen "bingys"

Last but not at all least was the Balmain Regatta. I don't think we realised what an opportunity we lost in not having some kind of a race that day. It was ideal. The club-house was the official "steamer" that day and journalists of all descriptions read the "Rag". Mr. Sharp came to light in his quiet way with all the good cheer and refreshments imaginable for the guests and the Regatta Committee looked after everybody in the true Balmain way.

We had a meeting on 6th. inst.. Neal Boshell was the only one who couldn't get there. Mr. J Mc Queen's wife would not let him out and Mrs. J.S. Sharp informs me that she never lets her husband out at night.. We had a letter from our old friend, Cec. Staw.

He is now in Melbourne and said he would like to join one of the local clubs. We intend writing back and telling them all about his antics under the shower.

We are still holding a little bit of cash, which is a novelty among rowing clubs at the moment I am told.

Mr. Sharp was very elated over his intending holiday and when news came through that Ald. Thornton had been elected Mayor his pleasure knew no bounds. The new Mayor's son came in for his share of the usual congrats.

I hope you like the way we dealt with the gentlemen who persistently pushed the floor-boards up on the lower ground floor. It is pretty rough on us trying to struggle on and having had to put up this crowd.. Anyway, I think their days are numbered.

Well after a lot of discussion about the internal affairs of the club and Mr. Sharp acting as the merry host we wended our weary way home pausing on the way thereto to knock a few more nails into the floor of the shed.

Leo. Bellamy dropped a bombshell into the business the other night by leaving for Muswellbrook on Wednesday. 20th. inst..

While expecting his departure any moment we were a trifle disappointed at the suddenness of the leaving. Leo possessed an admirable temperament and was a most docile member of any crew with whom he would be rowing.

He goes from us with the best wishes of everybody and leaves us with the most pleasant memories of his membership.

We had run around Birchgrove Oval ten times before Leo told us he was going for good and it just took what breath we had left, if any.

A shake of the hand, not even the forbidden drink, was all we could farewell Leo with and he left us as "one of the best"

We give the glad hand to Frank Zihrul who has joined up with us.
May he have the best of luck.

We are also shaking with Mr. Joe Andreoli who has a lifetime
of rowing behind him.

Contrary to rumors new members are receiving more attention than ever
and we hope to see them well to the front this season.

**OLD OARSMEN
UNITE**

***Movement Good
For the Sport***

THE formation of a Union of
Old Oarsmen was decided
upon last night by a represen-
tative gathering of ex-rowing men.

Under the auspices of the State
Rowing Association, the meeting at
the Sports Club was attended by
many men who had taken a promi-
nent part in the sport.

The proposal to form the union
met with all-round approval. The
effect on the sport should be far-
reaching.

One of the principal speakers was
the Water Board president, Mr. T.
B. Cooper, a member of the 1895
inter-State eight, and, together with
the present North Shore captain, Mr.
P. C. Mour (stroke of the 1893 win-
ning N.S.W. eight), Mr. C. M.
Moesch, a former Sydney Club cap-
tain, who represented in 1903-4, and
an old Shore member, S. McDougall,
he was elected to the controlling
committee.

Letters supporting the movement were re-
ceived from Judge Alex. Thomson (N.S.W.
representative, 1901-2), Mr. Clifton H. Penny
(a prominent ex-West Australian oarsman),
and Mr. E. L. Lamont (one of the two sur-
viving foundation members of Sydney Row-
ing Club, founded in 1878).

Ex-membership of any rowing club qual-
ifies for admission to the union, and for a
subscription many benefits are
offered.

Mr. J.S. Mc Queen attended the above meeting on behalf of the club and
reported the enthusiasm of the organisers and members to be excellent.

The last paragraph in the above report however
contains the bitter pill. For a nominal sum "old oarsmen" have free entry
to all the events of the season. Mr. Mc Queen pointed out the unfairness
of this idea and successfully got the matter held over until the next meeting.

Quite right too. It is bad enough to have too few on a
launch, but the spectacle of about 500 old oarsmen rolling down Elliott St.

NAVY SEASON FOR OARSMEN

Fixing Champion Eights' Date

LONG deliberation last night by the special sub-committee, empowered by the State Rowing Association to draw up the season's programme, resulted in a record schedule of regattas and races being prepared for submission to the governing body.

Main argument hinged on the fixing of the course and date of the champion eights, particularly in view of the King's Cup race in Melbourne next April.

University, in view of its Australian title success at Brisbane, was anxious to figure in the State eights event, and preferred the race being staged in February, owing to preparation for examinations.

Every effort was made to decide on a date suitable to Varsity, but the majority were of opinion that holding the event in February would be detrimental to the selection of the inter-State crew, particularly if the chosen date was a competitive one.

Ultimately December 15, on the Nepean River, was decided upon by a majority vote, but when the programme comes up for ratification at the September meeting of the N.S.W.R.A. several delegates will bring forward a motion-proposal favoring February.

The opening fixture will be the St. Joseph's College Regatta on Tarban Creek on October 2.

In all the programme provides for 12 competitive regattas involving 67 races. Additional to these comes the unclassified events provided by the regattas of Pittwater, Balmain District, and Vaucluse.

SEASON'S PROGRAMME

The programme decided upon is—
October 2.—St. Joseph's College Regatta, on Tarban Creek: Maiden eights, maiden fours, L.W. maiden fours, hep, sculls.

October 24.—Mosman Regatta, on Lane Cove: Senior eights (Boone Cup), maiden eights, junior fours, maiden fours, L.W. maiden fours, hep, sculls, maiden sculls.

November 7.—Haberfield, on Iron Cove: Senior fours, maiden eights, L.W. maiden eights, maiden fours, hep, sculls.

November 21.—North Shore, on Lane Cove: Junior fours, L.W. junior fours, maiden eights, maiden fours, L.W. maiden fours, hep, sculls (over course of two miles), gladiators sculls.

November 28.—Sydney, on Parramatta: N.S.W. lightweight champion fours, junior eights, maiden fours, L.V. maiden eights, handicap sculls, 3000 metres senior sculls.

December 12.—N.S.W. Association, on Nepean: Champion eights, heavyweight and lightweight champion sculls, maiden fours, L.W. maiden fours.

January 26.—Anniversary, on Sydney Harbour: Senior fours, maiden fours, L.W. maiden fours, L.W. junior fours, handicap sculls, gladiators sculls.

February 8.—Nepean Club, at Penrith: Champion fours of N.S.W., junior fours, maiden fours, L.W. maiden fours.

February 29.—Haberfield, on Iron Cove: Senior eights, junior eights, maiden fours, L.W. senior fours, L.W. maiden fours, handicap sculls, gladiators sculls.

March 6.—Balmain, Drummoys, and Glebe, on Iron Cove: L.W. champion eights of N.S.W., senior fours, junior fours, maiden eights, maiden fours, L.W. maiden fours, handicap sculls, gladiators sculls.

April 2.—St. Ignatius College, on Lane Cove: Senior Challenge Eights (Riverview Cup), junior fours, maiden fours, handicap sculls.

April 23.—University, on Parramatta: Junior eights, maiden eights, maiden fours, L.W. junior fours, handicap sculls (inter-collegiate eights additional).

SYDNEY CLUB.

The Sydney Club has selected its senior eight to represent the club in the first race of the coming season. The crew is—R. O'Carroll (cox), H. G. Morris, 11.8; J. Murdoch 12.1; H. Grace 11.9; P. Lester 12.2; A. C. Pike 13.5; W. Green 12.4; A. C. Lambert, 11.2 (stroke); A. M. Napier (cox); Claude Rosevear (coach); M. G. Mackenzie, L. C. Nickson, S. Downie, J. B. Harkness, ex-members of the King's Cup crews will not be eligible for selection until November.

Lambert, Pike and Lester were members of last year's King's Cup crew. Green won both lightweight champion eight and four with the club, and a heavyweight maiden four, and his development in weight has given him great promise. Grace rowed with Victoria at Perth in 1923, being a member of the Ballarat crew which defeated the selected eight in a test race. Murdoch won a maiden eight last year in his first season. Morris won a maiden eight and senior four last season, while O'Carroll, an ex-Glebe club senior oarsman, won the senior eights at the Mosman regatta last season (see Sydney Club).

ROWING.

BUSY SEASON AHEAD.

The New South Wales Rowing Association has arranged its programme of regatta dates and races for the season 1931-32. An endeavour has been made to cater for every class of oarsman and sculler. Twelve regatta dates have been allotted, embracing 46 events, without taking into consideration unclassified events decided annually at the Pittwater, Vaucluse, and Balmain regattas.

A change has been made in the dates usually set down for the championship events. The champion fours, champion eights, heavyweight champion sculls, and lightweight champion sculls of New South Wales will all be rowed on the Nepean River, the first named race at the Nepean Club's regatta on December 12, and the other three events at the association regatta on February 6. The lightweight champion fours will be rowed at the Sydney regatta on November 28, and the lightweight champion eights on March 5 at the Balmain, Drummoys, and Glebe regatta.

These races have been arranged to allow the clubs to work their men through the various classes during the season, having in view the selection of the strongest crew to represent the State in the Australian championship events on April 23 next in Melbourne.

In addition to the above it is probable that a regatta will be conducted on March 19 in connection with the Sydney Harbour Bridge celebration.

SYDNEY'S SENIOR EIGHT

A VICTORIAN King's Cup oarsman has been included in the Sydney Rowing Club senior eight to contest for the Boone Memorial Cup at the season's opening regatta.

The selection of J. Murdoch, who began rowing only last season, was a surprise packet.

Mr. Claude Rosevear, sole selector, deserves praise for this encouragement of young blood. His action will also spur on rival senior oarsmen, who will now realise that they cannot depend on reputation alone to win honors.

The selected eight are—R. O'Carroll (cox), 11.8; R. Norris (2), 11.9; J. Murdoch 12.1; H. Grace (4), 12.6; P. Lester (5), 13.0; P. C. Pike (6), 13.5; W. Green (7), 12.4; A. C. Lambert (stroke), 11.2; A. M. Napier (cox.).

H. Grace rowed in the Victorian King's Cup crew at Perth (W.A.) in 1923, when Mosman won the trophy for New South Wales. Grace has done all his previous rowing with poppets, but he finds the change to swivels to his liking.

STURDY SENIOR CREW

Sydney Oarsmen and Their Records

THOUGH the N.S.W. King's Cup oarsmen, J. B. Harkness, T. C. Nickson, S. Downie, and M. G. Mackenzie, are not included in Sydney Rowing Club's crew for the Boone Memorial Cup race at Mosman regatta on October 24, they will be available for selection in Sydney's champion eight.

The Sydney eight selected for the Boone Cup event have interesting records.

A. C. Lambert (stroke), 11.9, has rowed consistently for Sydney since 1926, and has stroked all its winning senior crews since that date. He rowed No. 2 in the last N.S.W. King's Cup crew. He has few equals as a stroke for judgment and coolness.

GREEN'S IMPORTANT ROLE

W. Green (No. 7), 12.4, has until this year rowed lightweight for Sydney. He has a lightweight champion eight and four other wins to his credit. His development in weight and easy style has earned for him the important No. 7 seat. Claude Rosevear (selector) has great faith in Green's ability to occupy that position.

P. C. Pike (No. 6), 13.0, is another N.S.W. King's Cup oarsman who has had many successes. He is being tried in the No. 5 seat, a position which should have the tendency to brighten his work. If it does he will prove a worthy man for the position.

F. Lester (No. 5), 13.0, rowed in this position in the last King's Cup crew. Previously Lester had always rowed on the stroke side. His smart hands are a feature of his work. He has been rowing since 1925, and has a long list of wins to his credit.

H. Grace (No. 4), 12.6, rowed in the Victorian King's Cup crew at Perth in 1923, when Mosman won the trophy for N.S.W. Grace has done all his previous rowing with poppets, but he finds the swivels to his liking. His brightness of action makes him a worthy gain for the crew.

BIG PROMOTION

J. Murdoch (No. 3), 12.1, began rowing only last season, when he won maiden races alone. His free and natural style was considered worthy of better company, and his performance will be watched with interest.

R. Norris (No. 2), 11.9, although he won a senior four at the Anniversary Regatta in 1929, has represented his club only in the City Houses championship, in which he was a member of the winning crew. Norris is the "buddy" of the crew, but his physique and starting method inclusion.

R. O'Carroll (cox), 11.8, won all his qualifying races with Glebe Club, before transferring to Sydney, with which club he won a senior eight in 1928. He is regarded as one of the most conscientious workers in the crew. He did little rowing last season.

A. M. Napier (cox) has steered almost every winning eight for Sydney since 1925. He was also cox of the N.S.W. King's Cup crew in 1930. His experience on all courses is a great asset to any crew.

Claude Rosevear (sole selector and coach) has had 42 years' continuous connection with rowing. He was one of the founders of the North Bk. Club at Leppington, and has acted as umpire in three States.

In addition to his varied activities in men's rowing, Mr. Rosevear coached the first N.S.W. women's crew to win the inter-State championship four. His Sydney women's four has an unbeaten record in State championships over a period of five years.

Coaching and selecting for Sydney, Mr. Rosevear has lifted the club out of a long series of lean years and it now strongly threatens the supremacy of Mosman.

Sporting Touch

MR. WHIDDON gave a sporting touch to the latest lottery: Mr. Harkness, who



MR. HARKNESS

drew the first marble, was a rower of note in other days, and one of his sons—J.B.—has pulled an oar on two occasions for N.S.W. Mr. McMahon was formerly an international footballer. Now that he is Income Tax Commissioner, friends remind him that his old club was named "Pirate." Ernie McMahon was also an oarsman, and many of us believe that he is still "dipping deep"—officially, of course.

"Shall": After long years Australia is likely to see a race for the world's professional sculling championship, which was once practically an Australian appanage. Ted Phelps, the young Londoner who now holds the title, which he won from Harry last year, is to visit Australia for a race with the N.S.W. Northern Rivers champion Burns, though the custom in the past has been to hand the holder of the title in his own lair. Such a visit as that proposed would once have set all Australia buzzing. Now it passes almost unheeded. The last occasion the title was rowed for in Australia was in 1923, when Goodsell beat a brother N. S. Welsh-

"Hotham": The Victorian rowing heads are in a quandary concerning the course on which to stage next year's inter-State eight-our race for the King's Cup. This must be three miles long, though in earlier days a course of 2½ miles was permitted on the Yarra. In 1925 a three-mile course was used, but the new Spencer-street bridge now crosses the river a quarter of a mile from the finish, and it is doubtful whether six crews will be able to get under it together. However, tests with local eights are to be made, and if these are not successful it seems likely some other waterway may be the venue

I met Ron.Bow on the 5 a.m. tram the other day. He would'nt say where he was going but it was'nt long before he started to whistle "She's coming home". Then I understood.

A lady from about a mile the other side of Rydalmere has written me asking if the gentleman,who jumps her fence at the same spot and at the same time when ever he happens to be passing, will desist.

She is positive he belongs to this shed as she has received no reply to a letter she wrote to the Grammar School. She says she is sure to recognise the Black and Gold blazer and the little cap if ever he does it again.

Bill.Nix has been singing "Daisy Daisy" lately. I did'nt tumble to the meaning until I saw his legs going for their life along the Victoria Road on a plain bicycle.

The other night I went to see Frank Harvey in "Cape Forlorn".It cost me one bob. In the action of the play,which takes place on a lighthouse on the coast of New Zealand,the following dialogue took place.

MATE. Hey. Skipper , what boat is that away out there to the S.E.

SKIPPER. Oh. that's the Wlimoroa , Huddart Parker Line. its her day . Can you see a fair headed kid hanging over the side talking to some woman?

MATE Yes.he's there.

SKIPPER. It's him alright. That young chap from the Sydney office. The same tale,the same place,the same time but never the same woman.

CURTAIN.

ASSOCIATION MEETING

Last Tuesday I attended with Mr. A.T.Nix. Secretary, the monthly meeting of the association.

Proceedings were very quiet. So quiet it sounded like one of our old term meetings.

All the same I don't think it would take much to rouse the ire of a few of the delegates. Mr. Rosevear and Mr. Wood would surely like to have to a good "go-in" one of these nights. Still that may be my imagination.

The best of the joke was that one of the delegates from Mosman produced a regatta programme which he said would be better than the one submitted by the Association. So frequent were the alterations that I wondered the association didn't ask Mosman to submit a programme and let the Association approve of it. Still Mr. Vindin withdrew nearly all of his suggestions and the only race left up in the air was the Champ. Lightweight race at our Regatta.

Another choice item of the night was the way the clearance from Drummoyne for our Captain. Bill Nix. was slipped through. Although I anticipated this to be the fireworks of the night Mr. Pfafflin from Mosman promptly moved that the clearance be granted, somebody else seconded the motion, it was carried and not until about five minutes later did somebody wake up that Billy Nix was back in Balmain club without a blare of newspaper trumpets and bitter comments. You should have seen the grins spreading over our faces, even Harry Alderson condescended to give us a knowing wink.

MOSMAN REGATTA.

As representative of the Balmain Rowing Club I attended the Mosman Regatta. Not that anyone took any notice of me but I was able to fish around and have a good "sticky"

The club house is a disgrace, of course, They seem to have an unlimited supply of members. Their champion eight seems very light. They have just christened a new boat "H.H. Gall" in honor of some guy who rows to Bradley's every morning from their shed and who is only 88. They have a ladies committee with a membership as big as the club itself. They unfurled the Senior Pennant for the year. I watched the races. Their eight just won. They opened the beer. Then I came home.

That's what I saw at Mosman.