



# The BALMAIN RAG

16 AUGUST 1931



THE BALMAIN RAG.

3rd. MONTH OF PUBLICATION.

16th. AUGUST 1931

ISSUED AT BALMAIN ROWING CLUB SEED.

WHITEHORSE POINT.

GRAND JUBILEE NUMBER.

GENERAL MATTERS.

There is not much gossip this month. Evidently members are behaving themselves now they know a private detective is on their tracks.

I could tell you of a few interesting things found out during the month. But I'm afraid I would upset somebody's very carefully designed plans.

There is one thing I would like to ram down your necks. That is the fact that hardest workers for any affair in connection with this club are always the most modest. They refuse to take their dues, so recognition must therefore come through this paper.

Now of course there is Mr. Sharp. Now I tell you this in my capacity as treasurer. This Rowing Club would not exist but for Mr. Sharp. Lately, a few have had the idea that they could run the club without any outside assistance. In fact I know of two members who aver that they could run the club on their own shoulders. There is no doubt where they would run the club to. Our only trouble is that they won't lose themselves for a while. Well, to get back to Mr. Sharp. I hope you will realise our dependence on Mr. Sharp. He exacts no conditions for his patronage. All he asks is a fair go. That means no more little pinpricks like the recent happenings.

I tell you if Mr. Sharp decided to stop in bed on Sunday mornings and chop us right out. then, it's a case of good-bye.

Nothing in the above is anything but the honest truth and it would never have appeared but for Mr. Sharp's modesty and my concern at the turn things are taking in this Club.

-----

Before we start. Mr. Arthur T Nix, sub-sub-sub-Manager of Huddart Parker Ltd. wishes me to state definitely that he is not a candidate for priesthood. He assures me that he has too much to lose from the pleasures of earthly things. Yes, I thought, especially the blonde variety.

-----

One of these fine nights there will be a polite little brawl on the lower ground floor, as Mr. David Jones has it. All this will come through somebody starting an argument after training, when the boat is being drained.

Now there is not another period in rowing when everybody in the crew is at their worst than after a strenuous bout of training. It only requires a little spark to set anybody's temper up 100 degrees. So how about leaving all these little pleasantries until the shower has been tasted.

What I am afraid of is that in the excitement we will all drop the eight.

-----

They say a poet is never honored in his own country and then not until he is dead. Well I propose to say a little about someone of us each month. Good or bad. We will start with the good ones. From the bow end.

Frank Zihrul takes the biscuit this month. I have never met such an earnest uncomplaining person as the bow man in the eight for a long time. He must be the joy of a club captain or a coach as he has never lost that ~~casual habit~~ <sup>Good Nature of his</sup> of doing what he is told.

-----

Next month. Norman Ralston.

-----

I am told that I forgot somebody last month. Well, I did. It was young Reggie Williams, our late coxswain. Reggie is another of these new generation of young men who do what they are told. He had an ideal temperament for a "cox", a piercing, piping voice and one of the coolest young heads on the rivers. Not for a minute did he descend to the foul of some of these smart young 'uns who generally endeavour to draw somebody's attention to them. This alone gave the crews in charge a bit of confidence if only on that account. Well, they say he is getting too old. I suppose he is

We nearly lost our Captain last month . Only for him falling the right way out of his rigger we might be up at Rookwood to-day instead of down here.

Still he is out and about again but not the Bill Nix of old yet. Things that happen in the night take more than a day to get over.

The rigger behaved like a good 'un. Hardly a scratch. Still that's getting away from the story.

Away went Bill's body home to Gladesville, next morning the hearse called for it to go to Prince Alfred's . Then the fun started . They came from everywhere. Anyone that ever heard of Bill and knew him all paid a visit. After he had left the hospital the nurse told me he had more visitors than a confinement case.

The first night I went Mr. Ron Bow accompanied a party of us. Mr. Bow , who carries with him an aroma of special scent, certainly had the captain at his mercy as he lay in bed inhaling the fumes.

In a way we are all responsible for the accident. His enthusiasm and interest in the "eight" to be out on even a Friday night was his downfall. Just another bit of Fate.

In this, our Jubilee Year, we seem be getting all the bumps imaginable but this latest seems to be a bit hard on the club and our own captain in particular. Why could'nt it have happened to me ? After all, you can do without a treasurer for a while but a captain we must always have.

Still, here's one on Bill and we hope he is of the best for many years to come.

This little lady  
or gentleman has written  
from Rabaul asking if  
he or she may have the use of  
Bill's rigger while he is ill.  
What about it Bill?



You see some funny incidents in a Rowing Club and among its members but this month's first prize seems to be one of the best.

Having occasion to visit a local hostelry in company with the captain and his friend it fell to my task of ordering the beverages. On my usual "wattleyouave" Bill Nix ordered something that befitted his position but his friend, mind you much taller than either of us calmly requested "Ginger Ale". Ginger Ale I might tell you when the temperature was soaring about the 120's

Still, after the blonde barmaid had had her fainting fit and been revived, our friend got his "ginger Ale" But that's not the end of the story.

As we were making for the door I nudged Bill. Here was our Rechabite friend making for the wrong car and settling himself in the front seat and awaiting our arrival.

I often wonder to this day whether he did get "Ginger Ale"

-----

I often wonder whether divorces were invented before cars or vice versa. The evidence I heard below one day last week about 3 a.m. seems convincing enough. But the worst of it is it sounds just like someone in the "eight"

Just listen to the "slop"

"I worship you! You're perfect!  
Kiss me."

Not too bad for a beginning  
Note the calm indifference of the great lover in the next

"That's easy."

then the passionate call

Sounds very much like someone I know

"Tell me you love me! Eve,

"Oh, I'm used to you looking that way now. You're so beastly fit that you annoy me!"

She must know he is in the "eight". I thought they were training

They've just had a row

"Take back those words—or next week's wedding ceremony's off!"

It's all over now

So if the "eight" doesn't break a record on Saturday in order to enable one of its crew to get married something must be wrong with my detective work.

## NEAL BOSHELL'S PARTY

Parties may come and parties may go but one party that will be handed down for generations will be that of Neal Boshell's twentyfirst held last month.

Our bad luck seems to continue and Neal woke up to find himself coming-of-age on the wettest Saturday this year.

Now, rain may spoil lots of things but Neal defied everything and went right ahead with his party.

Well, we arrived at the Boshell household feeling a trifle downcast . We had just been to see the months invalid, Bill Nix, Not a very pleasant thing to have to leave Bill at home while we all trooped out to have a real whoopse.

Well as I said we arrived there. We all walked across Mr. Boshell's front lawn while there was a perfectly good concrete path to the left of us. That was nothing.

We were met at the front door by Mrs. Boshell who immediately took everyone to her bosom. Mr. Boshell took everyone to the cellar.

Strange to say we then eat, You never saw such a spread in all your life. Mr. Arthur Nix can tell you of the quality of the fruit salad. Neal's health was proposed and seconded and drunk about forty times until I thought that the next time Neal had a birthday party it would be his centenary so as to give us a bit of time to recover from this one.

Still Neal bore up under the strain very well "nothing stronger than ginger-ale" is Neal's motto at the present time. Others did not bear up under the strain and consequently fell out in the rain.

Then the fun really started. Plenty of games and row, lots of things that can't be put in print, and finally home on the last 'bus, yet who , notwithstanding the size of their head, would not say the next morning "Good old Neal"

-----

COMMITTEE MEETING.

We had another meeting the other night. Mr. Sharp was not feeling his best so we prevailed upon Mr. Porter to take the chair.

Messrs. Chas. Hirst and N. Boshell were welcomed as new members of the committee and Mr. G. Thornton is also an additional member.

Proceedings did not last very long and you still have a bit of cash in the Bank so altogether it was a very brisk night. I might tell the new members that all our meetings are not like that. I can remember, in my short time, getting home some hour the next morning.

Messrs. G. Bow and V. Auland, also M. Braid were admitted as new members of the club.

We had supper and were home before 10 so you can see we are breaking records pretty early in the season.

-----  
I see we have another Bow in the club. That's another bow to our string and it won't be long now before we're bowing to another Bow in the bow seat.

-----  
ASSOCIATION MEETING.

I attended the above monthly meeting this time with the captain. It was another meeting which ended quite early. They've still got a bit of cash in the Bank and nothing much came out at the meeting except that we will have to row a bit longer at the next Haberfield regatta. The mile races are now 1 mile and 200 yards which means we will start from the other side of the Bridge instead of from Rodd Island somewhere.

I was presented with a dozen regatta cards to dispose of to members. These cards have a list of the regattas to be held during the season and they only cost a penny each so if you want to have the races at your finger-tips just hand me a penny and the card will be yours.



## THE RACE.

Next Saturday is the day. We will all be there to see the old Black and Gold stride in with a few lengths to spare. Why should'nt they? They have a brand new "stroke" . A new "bow"man . A new "four"man.

All the pick of the old brigade and we nearly lost our coach and captain through the whole bang lot of them. Not only that,if they keep getting Jack Mc Queen out of bed so early and keep him late at nights,well,he will wasting away to old Joe's size.

So with all these things in their favour the eight are a "Moral"

---

### Next Regatta.

#### Haberfield Rowing Club

to be held on Iron Cove on November 7th. 1931.

#### Races.

Senior 4  
Maiden 8  
Maiden 4  
L.W.M. 8  
H'cap Sculls.

---

all races with the exception of the H'cap sculls to raced over a course of approx. 1 mile 200 yds.

---

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The August committee meeting was held in the Shed on Thursday 6th. inst.. Present. Messrs. J. Mc Queen S.J Porter. J.S. Sharp. J.Hocking.E.Mc Lean. R. Bow. F.Mc Ginn. W.Nix. A.T. Nix.F.Turner.

Accounts were presented for the last month. The treasurer just about fainted when he saw the bundle. We'll just about do it this time .

After the usual business was settled the main item was the election of a new captain in place of Mr. E. Crew, who had resigned at a special committee meeting held during the month.

Mr. E. Mc Lean nominated Mr. J. Hocking, and Mr. F. Turner. nominated Mr. W.R. Nix.

Mr. J. Mc Queen , who occupied the chair , put the nominations to the meeting. Mr. R. Bow seconded the nomination of Mr. W.R. Nix.

The nomination of Mr. J. Hocking did not receive a seconder and consequently lapsed.

Mr. W.R. Nix. was accordingly declared captain of the Balmain Rowing Club for the ensuing year.

Congratulations were proferred Mr. Nix. who suitably replied.

The committee decided to place on record the services of Mr. Chas. Hirst in preparing the splendid address presented to Mr. S.J. Porter. Carried unanimously.

It was also moved and seconded that the services of Mr. J. Mc Queen in connection with the Re-Union be recorded . This was also carried unanimously.

After discussion on Association matters, the meeting ended. Comparitively early . Only 11-15.p.p.

-----



HERE HE IS . William Russell Nix. Elected by Committee of Balmain Rowing Club at meeting held 5th. inst. Captain of Club for year 1931-1932.

Billy Nix. Maiden oarsman, junior oarsman, senior oarsman . Member of the Balmain Rowing Club for nearly 10 years. Member of L.W. Champion Eight 1923-4-5 . Member of L.W. Champion 4 during those years also.

Thats only part of his record . The best years of his life he has devoted to the sport and to our club in particular. His time, money and patience have all been merged into an effort to get the club into its former prestige . No one will deny that he is our best oarsman at the present time and I defy anyone to say that he is not the best man for the job.

If Billy Nix does'nt get us there, then it won't be his fault.

-----