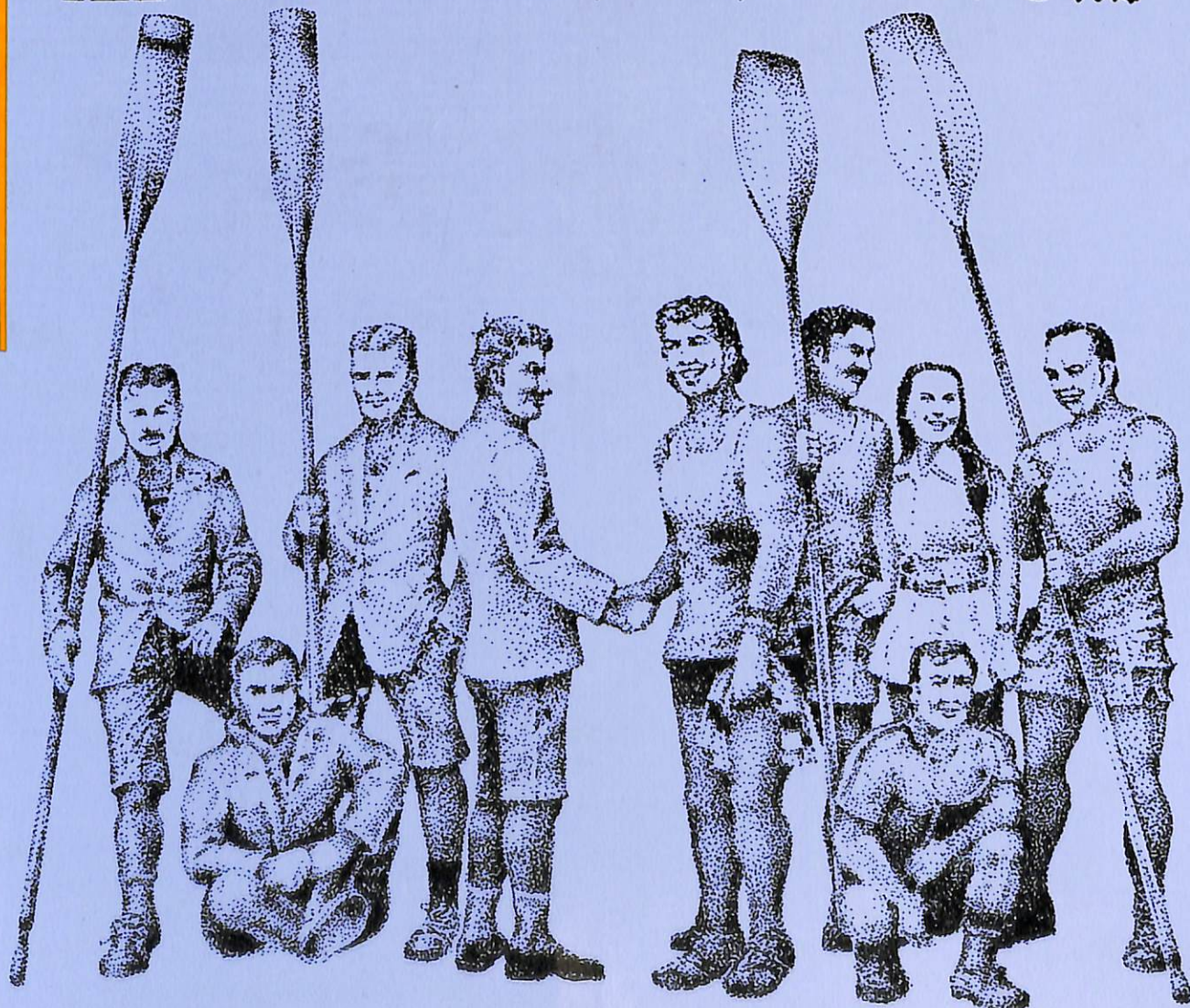


MANILA ROWS

THE STORY OF THE *Manila Boat Club*



ALAN L. MAY

MANILA BOAT CLUB

P.O. Box 259, Manila, Philippines

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*To the members of
Manila Boat Club,
past, present and
future.*

INTRODUCTION

The Manila Boat Club has truly come of age with this remarkable story of its history by Alan May. I have been privileged to have had Alan share with me various parts of the Club's history which began to come to light during his painstaking research and compilation during the past two years. His enthusiasm in the face of such a daunting task and the response to his enquiries from many past members worldwide proved inspirational to his fellow members.

Manila Rows is no ordinary book nor is it a history which simply comprises a collection of dates and events. Manila Rows brings to life the numerous people connected with the Club over a time span of many decades. This book will make exciting reading for all members of the Club – past, present and future – and to anyone who is interested in rowing and squash and the evolution of these sports in the Philippines. Members of the Manila Boat Club are immensely proud of their Club, and in turn the Club is proud to have its history told for the first time for all to read and enjoy.



TONY HOPE
President, Manila Boat Club
1976/77 to 1978/79

Melbourne
July 1979

PREFACE

When I left Sydney for Manila late in 1968, I fully expected that my rowing days, at least for however long I was to stay in Manila, would be over. Because of this, I was delighted, firstly, to find that there *was* a rowing club in Manila, and, secondly, that it had quite a remarkable fleet of some 18 boats all, while old, in very good condition.

The number of members of the Boat Club at that time was quite small — far fewer than such a fleet would suggest — and none, it seemed, had been members for more than a few years. Of the club's early days, only the sketchiest of "histories" existed. And so the questions of how the club had been established and how it had come to such a situation became intriguing ones.

Some years later, when the membership was many times larger and after I had been a Board member for quite a period, many other members started to inquire about the early history of the club. Some also came to know that I had written a history of the Sydney Rowing Club for its centennial (1970) and I was urged to become one of the few men since creation to have written the history of two rowing clubs!

A keen member at that time was Philip Arundell Jr., and he told me that his father, then living outside of London, had had a long association with the club covering the periods both before and after the war. So I despatched a letter to Arundell Sr. around the middle of 1975 enquiring about the history of the club, and promptly put the matter out of my mind.

Several months later a thick registered envelope arrived on my desk. It contained a large number of photographs plus a 15-page single-spaced legal size typed collection of historical notes and anecdotes from six former members. Arundell had copied my letter to several former members and then arranged their comments in chronological order. Also included was a second document, compiled by John Rankin in collaboration with three other former members.

At this point, I knew the die was cast: as so many people had already gone to so much trouble there was nothing else to do but get on with it and write the history!

As, I suppose, with all such projects there have been high points and low points. The first high point was, of course, the envelope referred to above. A second was the discovery of the membership ballot books covering the period from 1926 to 1968 containing a full listing of all new members, plus proposers and seconders, all signed by the Committee members of

the day, and a third was the totally unexpected location of the minute book from 1913 to 1932. But low points there also have been: the minute book from 1932 to the early 60s, in existence at least till 1963, was subsequently "lost" and photo albums of club activities kept behind the bar from 1949 onwards were destroyed about the same time.

A further high has been the enthusiasm with which past members have responded to my requests for assistance. A correspondence file two inches thick plus scores of photographs attest to this. More significant, however, has been the warmth with which the Boat Club has been recalled by one and all — "of happy memory" has been the recurring expression.

Apart from those already mentioned, I would like to express my thanks to the following members and past members who have gone to considerable trouble to assist me: Erwin Altwegg, Joey Ansaldo, Oscar Andreae, Steve Banta, Ronnie Barr, Garth Barraclough, Frank Black, Donald Brisbane, Ben Carter, Malcolm Churchill, "Woccle" Cleland, Steve Crawford, Alec Dearden, Miles Duncan, G.M. Eady, Anacleto Eusebio, Martin Gascoigne, Tony Hope, the late Fred Heron, Thomi Keller, Jack Kingsley, Max Klingler, Gus Laurent, Kees Leenders, Nick Linley, Gordon Mackay, Philip Magee, Bruce Martin, Mike Proulx, Michael Miles, Donald Nye, Mike Parsons, Patrick Parsons, Tim Peterson, E.B. Phillips, Ted Phillips, Ian Purslow, Don Richardson, Brian Roberts-Wray, Napoleon Roque, E.J. Sanders, Peter Smith, the late W.A. Smith, Max Steger, Donald Stewart, George Sturt, Walter Treichler, Willem van Huystee and Peter van Schaardenburg. Thanks also to Jessie Lichauco, Lewis Gleek Jr. and A. de Ynchausti for their assistance.

I also much appreciate the invaluable assistance of many of my friends and colleagues at the Asian Development Bank. In particular, I must thank Violie Venturanza, Evelyn Nofuente and her husband Lerry, George Liu, Manny Gatchalian, Nestor Diasanta and Edsel Estiva.

The history is finally completed and I hope all who see a copy will enjoy reading the story of the Manila Boat Club.

Manila
August 1979


ALAN L. MAY

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I: EARLY DAYS — 1888 to 1918



Rowing in the Philippines almost certainly commenced in 1888 as an activity of some of the younger members of the Manila Club. This club, formed by Englishmen and better known as the "English Club" or, in the Spanish press of the day, "el Club de los ingleses", is believed to have been founded in 1873; a copy of its Rules and Regulations in 1880 is held by the National Library.

English commercial houses had been long established in the Philippines. Wise and Company, the first, was established in 1826 and was followed, a year later, by Ker and Company. Smith Constable and Company, soon to become Smith, Bell and Company, commenced business in Manila in 1846. These firms hired young Britishers or Americans to work for them in the fields of export (hemp, copra and sugar), import (textiles and whisky), private banking operations and, as agents of international lines and companies, shipping and fire and marine insurance.

The moving spirit in the commencement of rowing in the Philippines appears to have been one "Jock" Williamson, a Scottish chartered accountant who arrived in Manila in 1882. He had been quite an athlete but, after a knee injury at football, decided rowing would be a more suitable sport for him in future.

The Manila Club of those days was situated on the northern bank of the Pasig River at Nagtajan, just up-river from the present Nagtajan bridge, but it also had a "tiffin club" in downtown Binondo in the center of the business district where members could take their lunch.

An American, Joseph Earle Stevens, arrived in Manila in December 1893 and promptly became a member of the Manila Club. In his book, *Yesterdays in the Philippines*, he describes the club house at Nagtajan as follows: "its broad balcony, shaded by luxuriant palms and other tropical trees, almost overhangs the main river that splits Manila in two . . . The clubhouse is long, low and rambling. The reading, writing, and music rooms front on the river, and the glossy hard-wood floors, hand-hewn out of solid trees, seem to suggest music and coolness." Elsewhere, Stevens notes that the Nagtajan club house

contained "the dining-room, parlor, billiard-rooms, bowling alley, bed chambers for members and guests, and a boat-house for those who had the energy to 'buck' the muddy current of the Pasig in heavy working-boats".



J.E. Stevens

Stevens himself seems to have been a keen rower: his book describes a rowing excursion with two friends in one of the light *randans* from the boat house a distance of twelve or fifteen miles up the river, where they proceeded by *carromata* to Antipolo and by horseback to Bossa Bossa. When he finally left Manila in October 1895 he started "to feel the home sickness that comes from tearing one's self away from the midst of friends and a congenial life. I shall miss the hearty Englishmen with whom I rowed or played tennis or went into the country. . ."

While Stevens makes no reference to the boating section of the Manila Club being in any way separate from the main club, another author, Frederic H. Sawyer, writing of Manila in the 1890 s, noted that "There was a boating-club in connection with the British Club at Nagtajan, now removed to Ermita, and some very good skiffs and boats were available.

Opposite: The club house, 1911

There was a regatta and illuminated procession of boats each year.”

The Boat Club seems to have been constituted as a separate entity in 1895, possibly due to concern over a likely move by the mother club. (In 1915, MBC members who had been residents for a 20-year period were made life members — 11 members were promptly transferred to this new category.)

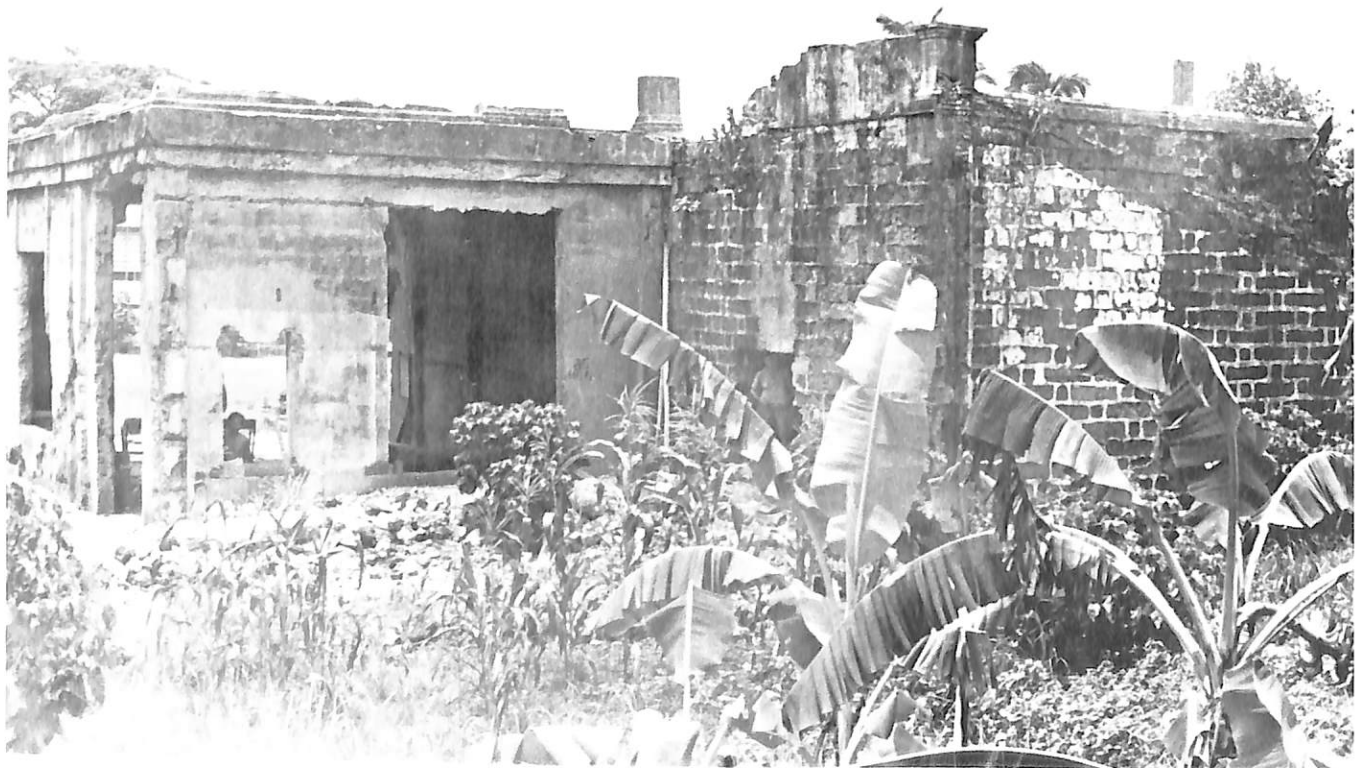
The move of the Manila Club from Nagtajan to Ermita took place a year later, in 1896. The site of the new club was the Ynchausti estate at 131 Calle Marina (now L. Guerrero Street) extending back to Calle Real (now M.H. del Pilar Street). Boat Club members rowed in Manila Bay just off the shelving beach which later became Dewey Boulevard. Adjoining the main club building was a stable which had an upper storey used as a store and living accommodation. The ground floor was ideal for boats but the rowers used the showers, changing rooms, etc. of the main club. At that time, races were held fairly often but a pattern of spring and autumn regattas was beginning to emerge.

Steve Crawford, a later day keen oarsman who arrived in Manila in 1921, has noted that “My earliest recollection of the Manila Boat Club is a photograph taken in the 1890 s, of the Manila Club, with the Manila Boat Club, on the beach of Manila Bay. The Ma-

nila Club, not the Manila Boat Club, was founded in 1873. It was situated on the shelving beach of Ermita. The Boulevard was not yet built. The little Boat Club was right alongside it.” John Rankin, a 1930s oarsman, says he remembers “well the house in Calle M.H. del Pilar that was the Club House from 1896 to 1907 but of course in my days it backed on to Dewey Boulevard and not the beach as formerly”. (The remains of the old building, largely destroyed during liberation and never rebuilt by the Ynchausti family, are still visible today between Roxas Boulevard and M.H. del Pilar, not far south of Pasaje del Carmen.)

It is of interest to note that Manila Club members were well placed to observe the arrival in Manila of the Americans in May and August, 1898: “It was from the roof of the club-house that several Englishmen gained a fine view of the naval battle of Cavite, whilst in the final capture of the city they were right on the scene of action, and at one time between the belligerents, probably a unique experience.”

The first reference to the Manila Boat Club in newspapers still available today seems to be that in the *Manila Times* for 1 February 1906. The annual regatta — spread out over several days with an event or two each day — was in progress in Manila Bay. Thomas Aitken, an American who was the reigning sculling champion, won the ½ mile single sculls and the four of McCullagh (bow), James Redfern, Eric Pur-



Present day ruins of the Manila Club, 1896-1907

don and Harry Foster (stroke) won their heat over $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in the time of 5.23. The grounds of the Manila Club “were filled with a large gathering of spectators” to see the fours final, in which Foster’s crew was successful again, plus a canoe race and a race in native bancas for two men over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. A race for pair oars completed the schedule, while “the winning crews were guests of honor at a dinner given by the Manila Club later in the evening”. In 1907, the annual regatta was held similarly in early February “off the beach at Ermita,” with canoe and banca races also on the list of events. Tommy Aitken was successful in the sculls event for the third year in a row.

The foreign population of the Philippines at this time must have been quite large. The Manila Club itself had a membership of 137 in 1880 while Stevens estimated the number of foreigners during his time, excluding Chinese and Spaniards, at “150 Germans, 90 English, and 4 Americans”. By 1905, however, Smith, Bell and Co. alone had foreign staff in the islands numbering around 60.

About this time, nationals other than British were showing interest in the sport of rowing. *Witton’s Manila and Philippine Directory* for 1903 lists an “Ermita Boating Club” located at Calle San Jose, Ermita, whose officers were named F. Freniz, T. Hausmann, A. Stricker, P. Rumker, A. Mehlhose and G. Sichelschmidt. In 1907, it was decided to move the Army and Navy Club, formed soon after the Americans arrived in 1898, to reclaimed land on Manila Bay, the possibility of having “a boathouse for members that are fond of boating who can have shells and pleasure boats taken care of” being one advantage of such a change.

Midway through 1907, the Manila Club decided to abandon its existing club house and to construct a new building on Calle San Marcelino (no doubt due to publication of the Burnham plan for the construction of a new boulevard along the bay front in Ermita and Malate, on which work commenced early in 1908). Construction of the new building commenced before the end of the year and was completed in 1908.

The Boat Club also, of course, had to move and, this time, the Manila Club’s new location, where the only water available was in pipes or bottles, would *not* be suitable. A site was given at a nominal rental on Isla de Provisor, adjacent to the Meralco generating plant, by Smith, Bell and Co. The old stable was uprooted and replanted with the upper floor becoming bar, changing room and shower room. Members were delighted to be back in sheltered waters again and numbers increased considerably. Other nationals felt freer to join the club, which made for better row-

ing and keener competition.

The club’s 1908 regatta was memorable for at least two reasons. Firstly, Aitken’s reign as sculling champion came to an end, at least temporarily, when he was beaten by F. R. Heron, an outstanding Australian oarsman newly arrived in Manila, and secondly, “casa pairs” were introduced, with contestants representing their business houses (such as Ker and Co., Chartered Bank, Keller and Co., International Bank, etc.). The Philippine Cold Stores, with Heron stroking, duly won and Heron also stroked the winning four in that event. (Heron returned to Australia in 1908, taking with him an order for two fours and two pairs for the club for Jas. Edwards and Sons, the Melbourne boat builders. In 1972 Heron presented the trophy won by him for the 1908 casa pairs — a pint mug — to the club.)

Events at the 1909 regatta all finished off the new club house site at Isla de Provisor, the start being from Nagtajan for the fours, Bank House at Uli-Uli for the sculls championship and handicap sculls and from the house of Mr. F. Stuart Jones (a principal of Smith, Bell) for the casa pairs and double sculls. The first heats commenced on 8 February and the regatta concluded on 20 February, being followed by a banquet at the Manila Club. The single sculls final was won by N.M. Robertson of Ker and Co., while Aitken stroked one of the fours in the final. (Stroke of one of the other competing fours was Edward Bowditch, Secretary of Governor-General Forbes from 1907 to 1912: he notes himself that he “stroked one of the crews with indifferent success”. He mentions also a crew “stroked by Ernie Stevens, Harvard ’03 who at the time was assistant to Bolivar Falkiner in the Civil Service Bureau. . .” He adds that “one sweated freely and made up for it by drinks of gin and tonic water but one kept in good condition”. Findlay and Co. won the casa pairs and J.R. Herridge and Robertson won an event for double sculls.

In 1910, an event was introduced at the Spring Regatta which was to be of major significance for many years. This was the International Fours, with crews being selected, training and racing on a nationality basis. The event was soon responsible for intensive rivalry and, at the same time, for hard training and a high standard of rowing activity. The walls of the Boat Club, as time went on, soon became covered with the photographs of the winning crews. While the result of the first event is not recorded, the winner at the Spring Regatta in February 1911 was Great Britain, beating America by 1 length over the mile and a half course. The British crew was boated Harry Foster (bow), N.M. Robertson, J.R.H. Mason and W. Scott (stroke) with Fred Laurence (cox). A

member of the American four, R.M. Tappan, won both the sculling championship and the handicap sculls, while Findlay, Richardson and Co. had the first of what was to be a large number of wins in the casa pairs.

Also in February, "Philippine Carnival 1911", the third in a series, was staged, featuring exhibitions, balls and sporting events. Races for ships boats were included and MBC also cooperated by staging races for sculls, pairs and fours.

A regatta was also held in November 1911 but only one result is available: the winning four comprised A.E. Cherry (bow), V.C. Ressich, A. Kay Ward and Robertson (stroke) with H.N. Jones (cox).



1911 Winning Four

For the 1912 Spring Regatta, the "Great Britain" classification was further broken down and England and Scotland took the field against America. England beat America in the heat but the final went to Scotland, winning by almost 3 lengths. E.J.L. Phillips, who rowed 3 in the England crew, recalls that the American four contained a number of good oarsmen from the staff of Governor-General Forbes. R.S. Findlay stroked Scotland to success and this "handsome broad shouldered man with a heavy dark moustache" also easily won the sculling championship and stroked Findlay, Richardson and Co. to a win in the casa pairs.

The club in 1913 was very active with a total of 98 "resident" members and a further 66 "absent" members. The number of new members during the year ended 30 September 1913 (the club's financial year) was 26 and there were 7 resignations. Joining the club required an entrance fee of ₱20 and monthly subscriptions for resident members were ₱2, payable quarterly. The bar was expected to cover costs but not to make too big a profit. Boat maintenance and club house expenses were the major expenditure items. The net surplus before depreciation was ₱1,444 and the small excess of income over expenditure after

depreciation during the year (₱169) was added to the surplus account which stood at ₱2,810 at the end of September 1913.

The annual general meeting was held soon after the close of each financial year, its main official business being the election of the incoming General Committee by those members, i.e., the British, qualified under the by-laws to vote. This comprised three office-bearers — the President, the Captain and the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer — plus four other members. Two of the General Committee members normally comprised the House Committee while a Balloting Committee to handle membership applications comprised all the General Committee members plus three others who were also elected at the annual general meeting.

The pattern of regattas was well established by 1913. The Spring Regatta was held in either February or March and lasted one week. There were four events: the blue-ribbon International Fours, the junior fours made up of oarsmen not gaining selection in the International Fours, the casa pairs, and the single sculls championship. On "finals day", music was provided, tea was served to the lady guests and there was a free bar. A program was also printed for each regatta. The club's annual dinner also took place that night, normally at the Manila Club. A second "Autumn Regatta" was held each November and there were always three events: club fours, club pairs and a handicap sculls. Lists were circulated in advance of the regattas to ascertain those wanting to race while, for the International Fours event, captains of various nationalities were appointed by the General Committee to arrange for the selection and training of a crew of their particular nationality. The draw for each regatta was done at a General Committee meeting, with regatta officials also being appointed by the Committee.

There were three entries for the International Fours at the Spring Regatta in 1913. Scotland beat Germany, competing for the first time, in a heat, but was beaten by England in the final, the winning crew comprising W.K. Ward (bow), J.R. Herridge, G.L. Davidson and H.B. Roe (stroke). The absence of an American crew was thought to be due to the transfer of Government business to Baguio. Three crews contested the junior fours and there were four entrants in the casa pairs. The latter event was won for the third time in a row by Findlay, Richardson and Co., which entitled them to retain the trophy in perpetuity. Robertson won the sculls championship, with Aitken scratching from the final.

The length of the club's stay at Isla de Provisor was of much concern to the General Committee at

this time. In June 1913, there were reports that the site occupied by the club had been sold and that it would have to move once again. Because of this, action on needed repairs to the club house was suspended, while efforts to locate a suitable alternative site commenced.

To this time, no charge had been made for practice rowing outings, although there were entrance fees for regattas. The 1913 annual general meeting fixed a charge of ₦0.20 "upon every member using a boat upon any occasion", coxswains to be exempted. The usual rowing club problems were also of concern at this time — such as inexperienced oarsmen using new sculls rather than the old boats and causing damage to them.

At the November 1913 regatta, three crews entered the club fours, with the winning crew comprising T.R. Barclay (bow), W.E. Little, J. Plummer and R.S. Findlay (stroke) with W.A. Sloan (cox). Little and Findlay won the club pairs from two other crews and G.L. Tripp won the handicap sculls from five others off a 20 second handicap.

Scotland had its second win in the International Fours at the 1914 Spring Regatta, the other entrants being England and America. Findlay was stroke once again, the other members being Barclay (bow), Little and Scott with Sloan (cox). Barclay was also successful in the sculling championship, beating Findlay, Aitken and Tripp, while there were three crews in the junior fours (won by A. Clydesdale (bow), A. Ross, E. Hunefeld and G. Allan (stroke) with Sloan (cox)). and six in the casa pairs. (It is of some interest to note that Aitken, an American lawyer, had won election in 1912/13 to the position of Captain for which, it would seem, he was not qualified on nationality grounds. Scotsman Gordon Mackay, a later oarsman who remembers Aitken quite well, speculates that he may have been among those Americans who served with the British in the Boer War and were always thereafter considered "one of us".)

Soon after this regatta, the General Committee met and "The question of having regular Native Coxes at the Club every night was brought up and the Captain was authorized to get two or more at a cost of ₦3.00 per month and to supply them with a uniform in order to distinguish them from the other natives about the Club House". At this stage, the Captain, G.L. Davidson, had plans for scheduling two fours to row each night. The coxswain scheme was put into effect, except that the payment system adopted was ₦0.20 each time a cox was actually needed. A little later, however, to induce "a sufficient number of natives to turn up", this was changed to ₦0.10 each

evening a cox was present, whether needed or not, plus an extra ₦0.10 if he also acted as cox.

Additional equipment was being purchased at this time. Several sets of oars were purchased from Edwards and a heavy pair oar for beginners was also ordered, again from Edwards. It is interesting to note that, as well as the pair oar, it was decided "that the adjustment for changing the pairs from sliding seats to fixed seats be ordered with it". Consideration was also given to obtaining a heavy scull, and an order for this was eventually placed with Edwards. No new heavy fours were felt to be needed, as those fours bought earlier from England had been strengthened and made heavy. In 1914, a new pantalan — actually two large bancas placed eight feet apart and covered with a lumber platform — was installed.

The General Committee also had plans at this time to build "proper quarters" for the club caretaker, Telesforo, and also to move the club's bathroom and lavatory, which were in bad repair, from the upstairs part of the club to downstairs. This would also increase "the available space in the Dressing Room and Bar". (There were fears that the club's liquor license might not be renewed unless these improvements were made.) Quotations for the improvements were obtained but action was deferred when, at the end of 1915, it was learned that negotiations were going on for the sale of the land on which the club house stood.

The normal regatta program continued. There were four entries for the club fours at the November 1914 regatta, the winning crew comprising P.S. James (bow), G.R. Hake, G.L. Tripp and H.C. Whittall (stroke). The club pairs went to J. Cresswell (bow) and Little (stroke) from a field of four and Tripp beat Aitken in the handicap sculls, both being off scratch.

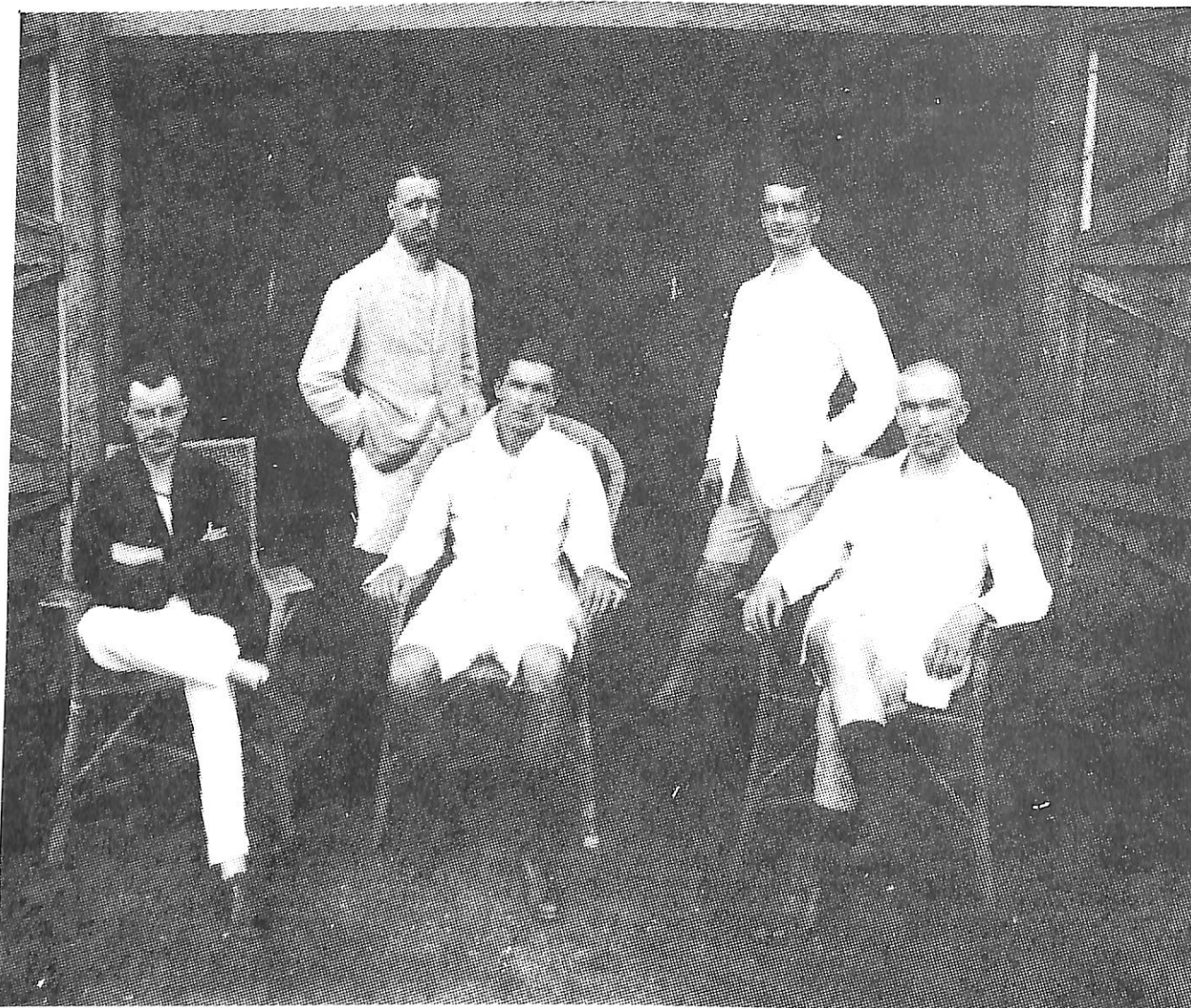
The results of the Spring Regatta of 1915 are, unfortunately, not available. The November regatta of that year was, however, well-supported with four entries in each of the club fours and club pairs and six in the handicap sculls. Crews stroked by Paul Traber, a Swiss oarsman, won the first two events, with P.S. Page taking the sculls.

At the club's annual general meeting in December 1915, it was decided to amend the by-laws so that after 20 years of resident membership, as noted above, a member would become a life member and be exempt from the payment of further monthly subscriptions. Eleven members were transferred to the new category.

Three crews — England, Scotland and Switzerland — contested the International Fours at the 1916 Spring Regatta, although there had been hopes that Australia might, on this occasion, "be able to raise a

crew". Scotland proved too good again, the winning crew being A. MacCulloch (bow), D.D. Livingstone, Ressich and Little (stroke) with W.A. Sloan coxing. Aitken took the sculling title once again and Findlay, Richardson and Co. the casa pairs. Eric Little, stroke of Scotland's crews for several years, has been described as "a short, stocky type and a great leader. His rather short stroke was well suited to the relatively short course rowed" (less than a mile).

The usual November regatta was not held in 1916 due to the paucity of entries, but a race for scratch fours was scheduled instead. This was won by the crew of W. Davenport (bow), G. Allan, F. Connor and N. Anwyl (stroke) with A. Clydesdale (cox). At the Spring Regatta in 1917, the reduced numbers were reflected in the dropping of the junior fours from the program. Scotland won the International Fours once again, its crew being Allan (bow),



The Scottish crew which won the International Four in 1917: (l. to r.) W.A. Sloan, V.C. Ressich, W.E. Little, G. Heughan and G. Allan

The effect of the Great War on club activity was soon being felt. For Smith, Bell and Co., for example, "a majority of the younger staff left [Manila] to enter the armed services" and this must have been true for many other companies as well. Amongst club members giving their lives during the war were R.S. Findlay, N.M. Robertson and G.L. Davidson.

Heughan, Ressich and Little (stroke) with Sloan (cox). England and Switzerland were the other competitors. Aitken successfully defended his sculling title and G.S. Yuill and Co. won the casa pairs from three other contestants. For the first time in many years, the annual dinner was *not* held on the evening of the final day of competition.

Worse was to come. No Autumn Regatta appears to have been staged at all in November 1917, while the Spring Regatta in 1918 was replaced by races for scratch fours and pairs only, the International Fours and the other traditional events not being held.

For the year ended September 1918, the number of members paying their monthly subscriptions was down to 35 from a level of almost 100 five years before. In each of 1916/17 and 1917/18, the club gained three new members only, compared with 26 and 27 in 1912/13 and 1913/14, respectively.

Despite the slackening activity, the Committee proceeded to order two new fours from Edwards of Melbourne, at a cost of £94.17.0 each, c.i.f. Manila, members being invited to make donations to help meet the cost of the new boats.

Rowing activity was taking place elsewhere in the Philippines at this time. A club was started in Iloilo in 1913, with MBC making available two old fours

plus some oars to get them started. With the arrival of the two new fours from Edwards in 1917, a further two fours were sold to the provincial clubs, one to Iloilo and the other to Cebu. (The membership of the Boat Club — and the makeup of the International Fours — were frequently disrupted by transfer of personnel from Manila to the provinces.)

Doubt as to the status of the property on which the club stood continued. At the end of 1916, it was decided that the President should write officially to the owners to “find out definitely if they are disposed to sell”. Meanwhile, the need for frequent, and costly, repairs to the clubhouse and pantalan continued to be necessary.

Finally the situation regarding the site at Isla de Provisor was resolved. At the General Committee meeting of 17 October 1918, “a letter from Smith Bell and Co. was read asking that the Boat Club be removed as they intended building godowns on the part now occupied by the club house”.



II: NAGTAJAN — 1919 to 1930



Early in 1919, the Boat Club moved again, the old stable being uprooted and relocated on the original Manila Club site in Calle Nagtajan, now owned by the Philippine Vegetable Oil Co., Inc. The club faced across the river to the Pandacan oil stores and could be reached by catching a street car at Plaza Goiti, riding past the Brewery and Malacañang to the Ronda, and then walking down Calle Nagtajan to the club.

The new location was not, however, to be considered in any way permanent. At the annual general meeting of November 1919, "the subject of a permanent site for the Club Property gave rise to much discussion, the opinion of the meeting being clearly that, as the Club may be required to vacate the present site at a short notice, it is essential to secure a piece of land either by lease or purchase, preferably the latter, at an early date, debentures being issued to meet the cost of acquiring same". The first meeting of the new General Committee promptly appointed a sub-committee to investigate obtaining a new site. In fact, however, the club was to remain at its "temporary" location for a period of 13 years.

The rebuilding of the club house occupied some considerable time, during which it was not available for use. The extraordinary expenses necessitated by the removal and rebuilding of the club totalled ₱2,920 in all and were more than met from contributions from British firms (₱1,575) and from club members (₱1,665). Rowing activities soon commenced to revive, although the planned Autumn Regatta of 1919 had to be cancelled due to the state of the river and the conditions governing the proposed course. (If races were to finish at the club house, the water was most unsuitable for serious competition. There was a bend at the top, a curve in the middle and a twist at the bottom. As John Rankin, a later member, notes: "And what a twist! It was worth a good length at the finish to have the Santa Mesa side.") A Spring Regatta was held in March 1920, the course being "the straight at Santa Ana finishing in

front of the Santa Clara mess, kindly placed at the Club's disposal during the races". (Many of the young and single Boat Club members stayed at a "mess" provided for them by their employers or arranged amongst themselves.) The traditional races were revived and a field of four turned out for the International Fours. Scotland was the winner once again, the other crews representing England, Switzerland and Holland. The Dutch crew included, apparently for the first time, a lady coxswain, Mrs. Hoetinck. The winning Scottish crew was boated Allan (bow), Plummer, Bolton and Little (stroke) with T.P. Davie cox. In the other events, Aitken maintained his grip on the sculling championship from a field of four, while Findlay, Richardson and Co. won the casa pairs once again from three other entrants. Two crews contested the junior fours and a banca race was added to the program "to fill in".



Scotland defeating Holland in 1920

The annual dinner on finals night was also revived, the location switching, however, to the Manila Polo Club for the first time (and after a vote).

The sub-committee on a new location was, meanwhile, having a hard time. It found no suitable site available "unless it would be possible to buy a piece of the land near the Santa Clara mess". A proposal was received late in 1920 concerning a site at Santa Clara but the Committee decided the proposal would involve much expenditure without resulting in any greater security of tenure than at the present site.

Opposite: Winning Scottish four in 1921 International Fours: (l. to r.) Plummer, Little, Dickenson, Findlay and McMaster

A request for reconsideration of the terms or a long lease on the site brought forth an unsatisfactory response: "the offer was considered an impossible one and the matter closed".

Coxswains and boatboys also gave the Committee some problems. Two native coxes were engaged early in 1919, one at ₱12 per month and the other at ₱6 per month, "these two boys to be in regular attendance at the Club". At the end of 1920, however, the question of finding permanent "boteros" was discussed and dissatisfaction freely expressed with existing conditions relating to boteros and coxswains. Having Telesforo serve as a botero in addition to his usual duties had been tried on one or two occasions, but this did not seem advisable.

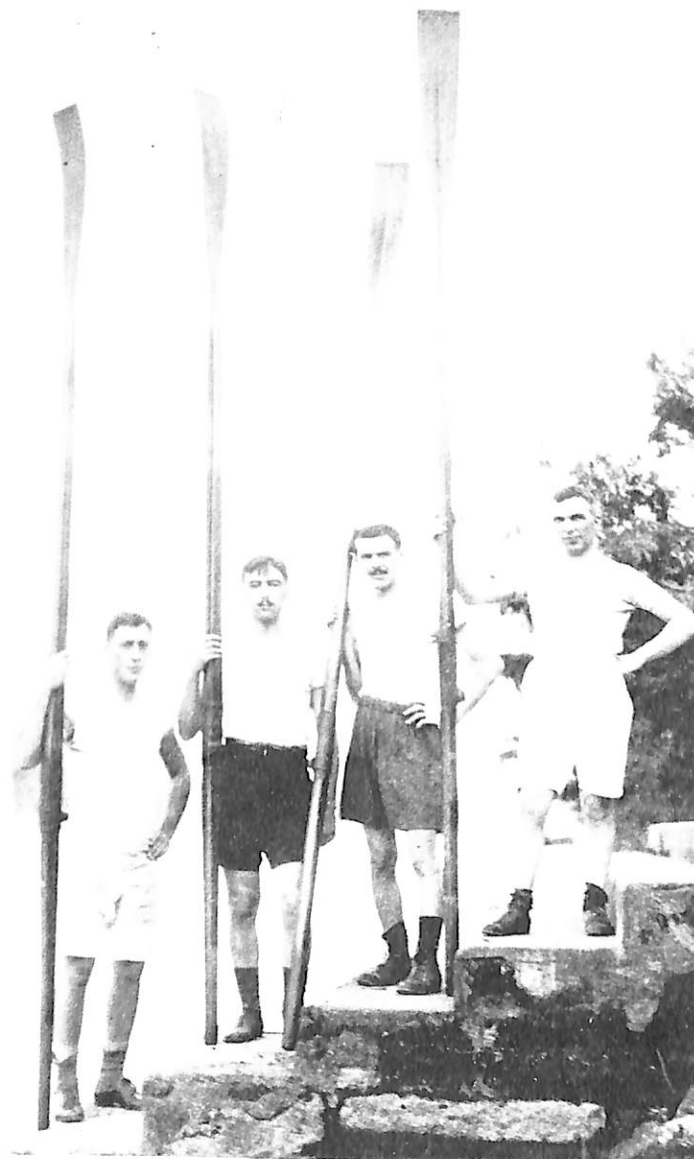
Due apparently to difficulties in getting oarsmen on the water, the Autumn Regatta was not scheduled in 1920. The 1921 Spring Regatta, again rowed at Santa Clara, attracted five International Fours, however, with the winner being Scotland once again. The other crews represented England, America, Holland and Switzerland. The Scottish crew comprised J.W. McMaster (bow), F.B. Findlay, J. Plummer and Little (stroke) with W.H. Dickenson cox. Aitken, who stroked America in the fours, again won the sculling championship from a field of four, while Findlay, Richardson and Co. took the casa pairs from seven other entrants. Two crews disputed the junior fours and a banca race was held once again. On the evening of finals day, the annual dinner was held at the Polo Club for the second year in a row.

Club membership by this time had recovered well from the slump of 1918 and 1919. By the end of 1921, dues-paying membership was again in the 60s and was on a rising trend. Receipts from outings were also at a healthy level. To meet the demands being made upon them, the light fours, the pairs and the single sculls were overhauled and repaired and new oars, outriggers and buttons were being ordered from Edwards. A new pantalan also had to be constructed as the old one was swept away in a typhoon in July 1921.

The Autumn Regatta in 1921 was staged on the Santa Ana course, the Santa Clara mess being made available to the club by Ker and Co. once again. (The head of Ker and Co. for many years was S.M. McCrae, a "tall angular Irishman", who was himself an excellent oarsman and rowing enthusiast.) The winning club four in the regatta comprised G.M. Alexander (bow), O. Schulthess, J. Marsman and J.R. Herridge (stroke) with P.S. Page (cox). Jim Herridge, of the auditing firm of H.H. Bayne and Company, was at this stage the President of the club, a pos-

ition he held from 1921 to 1930 with the exception only of the year 1924/25. The handicap sculls went to Ernest Heybroek.

The tradition of the free bar on finals day was discontinued at this regatta and the new policy was confirmed for the Spring Regatta of 1922 due, apparently, to overall concern at the lack of profitability of the club's bar, despite the charging of relatively high prices for drinks.



Early '20s club four: (l. to r.) Trauber, Schad, Inhelder and Allan

Five crews contested the 1922 International Fours event which saw Scotland successful for the third year in a row. The Scottish crew was the same as the year before, except for J. Russell replacing McMaster in the bow seat. Switzerland was second, the other contestants being England, America and

Holland. Findlay, Richardson and Co. — the crew comprising Page and Little — won the casa pairs once again, while Aitken and Heybroek contested the sculls. Three crews competed in the junior fours event.

The club's annual dinner, on finals day, now reverted to the Manila Club "in view of increased facilities" and "as more convenient for all concerned, than the Polo Club".

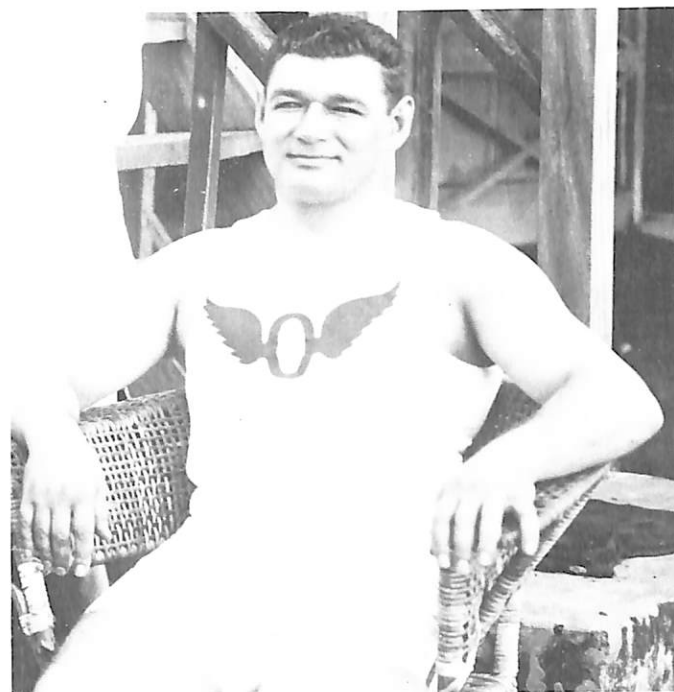
Late in 1921, Findlay, Richardson and Co. offered to present a cup for casa fours, the race to be run at any time of the year on a challenge basis. The club accepted the offer and the first challenge took place in June 1922 with Ker and Co. defeating the donors, Findlay, Richardson. One week later, the cup passed to Smith, Bell and Co. who had challenged the winners: due to the retirement of one of its crew members on doctor's orders, Ker and Co. had to default.

The location of the club was again actively being discussed at this time. A five-year lease of the former Chartered Bank house on the river at Santa Ana (on Calle Herran opposite the church) had been taken by the firm of Wise and Co. which then offered to lease the lower floor to the Boat Club at ₱80 to ₱100 per month. A meeting was called to discuss the offer and it was declined. It was felt that any move should be a definite one to a site either purchased or on a five-year lease with the option of renewal and where regattas could be held at any time. The fact that Philippine Vegetable Oil Co. seemed willing to let the club remain at the Nagtajan site for some time to come was also an important factor in the decision. Nevertheless, it was decided to set up a committee to explore the possibility of purchase or lease for five years with an option of renewal for five more of the two river sites on either side of the Santa Clara mess.

At the annual general meeting in January 1923, a recommendation was made that the monthly dues be increased from ₱2 to ₱3. The increased income, it was argued, would then permit a considerable reduction in the price of drinks and also provide for the purchase of new boats. It was further noted that the club now had to pay ₱75 per month for rent of its site, previously given free. After discussion, however, the meeting adopted an amended resolution: "That the monthly subscription be raised to ₱3.00 per month as proposed, for the express purpose of the *immediate* purchase of new boats".

Due to a paucity of entries, the Autumn Regatta in 1922 had been held off the club house, but the Spring Regatta of 1923 was back, once again, to the Santa Clara mess at Santa Ana. (By now, it was a well-established tradition that, during the final period

of training and during the actual week of races of the Spring Regatta, the boats were kept at or near Ker and Co.'s bachelor mess on the river at the end of Santa Clara Street.) There was a new winner at last in the International Fours: America, its crew comprising E.G. Sargent (bow), Smith, Bradley Fairchild and Otto Walfisch (stroke). Other competitors were England, Switzerland and Scotland. Wise and Co. raised a crew for the casa pairs comprising Ernest Heybroek and Gordon Mackay, the latter rowing for the first time, and they won from six other entrants. Six competitors contested the sculling championship and three crews entered the other major event, the club fours. At the dinner at the Manila Club thereafter, Captain Wise offered to donate a new boat to the club in honor of his company's win in the casa pairs.



Otto Walfisch, former Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the Pacific Coast

The General Committee decided that the higher monthly subscription should commence from 1 April 1923 and it further decided to order two light fours and two light pair oars plus oars from Edwards without further delay. A quotation of £255.17.0 was received (cheaper than two others, one from Hong Kong and one locally) but when, partly due to the "unbusinesslike methods" of Edwards, it was realized that the new boats could not arrive till after the 1924 Spring Regatta, it was decided not to place the order until the matter was discussed at the next general meeting. At that meeting, in October 1923, it was agreed to make the old boats serviceable for the Spring Regatta before finally ordering the new boats. Pending the ordering of the boats, it was also agreed

that the old monthly subscription rate should be maintained. (The subscription was finally permanently increased to ₱3 per month at the annual meeting a year later.)

Two other matters of concern were reported to this annual meeting. As the minutes record, "Nothing satisfactory has been accomplished with regard to a new site for the Club House. At the request of certain members enquiries were made with regard to a site in the grounds of the Polo Club at Pasay, but for various sufficient reasons this was not considered in the best interests of Rowing or of the Club, and was eventually allowed to drop." The second matter related to membership and activity: "rowing attendance and general keenness on the part of the younger members has not been on the whole up to the average". One consequence was the abandonment of the November Regatta due to lack of entries.

Co., and two for the club fours. A large and enthusiastic group entered the mixed banca race, the winners being Miss B. Dreyfus and J.W. Kerr.

Shortly after this regatta, the Boat Club received a challenge from the U.S. Navy for a special race. W.A. Smith, cox of the Boat Club crew, recalls that "The course was from Jones Bridge to the Bay. Owing to a misunderstanding regarding the time of the race, we spent about an hour hanging on to the Bridge, getting angrier and angrier. The result was that we won by a mile!"

In July 1924, the long-deferred order with Edwards was placed for two light fours and one tub pair plus 12 oars. The existing light fours were, it was felt, in no fit condition for another regatta. An inventory of the club's equipment at this time placed the club's fleet at 10 boats in all: the two light fours, two heavy fours, two light pairs, one heavy pair, two light



Regatta at Santa Clara

The Spring Regatta of 1924 was held as usual and four crews contested the International Fours. It was won by America "B" by 1 length from Scotland, the other entries being America "A", and England. The winning crew comprised J.R. de Rivera (bow), F. Beard, W.M. Blumenkranz and J. Beard (stroke), the Beard brothers being from the Cavite Navy Base. There were three entries for the sculls, won by Heridge, six for the casa pairs, won by H.H. Bayne and

sculls and one heavy scull. There were 28 good oars plus 44 extra rigger irons, 38 old oars, two anchors, two lamps and 12 benches.

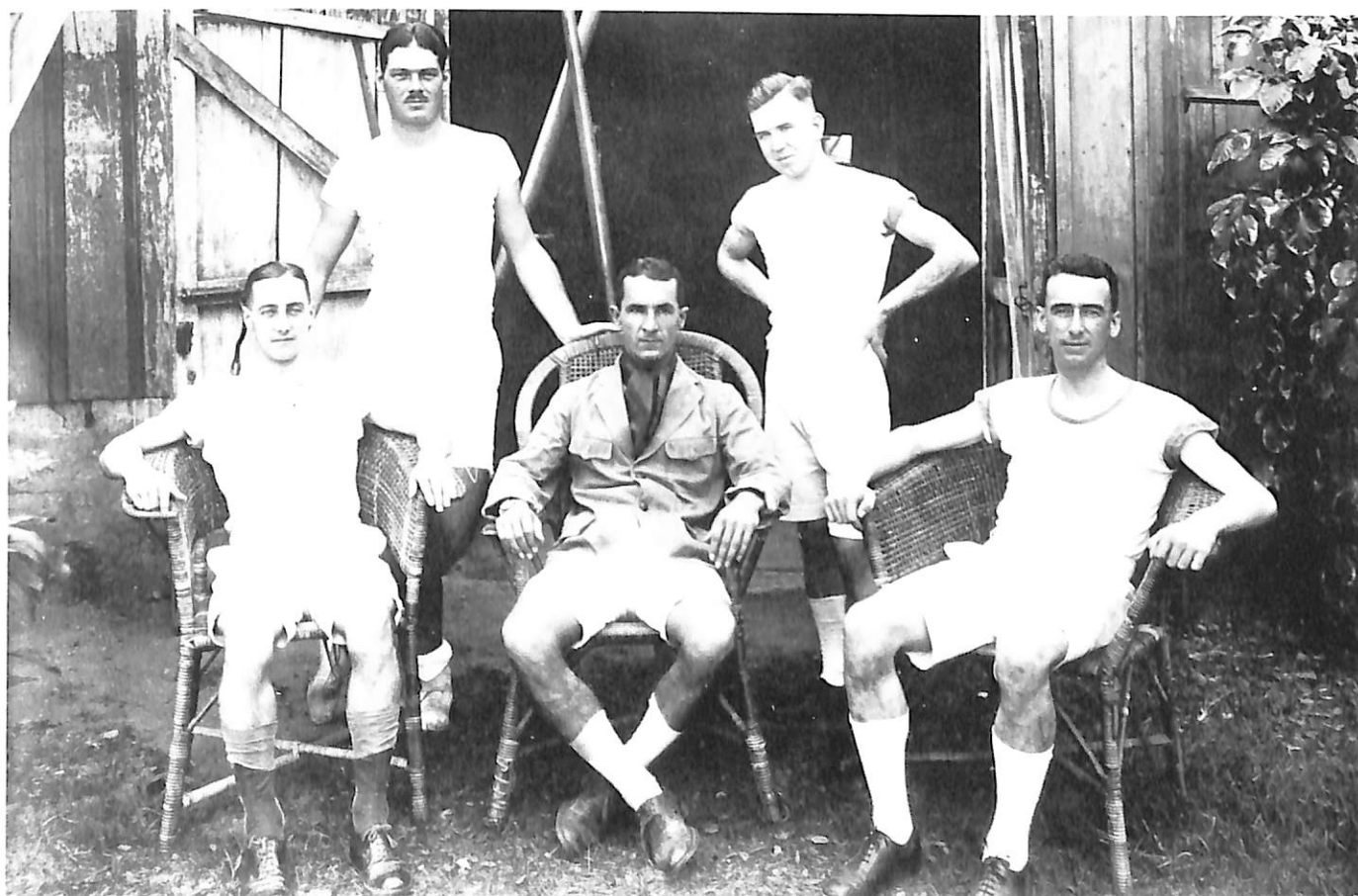
The Autumn Regatta was revived at the end of 1924 and it included a race for a trophy given that year by Mr. H.T. Fox, Managing Director of Smith, Bell, to encourage newly-joined members. The "Fox Cup" was to be rowed for in pair oars by persons of not over three years membership of the club who had

not rowed in an International Four, later amended to those who had not been members of any recognized rowing club for more than one year. There was one additional rule: "White coxes to be compulsory". The initial winners of the cup were C. Parsons and T.W. Southam, beating three other entries. Of the five crews in the club fours, the winners were Parsons (bow), C. Graemiger, W. Maclachlan and W. Bruggiser (stroke), while Maclachlan also won the handicap sculls, off seven strokes start. For the latter event, the rules adopted were rather interesting: "Handicapping for the handicap sculls has been done by giving so many strokes start. These strokes represent normal racing strokes and if in the opinion of the starter competitors unduly prolong the strokes to take advantage of the current, the starter will be at liberty to start the second boat when he considers that a fair distance has been covered by the first."

In December 1924, competition for the casa fours was revived. Asiatic Petroleum first challenged Smith, Bell to a race but Smith, Bell could not raise a crew and lost by default. Asiatic Petroleum were then challenged in turn by W.F. Stevenson and Co., but held the title with a win by 1½ lengths.

The early months of 1925 saw much excitement at the club. There was, firstly, the usual Spring Regatta. Scotland restored its name to the list of winners of the International Fours defeating England by 2/3 length, after England had led most of the way. Scotland's winning crew was Maclachlan (bow), Pope, Mackay and Little (stroke) with Smith (cox). England's much improved performance was largely due to the inclusion of two newly-arrived experienced University oarsmen, T.W. Southam and V.H. Masefield, along with Horace Whittall and Bob Gregory. Maclachlan was also successful in the sculls, defeating Parsons "who went into the bank". H.H. Bayne and Co., its crew comprising Pope and Heridge, won the casa pairs once again.

The second major happening was the visit to Manila in March 1925 by oarsmen from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club for an Interport Regatta, the first such occasion in the club's history. The sport of rowing was being actively pursued by expatriates in other parts of Asia and MBC had received invitations to compete overseas several times in the past. In 1913, the minutes refer to "a long standing invitation" from the Canton Rowing Club to compete in



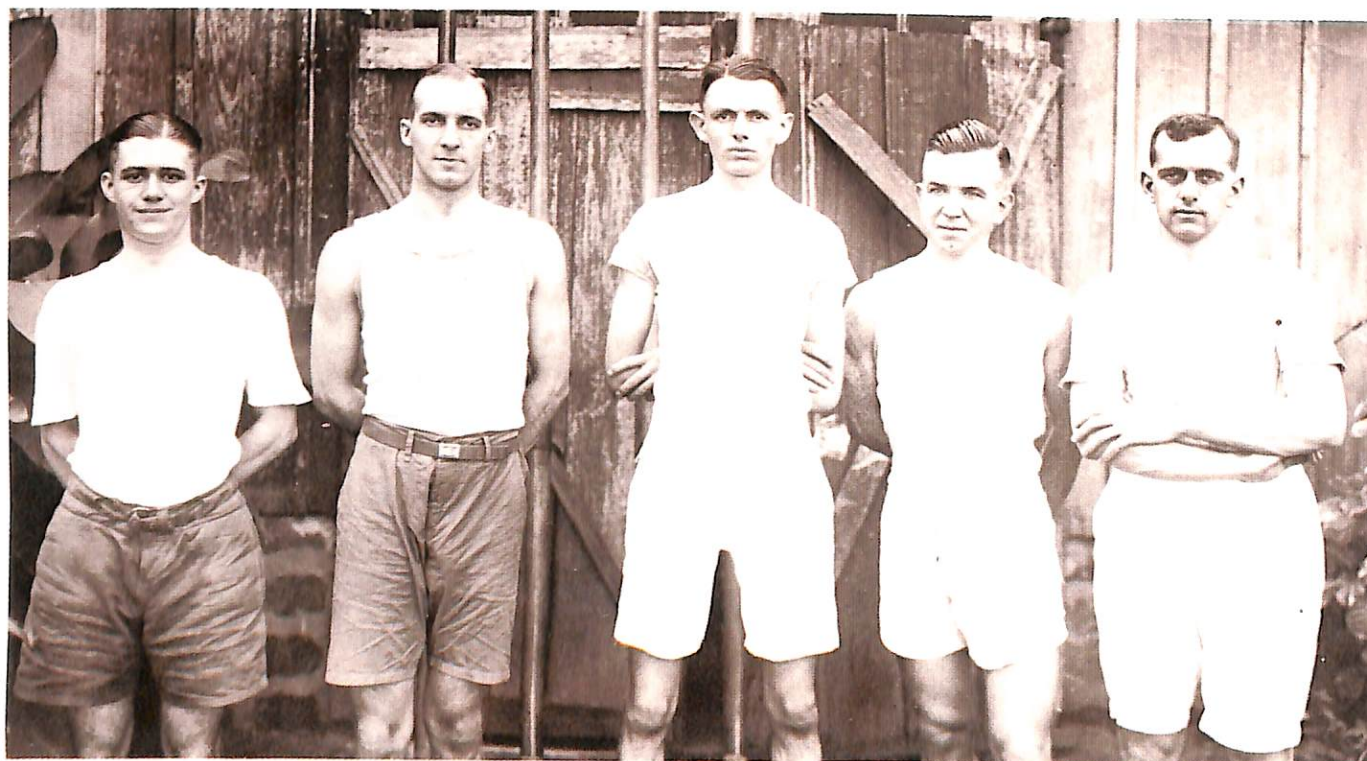
The Scotland crew which won the 1925 International Fours: (l. to r.) W.A. Smith, G. Mackay, E. Little, W. Maclachlan and H. Pope

their regatta and in 1920 a similar invitation from the Shanghai Rowing Club was received. Invitations to compete in regattas in Hong Kong were received in both 1923 and 1924 but, as in the past, the invitations could not be accepted.

When it was confirmed that the Hong Kong oarsmen would be arriving, the club called an extraordinary general meeting to elect a selection committee to choose the club crews. While normal annual meetings attracted 11 or 12 members, 23 were present at this extraordinary meeting. Messrs. Little, Ressich and Northey were duly elected to the selection committee. There were to be two races against Hong Kong — fours and pairs — and the MBC crews selected were as follows: fours: W. Maclachlan (bow), H.A. Ottiger, G.W. Mackay, W.E. Little (stroke) and W.A. Smith (cox); pairs: C. Parsons

interesting event a little later in 1925. He says Manila “was visited by a British destroyer and I coxed a Boat Club four against their crew and we won by three lengths”.

The new boats from Australia now finally arrived but too late, of course, for either of the big regattas. The light fours and the pair cost ₱2,088 plus duty of ₱899. Wise and Co. honored their previous offer by paying for the pair while one of the old light fours was sold to the newly-revived Iloilo Boat Club for ₱100. Early in 1926, the club decided to buy two sculls and two light racing pairs, plus a number of new oars, from Banhams of Cambridge. Once again, the two old light pairs were to be sold to the Iloilo oarsmen. At this time, too, further work on the club house was required when some of the supporting beams appeared to be in danger of collapsing.



Club four about 1925: (l. to r.) C. Parsons, W. Bruggiser, S. Crawford, W. Maclachlan and G.M. Eady

(bow) and J.M. Harrison (stroke) and C.S. Hynes (cox). Gordon Mackay recalls the intensive training which took place for the races — running each morning and rowing every evening. Some hundreds of spectators, including the Governor-General, Leonard Wood, were present to see Hong Kong win the large silver cup given by some of the life members for the fours by 2 lengths, while Manila was successful by 4 lengths in the pairs. Additional events for club oarsmen completed the day's exciting program.

G.M. Eady, who arrived in Manila for Asiatic Petroleum in September, 1924, recalls another

Steve Crawford has recalled one of the events at the 1925 Autumn Regatta. Although no sculler, he entered the handicap sculls to make the number of entrants up to an even eight. In the first round, he was drawn against Chick Parsons, the eventual winner. Though receiving “an enormous handicap”, he was “concerned much less with getting past the winning post ahead of my opponent rather than of keeping above water”. Parsons twice ran into “huge islands of water hyacinths” and Crawford was ahead until he caught a crab about five strokes from the finish. “Over I went as Parsons sculled triumphantly past.”

At the Spring Regatta in 1926, America recaptured the International Fours title, defeating a good Swiss crew by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. The American crew was boated J.H. Hoeck (bow), C. Parsons, E.B. Fairchild and E. Graver (stroke). Parsons defeated Hoeck in the sculling championship, the latter having serious steering problems. W.F. Stevenson and Co. wrested the casa pairs laurels from the holders, H.H. Bayne and Co.

As already noted, rowing in Iloilo revived in the 1925-1926 period. G.M. Eady was transferred there by Asiatic Petroleum in 1925 and he recalls that, when Crawford also arrived early in 1926, "we arranged for the APC to send us down two fours lashed on top of the casco bringing us our tinned supplies of gasoline and kerosene. A number of local Swiss and Dutch were keen on rowing so we formed a club of which I was elected secretary and boat captain. I cannot recall much of what we did or whether we had any races but I had a most enjoyable two years there before going on to Cebu where no boats were available." Crawford's albeit "septuagenarian memory!" is clearer concerning the racing at Iloilo. He says that, "In either 1926 or 1927 we put on a 'race' as part of the July 4 water events. I stroked the losing crew. Ernest Heybroek stroked the winners. They were much too strong for us, but generously did not get too far ahead, so that the large number of Filipino spectators had the fun of watching an apparently close finish."

The MBC Committee found it necessary to place a number of notices on the club's notice board during 1926. The first pointed out that no repairs or improvements should be made to boats by members without first getting the permission of the Captain. The second enquired as to who wished to use the new sculls and the third suggested that members should wear camisetas (shirts) while rowing. A fourth asked

inexperienced members to use the old sculls and not the new ones. The fifth was the best of all: members were requested "to refrain from defacing notices".

The new boats from Banhams arrived in January 1927, in time for the Spring Regatta (the 1926 Autumn Regatta having been called off) but without the club being ready to pay for them! About ₱1,700 was available but another ₱1,200 was needed to pay the cost plus the 25 per cent duty charged on them. Members were asked to contribute towards the cost and ₱829 was soon forthcoming.

Four crews contested the International Fours in February 1927 at Santa Clara, the winning crew being Switzerland for the first time ever, with Scotland close up second. The Swiss crew was boated C. Graemiger (bow), W. Mueller, O. Schulthess and H.A. Ottiger (stroke) while the Scottish crew comprised W. Mac-lachan (bow), G.M. Alexander, G.W. Mackay and W.E. Little (stroke). Schulthess and A. Brazel made the final of the sculls from a field of eight and Schulthess looked to have it well won until he went into the bank near the finishing line. Four crews contested the casa pairs. The dinner on finals day was held as usual at the Manila Club, the attendance being 58 and the cost ₱8 per head.

An event for the "Whitcombe Cup" for senior pairs was introduced at the Autumn Regatta in 1927, being won by Heybroek and L.A. Cubitt. The club fours was won by the crew of Herridge, Mackay, Brazel and Thomann, but the event of the day was the handicap sculls in which Brazel and Blount finished in a dead heat, a row-off being set for a later date.

Staff problems were causing some concern at this time. In mid-1927, there were two cases of members having money taken from their trousers in the club house. On the first occasion, the three club boys were fined "as it was by no means the first time that this had



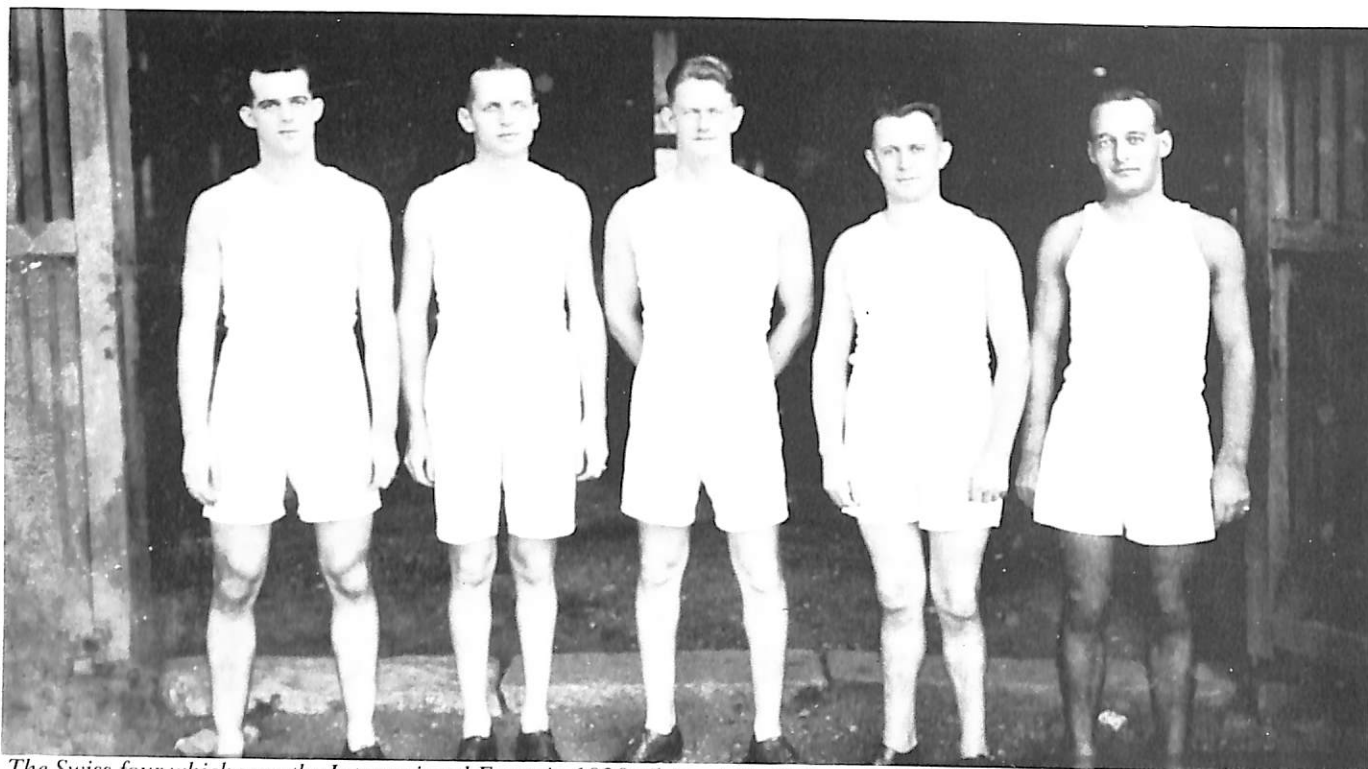
Winning Swiss crew in the 1927 International Fours

occurred". The second case resulted in the No. 1 boy being told he was not to go into the club room unless Telesforo or a member was there and the Secret Service was asked to investigate the matter further. A request for an increase in wages by the No. 1 boy in 1928 was disregarded by the Committee and at the end of that year he was in trouble again, being severely reprimanded for losing the sum of ₱35 and being required to make it good from his salary. In 1929 he was finally discharged for failing to give to the Hon. Secretary a member's subscription given to him by Telesforo.

At the 1928 Spring Regatta, Switzerland repeated its success in the International Fours, the

some lady's underwear hanging on one of the pegs. They hurried out, rowed up the river, found the offending new member with his girl in the boat, turned round and rowed back. The luckless man arrived shortly thereafter, crept into the Clubhouse, with the old boys sitting around in their towels, and crept out again with his girl's clothes. Not a word was spoken — the old boys just looked and the poor chap was never seen again in the Club.")

Some boat problems were now being encountered. Two scullers collided below the Santa Cruz bridge in March 1928, resulting in considerable damage and a new rule that sculls or light pairs should not



The Swiss four which won the International Fours in 1929: (l. to r.) H. Ottiger, O. Schulthess, W. Muller, C. Graemiger and G. Laurent

winning crew comprising C. Graemiger (bow), W. Mueller, W. Bruggiser and O. Schulthess (stroke) with A. G. Hentsch (cox). Scotland, with the crew of Pollock (bow), Gourlie, Mackay and Cubitt (stroke) with C.S. Hampton (cox), was ½ length behind. The sculling championship was, however, won by Cubitt. The club's active membership at this time, recalls Nick Linley, "consisted principally of 'old men's fours' who went out once a week. These usually consisted of 3 'old men' plus one youngster. My regular one was R.P. Melhuish (stroke), N.L. 3, Bill Ressich 2, Harry Foster or P.S. Page bow. These old men's fours, plus the Swiss oarsmen, were the backbone of the Club at that time." (Philip Arundell remembers "the old men's four turning up one Saturday to find

be taken down river below the San Miguel Brewery. In October, a light pair was dropped by the boat boys and badly damaged. The Committee then decided to start a system of voluntary monthly subscriptions to build up a fund for the purchase of new boats. One of the new sculls was so badly damaged the following year that the member concerned was censured for taking the boat out so soon after a typhoon when the river was in flood and was asked to pay ₱150 towards the purchase of a new boat. Fortunately, the appeal for funds for new boats was successful and ₱586 was contributed within a year. Even the scull damaged in the flood was successfully repaired — at the cost of the member concerned.

The 1928 Autumn Regatta was, meanwhile, well



The Scottish crew which beat the G-- d ---- Swiss in 1930: (l. to r.) T.D. Drysdale, E.J. Sanders, M. Pollock, H.F. Gourlie and D. Brisbane

supported with four entries for each of the four events — club fours, handicap sculls, Fox Cup and Whitcombe Cup. At the Spring Regatta of 1929, Switzerland won the International Fours for the third year in a row, the crew comprising Rudi Muller (bow), Graemiger, Schulthess and Thoerig Ottiger (stroke) with Gus Laurent (cox). Bruggiser and Hentsch secured the casa pairs for F.E. Zuellig.

Donald Brisbane arrived in Manila in December 1929 to join the accounting firm of White, Page and Co. He recalls that he “was dragged willy-nilly by Pagé to the Boat Club before, I really believe, he found out whether I could add the petty cash book. . .” J.M. “Wocle” Cleland says this was a regular occurrence: “before a newly-arrived British youngster really did anything else he was immediately ‘drafted’ into the Manila Boat Club. . .” He adds, however, that “An additional attraction to us all at the time [late '20s] was that Melhuish of the Hong-kong Bank, a real rowing enthusiast, was incidentally the owner of a large touring car which could accommodate a bunch of enthusiasts, thus enabling us to arrive in style compared to our usual mode of

transportation in those days of streetcar or caromata”.

The usual events were conducted at the 1929 Autumn Regatta, with the exception of the Fox Cup which was thereupon added to the program for the Spring Regatta of 1930. At the regatta, the Scots came back into their own with a crew comprising Donald Brisbane (bow), Dan Gourlie, Eric Sanders and Matt Pollock (stroke). The coxswain was Duggie Drysdale who, according to Brisbane, “for three months advised, cajoled, implored, pleaded, cursed and bellowed to such an extent that on the day of the race he had lost his voice and we beat the G-- d---- Swiss by a canvas”. England, Germany and America also competed. Gourlie was successful in the sculling championship and Val Masefield and Douglas Piercy of Warner Barnes in the casa pairs. The Fox Cup was won by H. Wendt and K.N. Carter and there were two entries in the club fours. As usual, the annual dinner was held at the Manila Club after finals day.

At the Autumn Regatta of 1930, the usual events — club fours, Whitcombe Cup, Fox Cup and sculls handicap — were rowed.



III: LANDER AND SANTA ANA — 1930 to 1938



The arrival in Manila of a 23-year-old English Olympic oarsman was to have a major effect on the club's fortunes. J.G.H. (John) Lander, after a distinguished rowing record at Shrewsbury School and Cambridge University, stroked the Great Britain crew which won the coxless fours at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics and his influence in club activities was soon being felt. Lander's arrival in Manila was, however, anything but distinguished, as Jack Kingsley recalls: "John Lander arrived in Manila on 1st August 1930 when I met him. He wore a topee and carried a large umbrella — I shall never forget it. Later we drowned our sorrows at the Manila Club bar — I was carried to bed and John went on the town waking in a motor boat in Manila Bay the following dawn and ordering the barquero up the river to the Hong Kong Bank Building, then the HQ of Asiatic Petroleum Corporation. Needless to say, Horace Whittall [head of A.P.C.] took one look at him and sent him packing."

At the Spring Regatta, England — stroked by Lander — won the International Fours for the first time since 1913. Remaining crew members were John Bond (bow), Steve Crawford, Nick Linley and P.S. Page (cox). Switzerland were second. Brisbane believes the 1931 Scots crew was the same as the previous year but that "this being Lander's first year we, of course, lost". Interestingly, the sculling championship was won by J.R. Herridge, one of the rowing "old men" who was a member of the successful English four 18 years before. The final of the casa pairs went to Asiatic Petroleum with Lander stroking again. Three crews contested the club fours.

Racing for casa fours was now revived. Asiatic Petroleum had won the event in 1924 but thereafter the cup passed to W.F. Stevenson and Co., Ker and Co., Menzi and Co., and F.E. Zuellig. In June 1931, with Lander stroking again, the trophy returned to Asiatic Petroleum who beat Zuellig by half a canvas only.

A great upsurge in rowing activity, largely inspired by Lander, now took place. Steve Crawford

notes that "Lander was a fine teacher and much improved the rowing of our existing members besides starting recruits on the right lines". Philip Arundell



John Lander

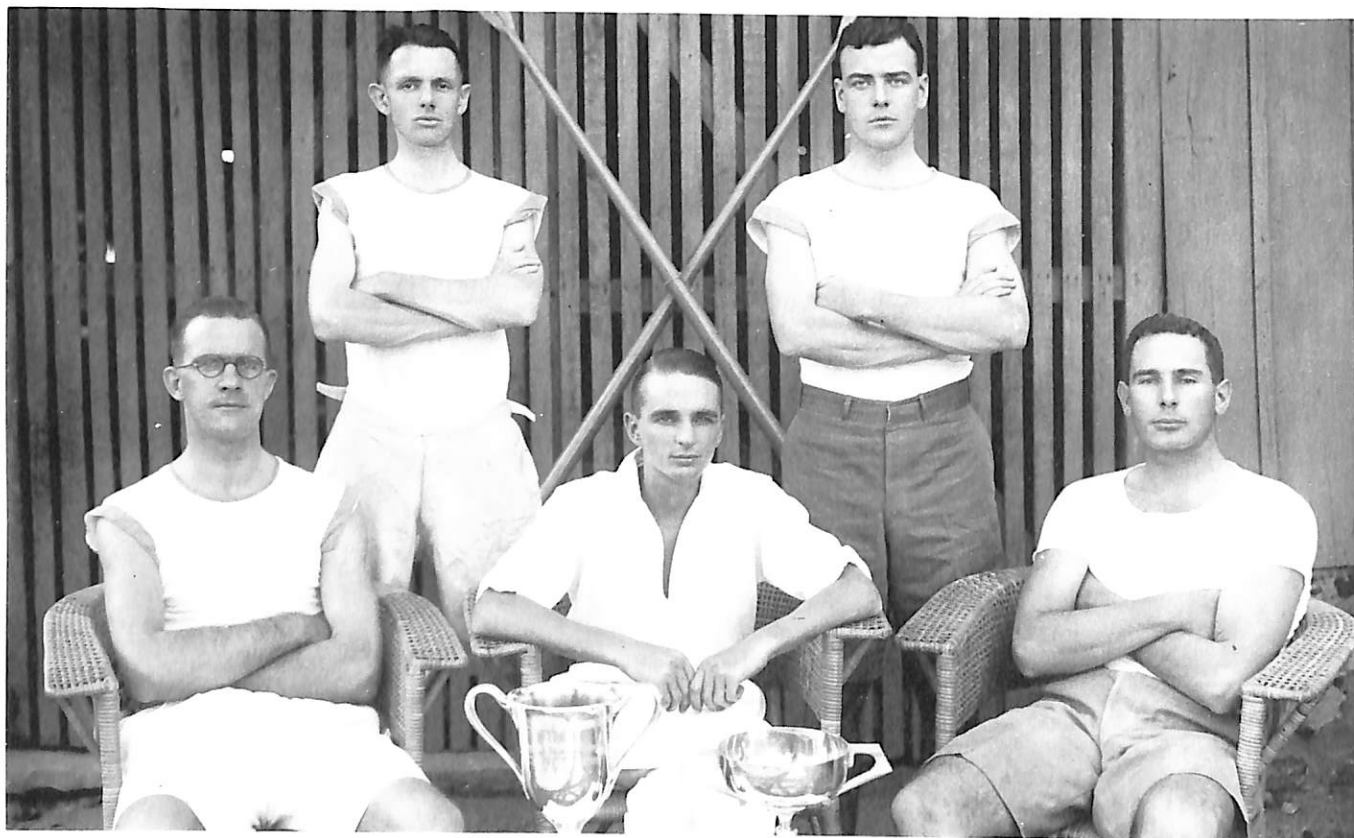
writes that "John would spend hours with beginners, and had inexhaustible patience with them, always ready to take them out himself in a pair . . . In rowing, his motto was 'Mileage Maketh Champions', and his crews always covered great distances, with

Opposite: An aerial shot of the first Regatta after the move to Santa Ana

every mile an education in itself, as he rang the changes in tempo and rhythm, or 'eased' in order to go over some particular aspect of the stroke which might not be just right, either in the whole crew, or one individual." In addition, "Quite apart from his great prowess as an oarsman and stroke, John had a genuine and completely natural enthusiasm which was infectious, and which spread through to the entire membership of the Club. It was one of the qualities which made him such a great leader." Jack Kingsley remembers that Lander "was tireless in arranging crews. It was nearly all done over the telephone. Philippine business affairs in the early 30s were not as pressing as they are today, and if Horace Whittall, himself a keen non rowing member (by then), knew of the time thus spent, he turned a blind eye. If you

At the 1931 Autumn Regatta, the club fours was contested by no less than seven crews, the winning four being that stroked by Lander himself. The handicap sculls event attracted ten entries, with Altwegg the winner. Lander and Knight won the Whitcombe Cup from five other pairs and Rankin and Farnell won the Fox Cup from a field of four.

About this time, the course for the International Fours was remeasured and it was found to be less than a mile. Steve Crawford recalls that "We lengthened it to get the full mile; at the same time we reformed the finish line, which had previously grossly favoured the crew having the right side of the river. A committee of Englishmen equipped with an instrument took the sights which led to this reform. We were so astounded at the result that we brought the



The MBC crew which defeated Hong Kong in 1932: (l. to r.) N. Linley, S. Crawford, J. Kingsley, J. Rankin and J. Lander

found yourself unable to take your place in a boat to which you had previously committed yourself you 'phoned John Lander who would arrange a replacement and phone you back that he had done so! Such effort was not long in its reward of a crowded changing room and soaring sales in the bar of stout and tonic,* reflected in turn by an increasing credit balance each month in our Bank account."

*Several former members have recalled that this was always the Boat Club "tipple" after a hectic row — accompanied, one adds, by "Jacob's cream crackers"!

Scotch and Swiss oarsmen along to check our measurements."

Lander's presence was again stamped over the Spring Regatta of 1932. England won the International Fours for the second year in a row, the crew being Crawford (bow), Philip Arundell, Linley and Lander (stroke) with Kingsley (cox). Scotland and Switzerland were the other participants. Asiatic Petroleum took the casa pairs again from five other entrants and Kingsley won the sculls championship

from a field of seven. Five crews contested the club fours.

The club's second contest against overseas crews quickly followed. In the year following Hong Kong's visit to Manila in 1925, the club received invitations to compete in regattas in Kobe, Shanghai and Hong Kong, but was unable to accept in any case. In 1931 a further invitation from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club was received but could not be accepted. The 1932 invitation was, however, taken up enthusiastically.

The four selected was the same as the winning English International Four, but with Rankin replacing Arundell at 2. Lander and Linley were also to row as a pair. Jack Kingsley, coxswain of the crew, recalls that "John set about our training for the race against Hongkong in the Colony with his customary thoroughness. He insisted that as we should be racing in the rough waters of the harbour it would be useless to train in the sluggish waters of the Pasig river. We therefore sought the assistance of the Manila Polo Club, then situated on the sea shore beyond Pasay, who were kind enough to lend us an out-building where we could house the boat for our training period. Manila Bay in March was not of course very much rougher than the Pasig but at least it was salt water and what waves there were encouraged us to feather higher." Steve Crawford adds that "While the Interport Four of 1932 were training on Manila Bay in one of our heavy fours, Lander, Linley and Rankin each broke an oar in practice".

John Rankin joins issue on some of these matters. He says that, "in the afternoon, especially in March, there is a powerful sea/land breeze along Pasay beach and this gives rise to quite steep waves. Half a mile or so out there is a flat calm. The breeze

dies at sunset. We rowed in those waves and I am sure the Hong Kong 1932 race was won in Manila Bay. I still remember the feeling of the boat being lifted sharply and thrown sideways. Often we shipped a lot of water and used our vests as sponges to bail. Twice we had to run for shallow water, get out and overturn the boat to empty it. We got used to the feeling of rowing a heavy, waterlogged boat. Hong Kong harbour was easy in comparison: the waves, if bigger, were not so steep. Their boats had high freeboard and washboards — horizontal boards 2-3 inches wide outside the gun'le and the full length of the gun'le. I used to watch fascinated as the waves broke outboard under the washboard instead of inboard as in Manila Bay. We shipped a little water but nothing resembling the dusting in Manila. If the M.B.C. goes to Hong Kong again I would strongly recommend Pasay or Parañaque beach for experience. Incidentally Steve Crawford should forget the broken oars. The surest way to break one is to slap it backwards into the face of a wave so maybe he was just a better oarsman than we."

The oarsmen travelled to Hong Kong by Dollar Line ship and found that Canton had also entered crews. The racing took place at North Point, the fours being rowed in clinker boats similar to but slightly heavier than those the Manila oarsmen were used to. Manila led early and were $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths ahead at the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Hong Kong slowly improved its position and had almost drawn level by the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile mark. One Hong Kong oarsman then lost his oar and Manila quickly drew away to win by $\frac{3}{4}$ length with Canton well back. The pairs race was even more exciting. All three crews were together for the first 300 yards, after which Hong Kong moved slightly ahead. Manila drew level at the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and was a canvas in front at the $\frac{3}{4}$



Manila defeating Hong Kong in Hong Kong

mile. Then Hong Kong spurred "and the race degenerated into a mad scramble between the two crews to see who would be first past the buoy". The result was Hong Kong by 3 feet.

Major developments were, meanwhile, taking place concerning the club's location. The possibility of moving the club house to Santa Clara was again taken up by the General Committee in mid-1930. By the end of 1931, a definite offer had been received of 2,000 sq. meters on a 10-year lease at ₱50 per month rent with an option of buying the lot at the expiration of the lease or any time before at ₱5 per sq. meter. The lot itself was "merely a rice paddy, the only distinguishing features being two small mango trees where the estero joined the Pasig". It was on the other side of the estero from the former site of the Santa Clara mess. Quotations were promptly sought for construction of a club house, the lowest being for ₱5,400 from W.H. Birt, an English builder then about to retire. The new building was to be about the same size as the old club house but with a verandah on two sides.

A circular setting out the proposed removal

scheme was prepared by Steve Crawford and Donald Brisbane and an extraordinary general meeting of the club was called for January 1932. The meeting unanimously approved the moving of the club to the proposed new site at Santa Clara. It was explained that the site might slightly flood at times but that this would not be for long and that the river could not be used for rowing at such times anyway. The site was very suitable for the remainder of the year.

The financing plan was then explained. It was proposed to float a bond issue of ₱7,000 in 140 bonds of ₱50 each, bearing interest at 3½ per cent per annum and redeemable at the end of 10 years at a premium of 10 per cent. To provide for redemption of bonds and the increased charges incidental to operation of the club under these circumstances, it would be necessary to raise the monthly subscription from ₱3 to ₱4. The plan was approved, but with the amount to be sought being increased from ₱7,000 to ₱10,000 to provide for incidental expenses.

A finance sub-committee, comprising the club President, B.C.M. (Ben) Johnston, and Crawford and Brisbane, was promptly established to float the bond



About to row the four fours from Nagtajan to the new club at Santa Ana

issue, taking such legal advice as was necessary.

The option on the site was to expire at the end of March but, by the middle of that month, applications for 137 bonds yielding ₱6,850 had already been received. The Committee therefore decided to take up the option on the lease and to go ahead with preliminary preparations for construction of the club house. The location of the club house and the plans for it, including provision for servants' quarters, were

some difficulties and, in June 1932, the Committee decided "to take the proper steps to make the Club a Corporation as it would considerably simplify such matters as signing the lease and issuance of bonds".

Building of the new club house proceeded quickly with several members freely giving expert advice and supervision. (Thomann, the Swiss mechanical and civil engineer, was especially helpful in this regard.) Philip Arundell recalls that "a number



Regatta at the new club house

duly approved and a building permit sought. It was noted that half the land was within the limits of the city of Manila and the remainder in the barrio of San Pedro, Makati. The club house would be wholly outside the city limits. The lessors, Messrs. Sing Yee and Cuan, Inc., meanwhile agreed to put in a road from Havana Street to the club's grounds.

It was thought that the Motor Boat Club might wish to buy the old club house — the former stable — but the owners of the site were the final purchasers. John Rankin recalls the incident as follows: "Arrangements to dispose of it were left with John Lander who committed sacrilege by selling such a hallowed edifice for ₱50.00. Pocketing the lucre he sped down Calle Herran, was pinched by a cop and fined ₱40.00. Having drowned his sorrows he slept too soundly, failed to wake when a midnight felon intruded and in the morning found the ₱50.00 gone."

The club's lawyers were, meanwhile, raising

of us worked at the new Club premises every weekend, mixing cement for the Boathouse floor, landscaping the ground, digging postholes etc. One hole that had to be dug was for the lamp post overlooking the pantalan. I was deep down in this hole when I came across a considerable number of old Spanish silver coins. One of these, with a photo of me in the hole and covered in mud, was, at Lander's insistence, hung in the Clubhouse. The other coins were given around, and I still have mine, made into silver ashtrays." The property was also fenced in, using concrete posts along which bougainvillea cuttings were planted. Very prominent in the designing and establishment of the garden were Mr. and Mrs. P.S. Page, who spent many weekends at the club on this work, helping transform an initially bare paddy field into pleasant, tree and flower-filled club grounds.

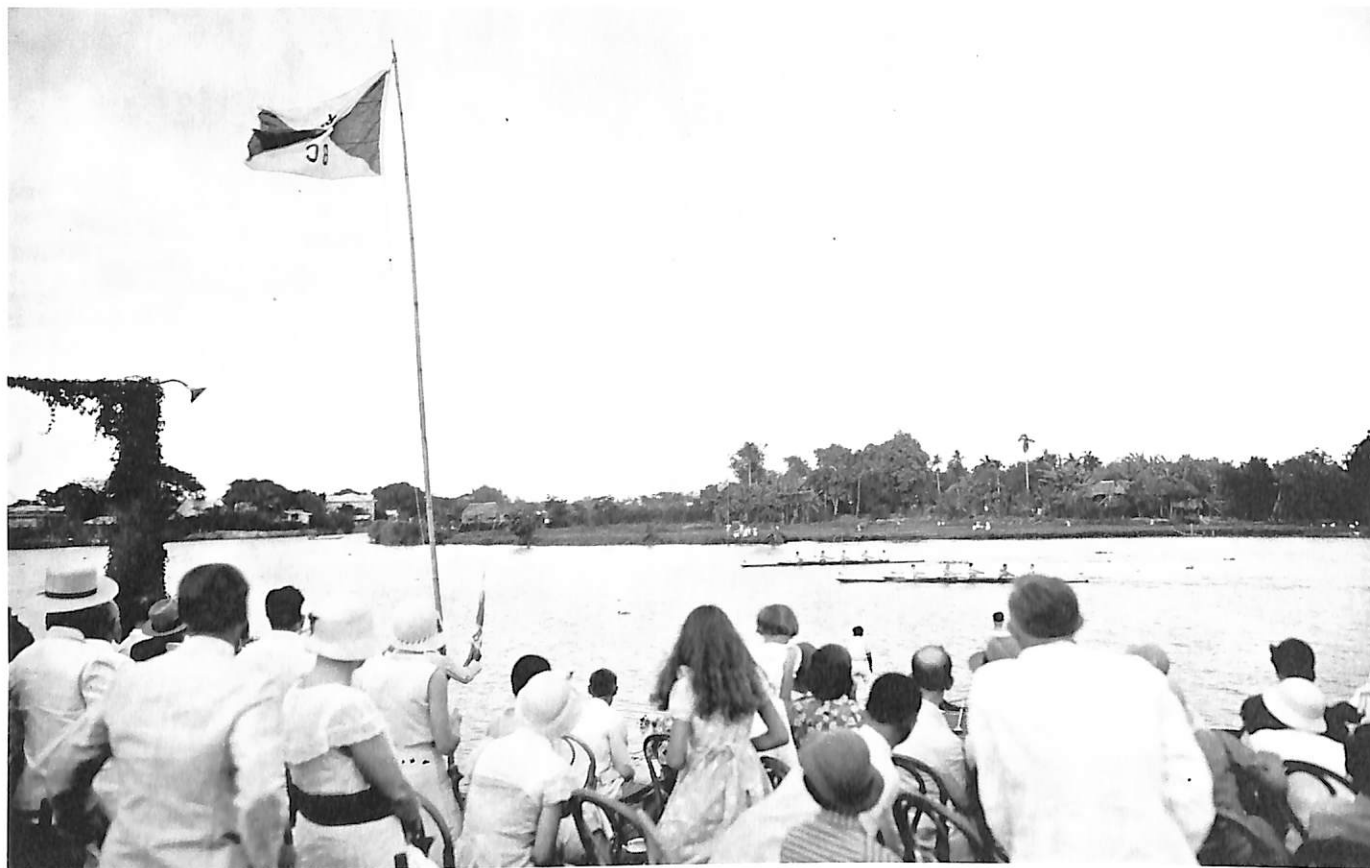
Then, however, a problem arose. As Jack Kings-

ley recalls it, "a Justice retiring from the Supreme Court took a fancy to the adjoining paddy and decided to build next door. When his land was surveyed it was discovered that our own surveyor had made a mistake and we had to relinquish some 5 meters to the judge. This explains the narrow frontage along the Pasig River which is something of an inconvenience for spectators on regatta days. We moved the fencing ourselves and I recall John Lander lifting the solid concrete posts as if they were mere timber."

Finally, all was ready and the opening date of the

ceremony took place and the beer and sausages flowed. "At 8:00 p.m., the remaining beer was dispensed free of charge."

Five weeks later, an extraordinary general meeting was held at the new club house and it was explained that the financial problems related to building the new club house and leasing the land necessitated the formation of the club into a company under the laws of the Philippine Islands. A Charter empowering the Committee to form a company to take over the unincorporated Manila Boat Club had been obtained. The meeting resolved "that all steps taken



Finish of the club fours at the 1932 Autumn Regatta

new club house was set for Saturday, 30 July 1932. On that day, all the boats were rowed upstream to the new premises, the slower boats — the sculls and heavy and light pairs — leaving first and the four fours following. Rankin recalls that he "took a scull up and got some satisfaction from being first from the river into the new Club House and first entry in the new book". (He adds, however, that "It was a very close run thing because the four coxed by Kashner and stroked by Aeyelts betrayed ambitions but I succeeded by avoiding the current which Kashner did not do".) A number of old time members were invited for either a last sentimental row or to join in the festivities at the new club house. A formal opening

by the Committee to incorporate the Manila Boat Club are hereby ratified and confirmed and that the Committee are hereby authorized to proceed with the incorporation".

For the first regatta from the new club house — the 1932 Autumn Regatta — a new event was included. The father of Douglas Piercy, an English oarsman who died of appendicitis in Iloilo, gave a cup for annual competition in his honor and it was decided it should be for International Pairs over a distance of about a mile. The first winners were England, represented by Lander and Linley. Winners of the club fours at the regatta were Jones (bow) Marshall, Rankin and G.H. Aeyelts (stroke).

One of the (relatively rare) social occasions at the club to which ladies were invited occurred soon after. This was a cocktail dance at which, as John Rankin recalls, “the orchestra sat on the side verandah and dancing was in the Club House. As I remember it there was very little dancing but the bar on the lawn was popular. The function fizzled out early when people went away in search of something to eat.”

The first race for the “Mess Pairs Cup” had, meanwhile, been held, with Farnell and Rankin and George Razavet (cox) being successful. This cup was presented by Steve Crawford to encourage off-season rowing, just before he departed for Iloilo for several years once again. (He found the previous fours had disappeared but was able to import a clinker pair from Hong Kong and so continue some rowing with other MBC members, amongst them Ben Carter who had similarly been able to secure a scull.) In September 1932, a further challenge for the casa fours took place. Smith, Bell challenged the holders, Asiatic Petroleum, and managed to win by a canvas. The Smith, Bell crew was Bergner (bow), Sullivan, Dear-den and Arundell (stroke) with Frank Black cox. Asiatic Petroleum was stroked by Lander and this occasion was, according to him, the first time a four stroked by him had been beaten since his Olympic days. Three months later, A.P.C., in turn, challenged Smith, Bell to another race but Smith, Bell, with its

crew intact, won again, this time by 2 lengths.

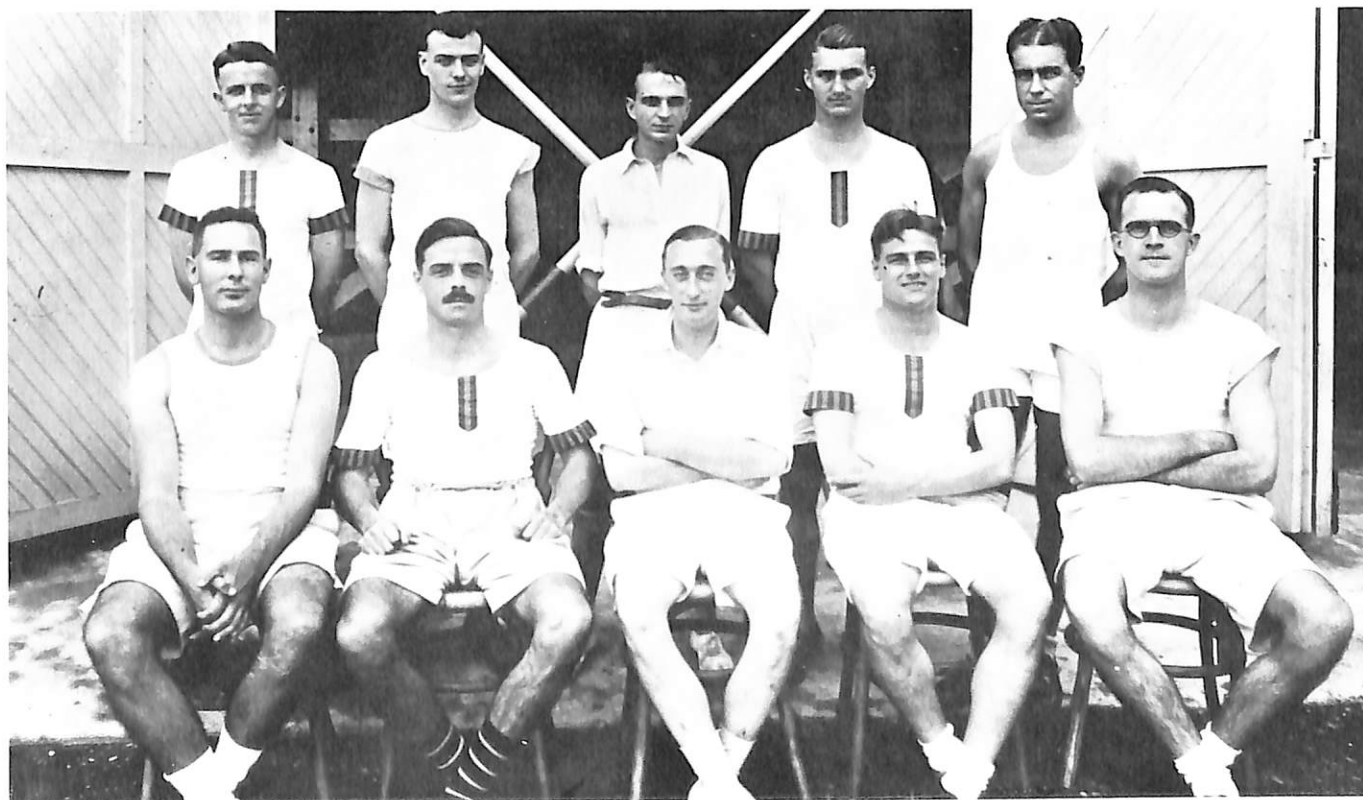
At the end of 1932, the club had 76 members in Manila of whom no fewer than 61 were active oarsmen.

Early in 1933, Hong Kong paid a return trip to Manila to avenge, if possible, the 1932 defeat. The MBC four selected for the rematch comprised Rankin (bow), Aeyelts, Linley and Lander (stroke) with



Smith, Bell's winning casa four in 1932

Kingsley (cox). Aeyelts, the only change from the 1932 Manila crew, “was a very capable Dutch oarsman with a notable rowing career in Europe”. Fortunately, Manila was “able to entertain” the Hong Kong oarsmen “(and beat them) in the same hospita-



MBC and Hong Kong rowers in the 1933 Interport Fours in Manila

ble and friendly manner in which they had dealt with us". Of interest is the fact that Dean Swan of the Diocese of Hong Kong, a former Cambridge Blue, came over to officiate as Umpire, "complete with light blue cap". The scratch fours event at the same regatta was won by the crew of John Bond (bow), Jeff Lunge, Alec Dearden and Philip Arundell (stroke) with Frank Black (cox).

During the training for this event, the club staged a further mixed party, this time "at night in a paddy field away up the Marikina near a road bridge". John Rankin recalls further that "the M.B.C. four as well as many others rowed up to be met at the bridge by girl friends etc. who provided eats and dispensed beer to all except the M.B.C. four who were permitted only orange juice. For spite we started last and arrived home first and hurled abuse at every boat we overtook for their insobriety." Jack Kingsley adds that Lander was "for ever organizing river picnics and excursions. At one full moon in the hot weather we rowed the boats upriver to a paddy field not far short of Laguna de Bay where we were met by Mr. and Mrs. Page with hot dogs and a barrel of San Miguel beer. Rowing home around midnight proved somewhat more difficult than the outward trip with the oarsmen in a rather hilarious condition."



Judges at the 1934 Spring Regatta: (l. to r.) J. Schulze, consul for Germany; G.P. Datema, consul for Holland and Denmark; A. Sidler, consul for Switzerland; and Thomas Harrington, consul for Great Britain

The Spring Regatta and the International Fours was held soon afterwards and England scored its third win in a row, Scotland again having to settle for second place. The winning English crew consisted of Dearden (bow), Arundell, Linley and Lander (stroke) with Kingsley (cox), and they won a new trophy presented by Mr. E.A. Keller. The casa pairs was won by Knight (bow) and Rankin (stroke) for G.S. Yuill and Co.

Philip Arundell recalls that, at this time, "Regatta days were, of course, great occasions, particularly the main ones in the Spring. They were very well attended by the European community generally,

and were colourful affairs with the ladies in their party frocks and a variety of hats. The various Consuls were there as Judges, and apart from the British Consul, special mention should be made of the Swiss and German consuls who were strong supporters of the Club. Luzon Stevedores, apart from a spectators' launch, usually provided a small, fast launch for the Umpire. I recollect that Ben Johnston and Horace Whittall usually officiated in this capacity, also Eric Little. . . Not least of the Officials, however, was the



The Umpires: (l. to r.) E. Little, B. Johnston and H. Whittall

Announcer, who, using a megaphone, announced the various events, names of the crew members, winners and everything else that had to be announced. This important office was usually undertaken by Neil Macleod, a non member, but a great supporter and character. A large man, of ample girth, he had a stentorian voice, which with the aid of the megaphone, carried to all parts of the Club grounds. At the first Spring Regatta at the new Club House [1933], which really was a great occasion, he was doing a tremendous job, and to give his voice even fuller range, he got down onto the pantalan and turned to face the multitude. While in full oratory, and no doubt in order to get an even wider range, he took a step backwards and — megaphone and all — disappeared into the river."

With the club house still very new and with membership on the increase, club committees had, apparently, little to worry about other than routine matters. One decision — again strongly influenced by Lander — was to purchase from Hong Kong "a really heavyweight pair, which was wide enough to permit the coach to move down the centre of the boat so that he could physically demonstrate what he was trying to put across". As Philip Arundell continues, "I believe the slides were set slightly off centre to leave room down the middle for the excursions of the coach! I certainly recollect that this boat was constantly in use by all and sundry, as it was also handy for polishing up exercises, as already described. I well remember its

weight, much heavier than the other tub pairs.”

Alec Dearden clearly remembers one “incident of interest” at about this time: “the Manila Bay Ships Boat-Race from the Breakwater to Legaspi Landing, which was organized by Dan Gourlie of Macondray and Co. The Club put in a crew, I think, of nine. We were given a horrible ship’s life boat with even more ancient and horrible oars — full of splinters and so heavy that I, rowing bow, had to put all my weight on it to lift it out of the water. I remember I had to sit on a ring bolt in the bow! Philip Arundell rowed in it but I’m not sure in what position. Anyway, our opposition consisted of two boats, one from the “Tay Yang” (Norwegian), and the other from the “Muncaster Castle” (British). (This detail supplied by Jack Kingsley, who coxed, and sent me a photograph taken after the race which did not include the entire Boat Club crew.) Others in the crew were John Lander, stroke, Dan Gourlie, Gordon Mackay, “Tiny” Worden, a huge American who weighed 230 lbs, John Rankin and myself. If there were more I cannot name them. “Tay Yang” won easily and we came second. None of us had any idea of lifeboat rowing, and poor old John was getting hit in the back by either Tiny Worden or Gordon Mackay, who were suffering likewise, amid much swearing. John finished sitting on the side of the boat to avoid this, and we all had our arms nearly pulled out of their sockets by those ‘horrible oars’.”

Other reminiscences from members of those days include the club staff and the annual dinners. Steve Crawford insists that “No reminiscences would be complete without mention of our old Head Boy and Boatman Telesforo [Suarez] and his daughters

[Felicidad and Fidela] who, as 10 and 12 years olds [in the 1920’s] were among the best coxes on the river, also [Anacleto] Eusebio, who was so good with the boats. . . I shall not forget how in the early morning of a destructive typhoon I was awakened by my mess-mate firing a shot gun out of the window. The Pasig was rising rapidly. Telesforo was on the telephone. Should he carry the boats up to the upper floor of the Clubhouse? Certainly, but what about helpers? I had visions of swimming two miles downstream to assist. No; Telesforo had “ayudantes”, so as he was properly supported by adjudants I went back to bed.” (Other club staff of the early ’30s were Ricardo Tactacan and Sulpicio Colles (boatmen), Balbino Flores (carpenter) and Sefarino Reyes (gardener).)

John Rankin adds that the weekly institution of the “old men’s four,” including Ben Johnston, the President, was continued. He goes on: “Fidela [by now married and ‘a very sedate little lady (also very pretty)’] was always invited to cox it and she graciously accepted. She would have coxed no other boat, not even for President Quezon. It was also quite nice to be invited to stroke the old men’s four but, I hope, that made it an old men’s three. The light four ran rock-steady and true. They were all good oarsmen. Another advantage of stroking was free drinks.” (John Lander and Philip Arundell were also invited — or “commanded” — to stroke this crew from time to time.)

The annual Boat Club dinner was held on the evening of the Spring Regatta day at the Manila Club in San Marcelino. Philip Arundell notes that “It was



The social side of regattas in the '30s: (l. to r.) Donald Brisbane, Mrs. Ben Johnston, Stella Brisbane, Betty Johnston and Hugh Robertson

always a very formal affair, evening dress being 'de rigueur'. It was, of course, an entirely male affair. Before being called into dinner, a fair amount of drinking and singing took place in the patio adjacent to the Club dining hall. It was a very convivial occasion, and formality did not extend beyond one's attire except, perhaps, for the speeches. The Consuls were again in full force, and each made a speech. As I recollect, the President of the Club opened proceedings, welcoming the guests, and reviewing the year's activities. The Consuls would then each make their contributions, which were sometimes quite considerable, and finally the Club Captain would reply for the members. I would like to mention here that John Lander, regardless of what he may have had to drink between his last race and the dinner, always produced, completely off the cuff, a brilliant speech, very much to the point, and with just the right touches of humour. I used to wonder how he did it. On one occasion I remember dear old Thomas "Puff Puff" Harrington (affectionately so called) [the British Con-

"Wocle" Cleland agrees that "who can forget the annual Manila Boat Club dinners — 'stag' only — a really unforgettable affair always held at the old Manila Club still standing these days as the Sweepstakes headquarters in San Marcelino". He goes on, "While we did not have squash court activities as you now have, yet I also remember the challenge of *swimming* across the Pasig and the moonlight challenge of an English Austin competing against the newly-developed American Austin to see how far they could get across the Pasig (and our barely managing to rescue the driver of the American Austin whose car was closed as compared to the open type British Austin)".

England (Lander and Linley) took the International Pairs event at the Autumn Regatta of 1933 and it was feared that this might be Lander's last race with the club. In January 1934, a cocktail party was held in his honor to wish him well on his departure for six months home leave. Fears that he would be posted thereafter to some other country proved, fortunately,



Singing along just before commencement of the MBC dinner at the Manila Club

sul], making an excellent speech, when in the middle of it, a large portion of chicken landed on his shirt front, gravy and all! He continued his speech without turning a hair, or even pausing. While it was usually a fairly boisterous party, it was always all in such good humour that no one ever took offence." Gordon Mackay would add that the Swiss, in particular, were "awful drunks" and that "debugging" and fighting were common occurrences. He recalls attending one dinner *not* in formal attire and, when this was queried, pointing out that his formal trousers had been torn apart at the dinner the year before!

groundless. Scotland regained the International Fours title in 1934. Its crew of Farnell (bow), Stewart, Knight and Rankin (stroke) with Black (cox) defeated England in the final. A "continental fours" was added to finals day for the two other entrants in the International Fours, with Switzerland beating Germany by 1 length. The Swiss crew comprised C. Graemiger (bow), H. Kessler, E. Altwegg and W. Thomann (stroke) with C. Regenass (cox). Rankin and Knight also won the casa pairs for G.S. Yuill and Co. and Rankin made it three in a row with a win in the sculling championship from seven other entrants.

The club fours went to the crew of Lenox, Morton, Doyle and Sullivan with Black (cox) and a scratch fours event was also held.

The Englishman, Arundell, notes, appreciatively, that "the strong Scottish traditions, which had always been a feature of the Club, were maintained at full strength during the thirties, spearheaded by John Rankin, a great stroke and sculler, with Donald Stewart, a tremendous No. 3, or bow oar in a light pair to J. R. These two were constantly on the river and formed the base of the Scotch crew for several years. They must have won many races in fours and pairs. Other well-known Scotsmen, all accomplished oarsmen, were Dan Gourlie, Charlie Dunn (a great all rounder-footballer and first class tennis player who died tragically in his prime), Donald Brisbane, Bill Knight, Tom Farnell, Jim Craw, Ronnie Barr to name a few. They had two excellent coxes in Black and Robertson. I would also specially mention Ken Stewart, a big smiling Scot, who was a messmate of mine before I married, who died very suddenly just a few days before I returned from leave late in 1936."

Racing for the casa fours was revived in March 1934 with G. S. Yuill and Co. defeating Asiatic Petroleum. The winning crew comprised K. Stewart (bow), D. Stewart, Knight and Rankin (stroke) with Black (cox). Lander returned to Manila in time for the 1934 Autumn Regatta, but the Scottish crew of

Rankin and Donald Stewart defeated him and Linley in the International Pairs. Rankin won the sculling handicap. England, again stroked by Lander, returned to the winners' list in the International Fours in the spring of 1935 while the two Stewarts, coxed by Ronnie Barr, took the casa pairs for G.S. Yuill and Co., the third time in a row Yuill had won this event.

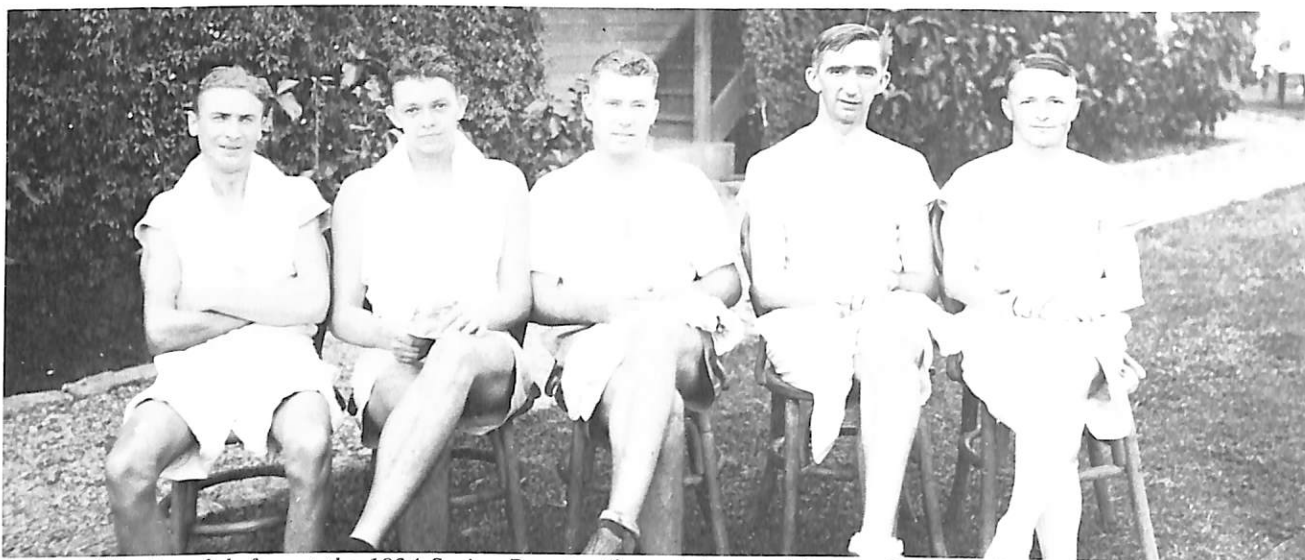
Four crews contested the Douglas Piercy Cup for International Pairs over one mile at the 1935 Autumn Regatta. England beat U.S.A. in one heat and Scotland beat Germany in the other. In the final, the Scottish pair of Rankin and Donald Stewart, coxed by Lenox, proved too good once again. Page (off 30 seconds) defeated Lander (off scratch) in the final of the ½ mile sculling handicap. Four crews contested both the club fours and the club pairs.

Scotland was now almost invincible in international events. Rankin and Donald Stewart won the International Pairs in 1936 and, with Ken Stewart and Craw, the International Fours. England was runner-up in the pairs and Switzerland runner-up in the fours. Altwegg won the sculling championship. Rowing as G.S. Yuill and Co., Rankin and Donald Stewart won the casa pairs as they liked, while G.S. Yuill and Co. also turned back a challenge from A.P.C. for the casa fours in 1936.

John Rankin's account of the annual dinner in



Cocktail party in 1934 to farewell John Lander. ("The bar was to the right of the camera. Most of the oarsmen were there!")



Winning club four at the 1934 Spring Regatta: (l. to r.) Lenox, Morton, Doyle, Sullivan and Black

March 1936 is an interesting one. He was the Secretary and thus issued invitations to the various consuls to attend. He continues: "There was a very recently arrived British Consul called Blunt who knew nothing of rowing, Manila or the Club and who of course would have to make a speech as would the others. The Swiss consul especially always brought the house down but the others were well worth hearing too. Why I do not know but Blunt decided to tell the Club members the history of their own Club and asked me to give him a summary. Jock Williamson [head of Fleming and Williamson] was the only surviving original member in Manila and I saw him at the Club and

also in his office to take notes. He told me much more than the bare outline I gave to Blunt because he knew I was then carrying the flag for Scotland as Eric Little had done so remarkably well and as Jock himself had done at the start. The speech was a disaster. Instead of making a speech Blunt just read the summary and that very badly. He did not inform himself on the Spanish pronunciation and he just mumbled with his head down. No one heard a word. . ."

Frank Black, the coxswain, who joined the club soon after the move to Santa Ana in 1932, recalls Jock Williamson particularly well: "He was a charming old boy and I remember being fascinated by his



Finalists in the 1935 International Fours: top row (l. to r.) Scotland – D. Stewart, K. Stewart, Lenox, Scott, Farnell; bottom row England (winners) – Bond, Arundell, Page, Lander, Linley

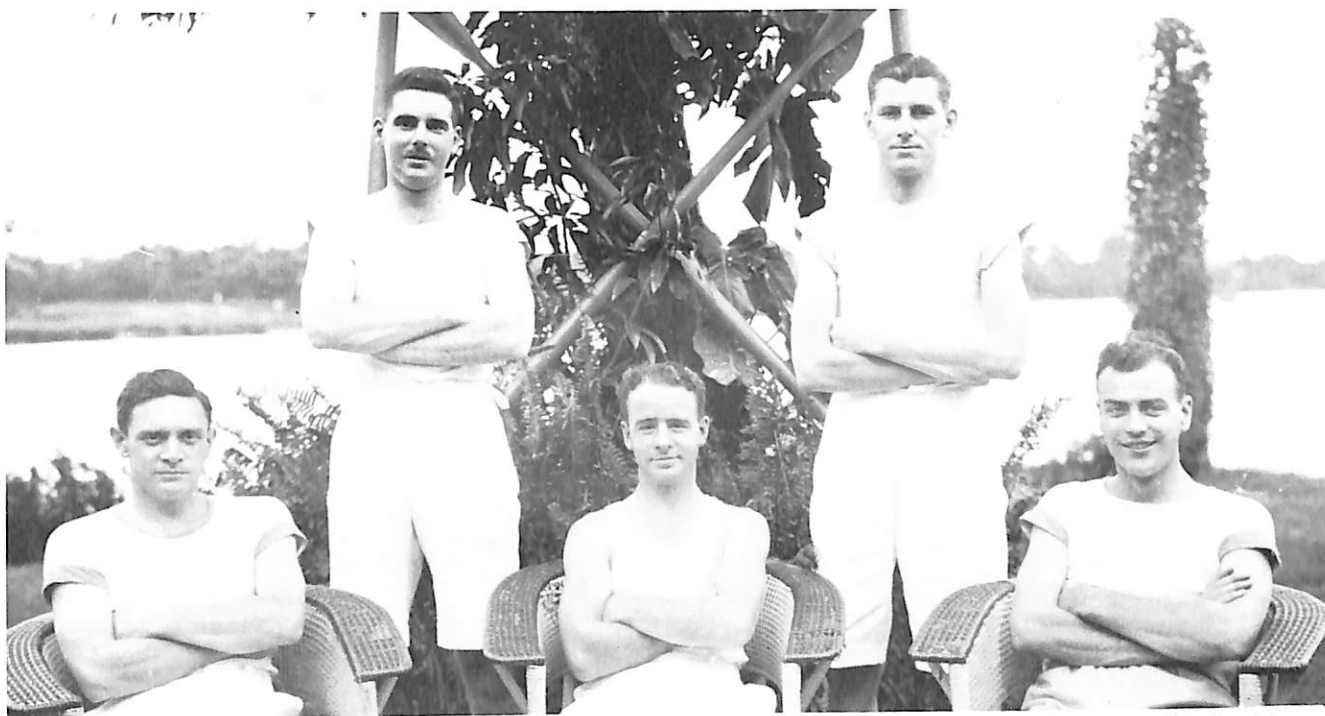
description of watching a clipper ship being loaded with bales of hemp, when he was 'down the Islands' in the mid-eighties (my golly — nearly 100 years ago!)."

John Lander's career with the club ended — for a time at least — early in 1937 with his transfer to Hong Kong, an appropriate farewell party being, of course, held for him.

Scotland's successes continued. The Rankin/Stewart combination again won the International Pairs in 1937 and, with Farnell replacing Ken Stewart, the International Fours. England was runner-up in both events. Altwegg successfully defended his title in the sculls. A Sculling Ladder Handicap was also begun in 1937 to encourage sculling. The closing date was specified about twice a year

songs, banter and horse-play." Rankin also recalls a challenge to the Nomads Club at cricket in 1937 which was won by the Boat Club and the return challenge by Nomads in 1938 which the Boat Club again won. Both wins were fairly easy but, he adds, "I frankly admit that we stole their best batsman!"

On a more serious note, Rankin suggests that "A four was reckoned to be quite good if it could go to Pasig Bridge and back to the Club House in 60 minutes. The bridge is the one [formerly] over the Pasig at its junction with the Marikina river." He goes on: "The Club was very fortunate in its servants and there was little that the committee members required to do. Telesforo, and later, Valentin, [who replaced Telesforo when the latter finally retired, old and sick]



Scotland's winning International Four of 1937: (l. to r.) T. Farnell, J. Craw, R. Barr, D. Stewart and J. Rankin

and the member at the top of the ladder that day was the winner. Jim Craw was the first winner in June 1937. Introduction of the ladder also led to better handicapping in the handicap sculling race.

At this time, notes John Rankin, "interest in the Club was well maintained between regattas. Most evenings there were at least three and often four fours rowing and in these the attempt was made to mingle experienced and junior oarsmen. In addition there were pairs and sculls regularly. A barbeque was held at the Club House each month when the moon was full and there was sufficient light to row in safety. Ladies were not present at the monthly beer, spud and sausage parties. . . They were great fun with

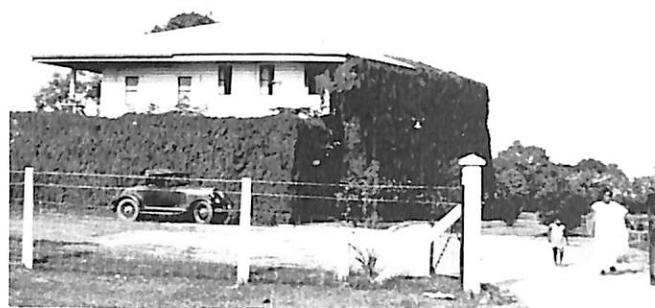
made up the members' accounts for bar, boat, cox and membership charges and these were looked over by the Treasurer. The 'House' member checked stock each month and compared consumption with charges. Eusebio and Sefarino took a great pride in the boats and kept everything in excellent order. I often wondered what they thought of us and whether they might have rowed a damned sight better than we did."

By the time of the 1938 Spring Regatta, the club was celebrating a significant event: the final purchase outright of the club grounds. Steve Crawford recalls very clearly the International Fours that year: "In 1937 I finished a long absence in the provinces. Being already 38 I was reluctant to be considered as a possi-

ble for the English crew at the 1938 regatta. Circumstances, however, got me into the four at No. 2. As a result of long and serious training and fine leadership by Arundell we won the event over Germany and Scotland. Scotland were unlucky in that Donald Stewart had had an appendix operation and was unable to row at No. 3. Had he been available, they might have been too much for us. The English crew, Arundell, Fox, Crawford, Boosey Bond; Pond cox, must have been one of the lightest crews to win the event. Apart from Arundell we were scraggy fellows. At the time I was reminded of Shakespeare's 'so many horrid ghosts'." A banca race was also on the Spring Regatta program and was won by Mr. and Mrs. Altwegg.

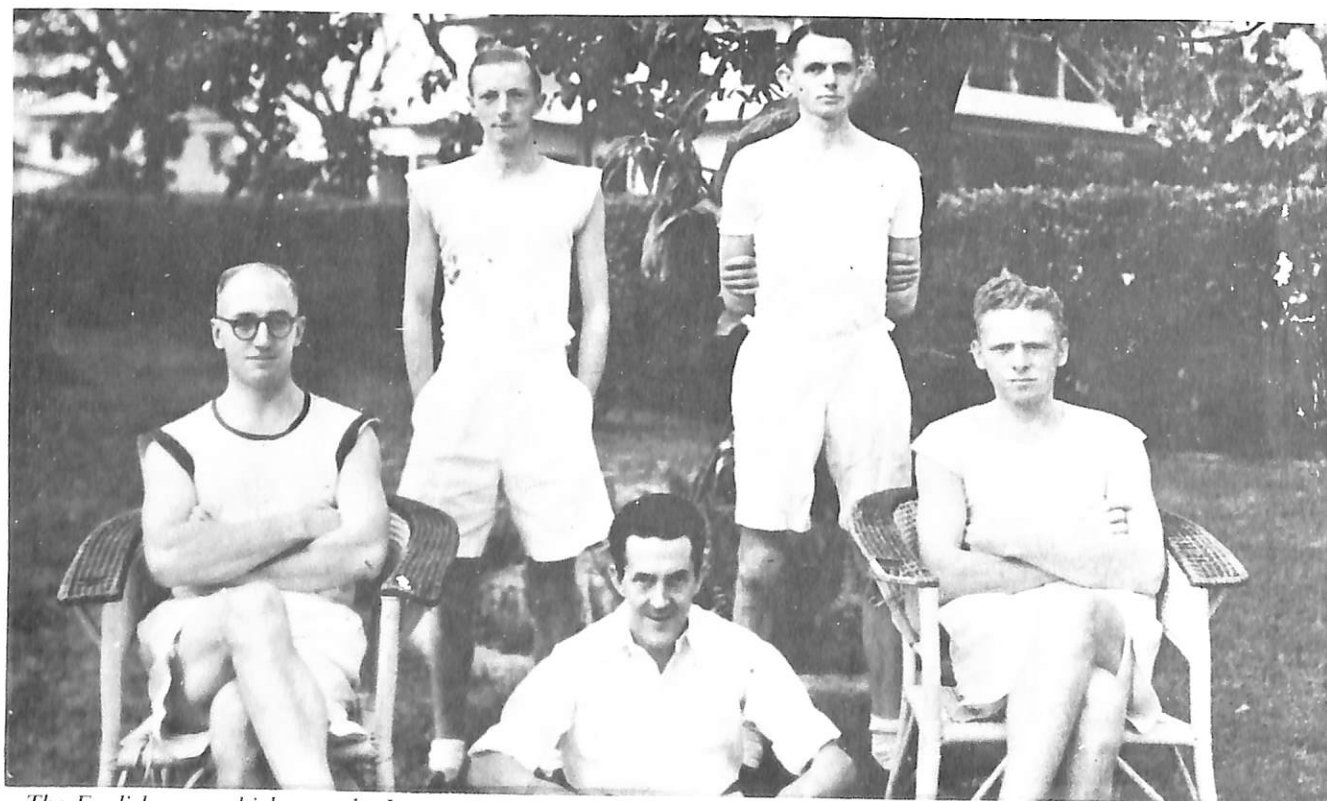
Philip Arundell notes that the club was continuing to enjoy support from many nationalities at this time. "The Swiss had for many years been powerful supporters of the Club, and the Swiss crew was always a force to be reckoned with. In Altwegg they had a champion sculler who, I believe had won the event more than once. Otto Schulthess, a great stroke, and others who were regularly on the river were Bruggiser, Graemiger, Thomann, Regenass, Haerberle, Pfenniger, Ottiger, Max Bierensteil and Carl Bosshard. Their Consul (A. Sidler), was a staunch supporter, though not a member. My recollections of the German contingent are somewhat hazy, although

they put very good crews on the water. Apart from Justus Reupke, I recall Wendt, Timmerberg,



The club house in the mid-'30s

Marschall and the Bergmann brothers. I should remember their 1938 crew, who ran us close, but unfortunately do not. The Dutch never had enough members to make up a four, but what they lacked in quantity, they made up in quality. Aeyelts rowed for the Club against Hong Kong, and Heybroek was a great oarsman, constantly on the river. Van Manen, a member for a short while, was an accomplished oar, as was Maasland. G.P. Datema, their Consul, was a loyal supporter. The Americans had some enthusias-



The English crew which won the International Fours in 1938: (l. to r.) Arundell, Bond, Pond, Crawford and Fox

tic oarsmen in Jeff Lunge, Charlie Kurz, 'Doc' Doyle, Harry Morton, Netzorg and McGrath. Eric Sanders rowed in one of their crews (the only one I remember), but I think he was actually Canadian. I



Jim Herridge (rt.) with Dan Gourlie

must also mention a very close friend of mine, an

Irishman from New York, who was another mess-mate of mine before I married, and that is J.M. Sullivan, "Sully", who loved his rowing in a whole hearted way. Tragically, he was killed by the Japanese at the time of liberation."

Concerning Americans rowing, Jack Kingsley adds the comment that "Strangely we never made much progress in recruitment amongst our American friends — those who had rowed at college in the States said frankly that they never wished to see an oar again".

Looking back on Boat Club life in the 'thirties, Arundell feels "special mention should be made of 'old men' J.R. Herridge, who despite his years, was still competing well into the thirties, and P.S. Page (always referred to by the Spanish pronunciation — "Pajé"), who served as President and on the Committee in one or other capacity throughout, and was a constant figure at the Club. He was a great cox, and did quite a bit of sculling. Mrs. Page was always about too. She was a keen gardener and helped enormously with the Club grounds."



Manila Boat Club

IV: WAR — AND RECOVERY — 1939 to 1955



The difficult period leading up to the second World War has been well recorded by Philip Arundell. He writes: "The clouds of war were beginning to darken the scene in 1939, and this affected the Club's activities from then on, in one way and another. Different communities kept apart from each other, and, increasingly, more to themselves. Well do I remember the time of Munich before the war broke. The British, at that time, were looked askance — it was a difficult and unpleasant period for all of us. It was during this time, at the height of the Munich tension, that I have my last very clear recollection of John Lander, who [spent much of 1939 back in Manila and] shortly thereafter returned to Hong Kong. We had been out on the river, and a few of us were round the bar discussing the general situation and its difficulties, when John spoke. 'This is a time' he said, 'when we must be uncompromisingly British.' We were soon all to be engulfed, in our different ways."

The Spring Regatta was duly held in 1939, the only results available being the win, once again, of Erwin Altwegg in the sculling championship and of Altwegg and his wife in the banca race.

In 1940, the club gained only four new members and, in 1941, only two. During 1941, especially the latter portion, Manila residents had a clear feeling of restlessness and insecurity at what might be about to transpire.

Club members had an early cross to bear. In 1941, John Lander, in view of the rapidly deteriorating political situation in the Pacific, brought his wife Betty and newly-born son, Gerard, from Hong Kong to Baguio. (Betty had competed in the hurdles for Great Britain in the Empire Games in the early 'thirties and had later become a South African citizen.) Returning to Hong Kong, Lander joined the Volunteer Defence Force and chose the Gunners. Jack Kingsley continues the story: "When the Japanese succeeded in landing on the Island, his battery was outflanked and he and his gun crew returned to General HQ in Victoria for further orders. They were issued rifles and ammunition and set out — to their deaths."

Opposite: The first of the new boats arrive in November, 1947 to be greeted by (l. to r.) Schukthess, Arundell, Leyshon and Purslow

Lander was killed on Christmas day, 1941. (He is buried in the Sai Wan War Cemetery at Cape Collinson.) Another early victim of the Japanese was R.H. (Bob) Gregory, club captain several times in the '20s, who was killed by a sniper outside the Repulse Bay Hotel in Hong Kong also on Christmas day, 1941.

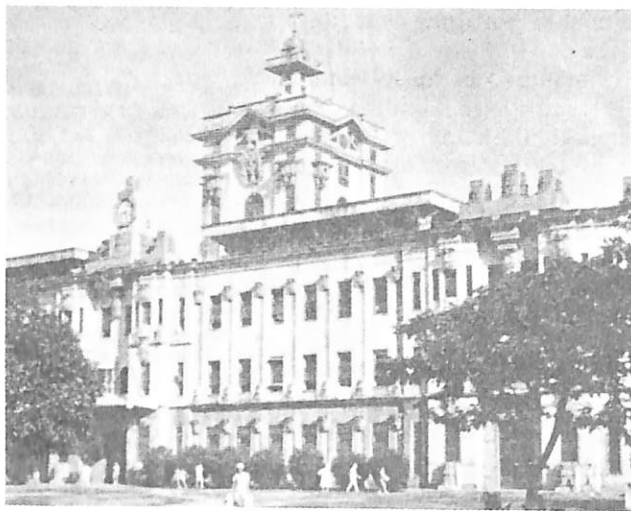
In January 1942, after the Japanese army entered Manila, Betty Lander and her son joined other members of the British and American community — including many Boat Club members — in internment at the University of Santo Tomas.

Gus Laurent, a Swiss (neutral) citizen of Manila, was able to get access to the club. He writes: "During the first days of the war, I took all the cups from the Clubhouse to my home, trying to save them from the Japs but, unfortunately, the house in Malate where I was living was completely destroyed during the bombing and burning of Manila and the cups were never to be found again".

The Boat Club itself was used to provide accommodation for war orphans and other homeless persons in the months after the arrival of the Japanese, all under the watchful eye of Ricardo Valentin, Telefso's successor, who chose to remain (unpaid) at the club. G.M. Eady recalls that "My last sight of the Club's boats was when I was interned at the Consul-General's house in Santa Clara [adjacent to the Boat Club]. I watched our Japanese sentries taking out our boats — they had much trouble in a single scull with numerous capsizings!" Towards the end of 1942, the club house was occupied by the Japanese and made into a radio communication center, a transmitter being installed in the upstairs portion. The wall between the club and its neighbor was breached and more than 50 Japanese troops took up residence in the area. The boats were put on the water and used by the Japanese and left on the water. No Filipino was permitted to touch them and gradually, through neglect, normal river conditions and, particularly, collision with landing barges using the pantalan, most started to break up. Jack Kingsley had had a personal sculling boat at the club, bought by him from Banhams in 1935 and used by him for three years thereafter in Iloilo. This was put on the water "and a soldier put both feet right through the shell!"

Numerous Boat Club members, with their wives

and children, were forced to endure internment at the hands of the Japanese for a three-year period at the University of Santo Tomas or the camps at Los Baños and Baguio. Amongst them were Bradley Fairchild, Val Masfield (who had returned to Warner Barnes after his earlier spell in the Philippines) and T.J. Harrington (the former British Consul), the latter two being members of the "Agents of the Internees" at Santo Tomas, Gordon Mackay (in charge of the Department of Patrols at Santo Tomas for a long



University of Santo Tomas

period), Eric Little, Jim Herridge, P.S. Page, Philip Arundell, "Wocle" Cleland, Jim Craw, Steve Crawford, Tom Farnell, Nick Linley, Milton Pickup, Mathew Pollock, Ronnie Barr, Horace Whittall and Harvey Pope. H.T. Fox was allowed to remain outside the camp in Manila and he and his family were among those killed by the Japanese at the time of liberation. Jim Herridge died in March 1945, a month after liberation, from the effects of internment. Other former club members who died in the war included S.C. Maxwell and H.A. Frischbrecht.

Arundell recalls that "During this time, Justus Reupke, a very staunch member of the Boat Club, maintained occasional contact with us, and others of his friends on the 'inside'. He also kept an eye on the Boat Club, when he could. He and his wife Dodi, both anti-Nazi, had a most difficult time until liberation came, but never ceased to try and help their friends. There was nothing he, or anybody else, could do about the loss of the Club's boats, which I discovered on a brief visit just prior to being repatriated."

The Boat Club itself had been severely damaged by a near-by explosion and the roof was practically non-existent with telling effects upon the floor and beams below. Valentin declined to leave the area of the club house, even as the Americans were bombing

Manila in January 1945, and, in the last days, was taken away and killed by the Japanese. Anacleto Eusebio, living in Santa Ana and having unsuccessfully urged Valentin to get away from the Japanese, himself destroyed the transmitter in the club's premises to add to the problems of the occupation forces in their final days.

Anacleto recalls that a number of boats — mainly heavy pairs and heavy sculls — were still usable when the Americans arrived. They also made use of them and, ironically, left them on the water so that they were soon also destroyed.

Philip Arundell, rather reluctantly, has contributed the following account of the "recovery" (or was it "resurrection"?) of the Manila Boat Club after the war:

"When the fighting ceased in the Philippines, Manila lay devastated. With the possible exception of what is now Stalingrad, Manila had suffered greater destruction than any other city in the world from conventional weaponry. The Japanese had mined many of the larger buildings, including hotels and apartment buildings, but by far the greatest destruction had come from American bombing and shellfire, as they had had to fight through the city against Japanese suicide troops. While the fighting was still on, I acted as guide to some American officers who wanted someone who knew his way around in the city, and I remember that several times, at what should have been a well known intersection, I did not know where we were because there were no buildings at all, only rubble, no more than waist high, in every direction! It was utter desolation and an unforgettable sight.



Remains of the Legislative Building

"It was these conditions that faced British and American internees who had to remain in Manila to try to get their businesses going again and pick up the

shattered remnants of their lives. Many had lost their homes and all their possessions. They had to work out of makeshift offices and they lived in whatever kind of temporary shelter they could find. Their offices were undermanned, with no hope of getting in any fresh management staff, and clerical staff were of skeletal proportions.

"Most expatriates sent their wives and families home while they tackled their daunting tasks. It must be remembered also that, practically without exception, they had come pretty close to death from starvation. I well remember thinking to myself, shortly before the Americans came into the camp, that I could not last more than another couple of weeks, at most. I was at least 65 lbs. below my normal rowing weight. Many had already died of starvation.

"Not everyone stayed on, and I was one of the fortunate ones to be repatriated, with my family, via the United States. We left Manila in April 1945, and after a quite lengthy home leave, I had to spend several months in Calcutta, thus did not return to Manila until September 1946, some 18 months later. I was alone, as of course my family could not come until I found somewhere to live.

"Conditions were still chaotic, and the U.S. Army still very much in evidence. Rebuilding had not really started, although small residential compounds were beginning to spring up here and there. One of my first concerns was the Boat Club, and I found that nothing whatever had been done about it, also that apparently I was still Captain.

"The Club was, of course, still in British hands, but there were only a few members around. There seemed to be mixed feelings about any attempt to get the Club restarted. Several were of the opinion that it was finished, others that it was not the time to consider it and it would be better to wait until conditions were improved. Everyone I spoke with was still far too preoccupied with the problems of trying to get their own lives and businesses back on to an even keel.

"It was all rather depressing, but I formed the opinion that, if nothing was done, the Club would surely die, as later on the remaining members would be that much older and lose interest. It seemed to me that a start had to be made, one way or another. I could not see the Boat Club, which had given so many of us so much pleasure, being allowed to die.

"Eventually it was possible to arrange a meeting of the Committee, which took place in February 1947. At that meeting, I was made President, as well as Captain. This was for the very simple reason that no one else was in a position, or able, to take on the job, due to the circumstances which I have described.

They all had far too much on their plate.

"My first objective was to see what sort of support could be found, and it seemed to me logical to start with the Swiss, and I called on Schulthess. His response was immediate, and as I recall he offered to finance a four if I could get finance for another one. Altwegg made, I think, a similar offer in relation to either a scull or pair. It was this prompt response from the Swiss members that started the ball rolling. Without them, things might have been different.



Otto Schulthess

"I next went to see Chick Parsons, back with Luzon Stevedores (Pete Grimm was away at the time), and I can still see his quiet smile as he asked what could he do for the Boat Club? Luzon Stevedores had always been very good to the Club, and now their contribution was to be substantial. They rehabilitated the Club House, and in due course provided a new pantalan.

"As soon as I was sure of support for sufficient boats, and the boathouse to put them in, I wrote off to order the first boats, and promptly suffered a setback which was to be repeated many times over the ensuing months, as boatbuilder after boatbuilder from countries all over the world advised that they could not accept any further orders — they were all full up! This went on for nearly two years, as I recall, and I was almost in despair when, at long last, offers came in from, I think, two sources, both on the Continent."

The cost of repairs to the building and replacement of the boats and equipment was estimated to cost ₱20,000. Apart from the assistance of Luzon Stevedores, Theo H. Davies and Co. provided the paint for the club house building. When Santa Ana council decided to build a very high flood wall in front of the club, Atlantic Gulf and Pacific donated the fill

and constructed a ramp. Financial assistance was also provided by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Accountant of which, Jim McGregor, was the club's Treasurer.



The steep pantalan after construction of the flood wall

The great day when the new boats arrived at the club was 12 November 1949, over two and a half years after the rescue operation commenced. They were six in all, all built by Pedrazzini of Switzerland: two heavy stagger-seated clinker fours without outriggers — later to be named the “Goldman” and “Barraclough”; two very fine clinker-built pairs with cox — later named “Jacquest” and “Buckle”; and two clinker sculls — later named “Kingsley” and “Arundell”. Four keen members, Arundell, Schulthess, Ian Purslow and David Leyshon (who was also the representative of Luzon Brokerage delivering the

boats), provided a welcome. Arundell adds that “The remarkable thing about the arrival of the boats was that I had telephoned all old members giving them the time the boats were due at the Clubhouse, but no one, other than those mentioned, turned up”. Anacleto, who had been taken on again as boatman, “had them ready in a few days”. Arundell recalls that “I can remember taking the first crew away from the pantalan, but cannot recollect who was in it! I do remember, however, finding myself very short of wind by the time we reached the mile mark! . . . The Club had been inactive for some ten years, and membership was sadly depleted, with most of the active ones rather ‘past it’ for racing purposes. However, the Club was back on the water, and that was the main thing.”

The cost of the two fours (P6,000 each) was substantially met by contributions from Altantic Gulf and Pacific and F.E. Zuellig Inc., and Zuellig, through Otto Schulthess, the Managing Director, also donated the pairs. The sculls were donated by the Swiss community.

Ian Purslow, of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, arrived in Manila late in 1948 and took on the post of Captain in mid-1949. He recalls the arrival of the new boats very clearly and adds that, thereafter, “We had a lot of use out of the fours but the Swiss pairs were really far too difficult to sit”. They were converted to double sculls some years later.

More boats were to come. Shell (formerly Asiatic Petroleum) donated two second-hand light clinker fours built by E.H. Phelps of England and picked up by Steve Crawford while in England on leave. They arrived in early 1950 via Shell tankers and free of



The new boats being unloaded

freight charges and were promptly named “Lander I” and “Lander II” in memory of the great pre-war oarsman. In that year also, the club secured two shell pairs, again built by Phelps, which had earlier been used in the 1948 Olympic Games in London. These craft — later named “Altwegg” and “Schulthess” — were both, in Purslow’s words, “excellent boats being much easier to sit than the V hull of the Pedrazzini pairs and moved very well”.

Arundell adds, with some well-justified satisfaction, that “When I finally left Manila early in 1950, the old Boat Club was beginning to get back some of its former spirit, and I was very moved when, at a small farewell party, I was presented with a very fine Silver Salver from all the members”. (What would have happened to the Boat Club if Arundell had not taken on his tremendous “labor of love” is, of course, a matter for conjecture.)

Two light sculls, built by Stampfli of Switzerland, were donated to the club by Otto Schulthess in 1952 and were named “Trudy” and “Odoy” after his wife and himself. Two heavy pairs were secured in 1954-1955.

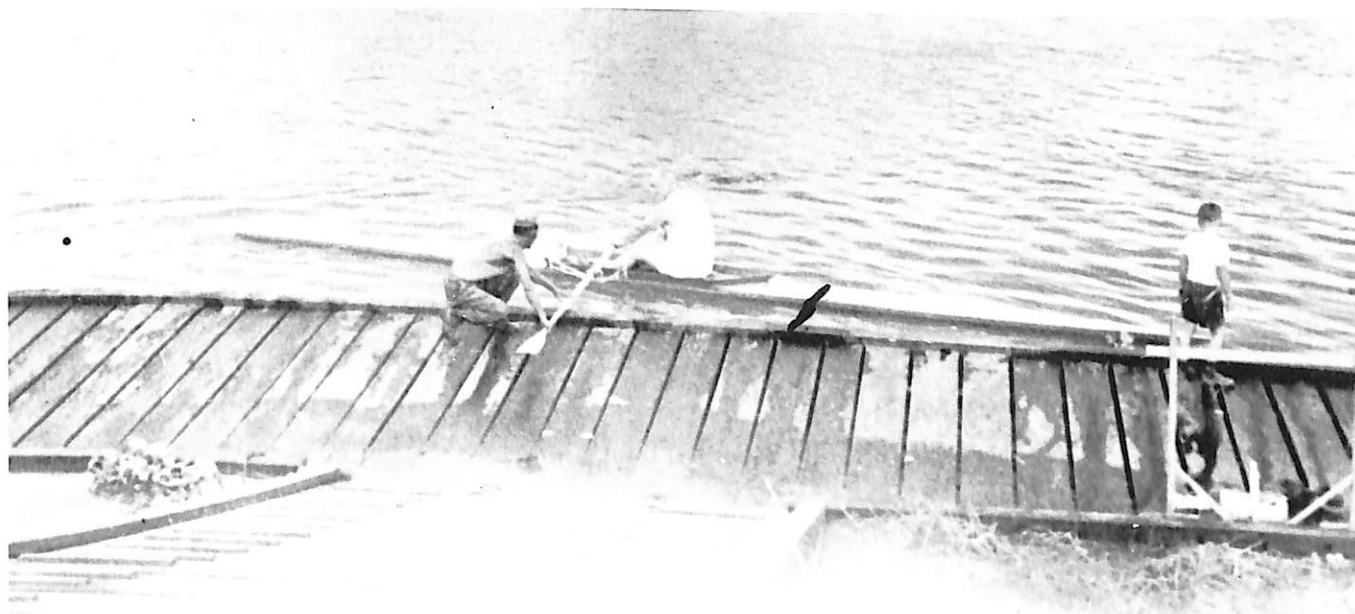
With the arrival of the boats, the membership ranks — till then composed mainly of the pre-war “die-hards” — expanded rapidly. Four members —



Marcial Lichauco with wife Jessie

Lichauco (of the firm of attorneys of that name) who had earlier coxed at Harvard. Being in his late '40s, however, he did not take part in races. (He was later appointed Philippine Ambassador to the Court of St. James.)

Regattas soon recommenced. The first was the Spring Regatta in March 1950 which attracted a large group of spectators. Three events were contested:



Philip Arundell back on the water

including Purslow — had joined in the early months of 1949, but, at the December 1949 meeting alone, 28 new members were approved. In 1950, a further 25 persons were admitted to membership. Interestingly, they included the first Filipino member (excluding one or two foreigners, such as Justus Reupke, who may have had a Philippine passport): Marcial

International Pairs, club fours and sculling championship. Scotland won the first event from Switzerland, the Scottish crew comprising P. Campbell (bow) and Purslow (stroke) with Kingsley (cox). The club fours went to the crew of Purslow (bow), R. Hoey, P. Magee and P. van Schaardenburg (stroke) with Kingsley coxing again. In the sculls, Altwegg beat Purslow

in a heat and then took the final over van Schaardenburg. The pairs and sculls were rowed over $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and the fours over a mile. Although it was the first regatta for a long time, one statement of the *Manila Bulletin's* was, hopefully, not correct: "The Club championship fours winner covered the 1-mile course in exactly 30 minutes"! An Atlantic Gulf and Pacific launch was on hand to follow the races and the officials recalled some of the great pre-war days: Masfield, Schulthess, Crawford, Graemiger and Linley.

Purslow has a delightful recollection of one of the "pre-war" greats: Steve Crawford, who, he says, "was forbidden [in 1950] by his wife to row above the power station as a result of an unfortunate occasion when they were hosts at a dinner party given the same evening after Steve had gone out for a long outing. Steve had fallen asleep at the beginning of the meal with his head supported by his hand and his elbow in the soup plate!"



Kingsley and Linley at the first post-war regatta

Moonlight rowing was also reintroduced at the end of April being followed by "a mild but pleasant party on return". Longer outings were also undertaken: Purslow recalls that Schulthess was "terribly keen" and "during my Captaincy took a four up to Laguna de Bay on several occasions" (quite apart from also climbing the Matterhorn when on leave at the age of about 60!).

At the Autumn Regatta in the same year, the club fours was won by the crew of Treichler (bow), Hegner, Gasser and Purslow (stroke) with Kingsley (cox). Runners-up were Anderegg (bow), Rudmann, Schulthess and Laurent (stroke), with Crawford (cox).

G.W.E. Barraclough, a later President, recalls an interesting incident at the end of October 1950 as follows: "I was out with Crawford in one of the light pairs — which we called the Swiss pairs — when we



Schulthess and Altwegg discussing the finishing line

became jammed in the water hyacinth and were floating down the river heading quite quickly for Manila Bay. Crawford, to my surprise, managed to slide overboard and free the oars and then, even more remarkably, get back into the skiff while I endeavoured to hold it upright and steady with the two oars. I remember being most impressed with his distinct athletic feat."

The club's past was not, at this time, being forgotten: Crawford recalls "how Lander's personality haunted the Club long after his death. Once about 1950 Jack Kingsley, after an evening of rowing, said to me on the way home — 'One would hardly be surprised if John were to come up the stairs, walk across to the bar, and order a drink'." Kingsley himself left soon after for a seven-year stint in the province.

The strength of the Swiss oarsmen was shown again at the Spring Regatta of 1951 when the crew of Gasser (bow), Hegner, Anderegg and Rudmann (stroke) with Friessner (cox) defeated England in the



Altwegg (far side) about to scull past van Schaardenburg

re-introduced International Fours. England's crew comprised T. Robinson (bow), R. Beck, W. Simpkin and Purslow (stroke) with Kingsley (cox). (Purslow had rowed for Scotland the year before: he explains that his mother was a Scot and he was born in Scotland but his father was English. So he could row for either "all in the good cause to make up a crew to make the regattas more interesting!"). Purslow won the sculling championship from Altwegg and Schulthess while the club pairs went to Altwegg and Gasser over Schulthess and Laurent. A scratch four event was also conducted and was won by the crew of Porterfield, Robinson, Beck and Simpkin with Purslow (cox).

Barraclough has recalled another incident soon after this regatta. His diary for 4 June 1951 records it as follows: "Quite some excitement this evening. One of the two fours which was out — not the one I was in — came across a boy about 12 who seemed to be on the point of drowning. The other crew managed to lift him out of the river and get him into the boat and subsequently back to shore. There were, as you would expect, great numbers of people shouting advice on both banks of the river but presumably there were no swimmers among them because there was no attempt to go out and get him before the fours came along."

At the 1951 Autumn Regatta one new member was rather prominent: Thomi Keller, who joined the club in April 1951, had earlier competed for Switzerland in the European championships and had won the FEARA sculls for Hong Kong at the Regatta in Singapore earlier in 1951. He won the sculls, helped Switzerland win the International Pairs and was in the winning club four. Max Kling-

ler won the handicap sculls.

The Swiss members had played a leading role in the club's recovery — and recognition of these efforts was now shown. The club's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws has always restricted voting rights to members of British nationality. At the annual general meeting in October 1951, this provision was deleted and a new section added which stated, quite



Boat Club bar in the early '50s. Sulpicio Colles serves Phil Magee (back to camera)

plainly, that "All members of the Club, irrespective of nationality, shall be entitled to vote at any general or special meetings of members and shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors". Otto Schulthess, the doyen of the Swiss, was promptly elected President of the Club and Thomi Keller captain.

At this time, the club's staff numbered three: Anacleto Eusebio as carpenter, Sulpicio Colles as bartender and Graziano Trinidad as gardener. Sulpicio left the club in 1952 and Graziano became bar-



Winning Swiss crew in the 1951 International Fours

tender with Fidel Argente being taken on as the new gardener. Later still, Graziano left the club and Fidel in turn moved to bartender (a position he holds to the present day). Felix Lacson was then engaged as gardener with Anacleto remaining throughout.

Twenty-four oarsmen competed in the eight events at the 1952 Spring Regatta. Ian Purslow has acknowledged that Keller had an easy win over him in the sculling championship with Altwegg third. The other events were club pairs "A" and "B", club fours "A" and "B", sculls "B", senior fours and scratch fours. The club's annual dinner was held the same evening at the Manila Club.

Training for the 1952 Autumn Regatta had to be postponed for about two weeks while a new entrance way to the pantalan was constructed under Keller's careful eye. Five events were raced: senior fours, club fours, International Pairs, handicap sculls and scratch fours. Swiss crews continued to do well: the Pairs went to the crew of Klingler (bow) and Hans Schaeppi (stroke), with Charlie Hausmann (cox) and the club fours to Max Anderegg (bow), Ulrich Hegner, Klingler and Schaeppi (stroke) with Hausmann (cox). This crew also won the International Fours for Switzerland in 1953 and, it seems, in 1954 as well.

Denys Pinfold recalls that, in 1954, "The Swiss old timers had an inspiration. They were worried the club might decline as there seemed to be so few interested, able, and with the time to go rowing. It was agreed that a new boat would be donated free to the club if we, the staunch members, got cracking and achieved a target number of outings each month for

four months (March to June). No sooner was this successfully achieved when a further similar challenge series was proposed and a new target number of outings for another new period (June to September 1955) suggested. Again we achieved it and the two new boats — two heavy pairs — duly arrived."



Mike Proulx (bow) and Ian Purslow (str.) training

International Pairs were conducted at the 1954 Autumn Regatta, with Switzerland (Klingler (bow) and Schaeppi (stroke) with Hausmann (cox)) defeating Britain. The single sculls went to Denys Pinfold who also stroked the winning Shell crew in the casa pairs. The club fours went to the crew of M. Steger (bow), P. Wuersch, P.J.B. Jongstra and F. Rudmann (stroke) with J.W. Muysken (cox) and the double sculls, rowed for the first time, to Altwegg (bow) and W. Boenheim (stroke) with L.D.M. Buckle (cox).



Spectators at the 1952 Spring Regatta



Regular oarsmen: (l. to r.) Bruce Martin, L.D.W. Buckle, Garth Barraclough, Sasha Goldman and Tony Howe

(George Sturt, who arrived in Manila in 1954 for Shell, well recalls the conversion of the notorious "Swiss pairs" to double sculls and, at the same time, pays great tribute to the skill of Anacleto. He writes that "Of the clubhouse itself, my fondest recollections are of the faithful and hard-working boatman, Anacleto. He was a genius at improvisation, intensely loyal, scrupulously careful with equipment, and was beloved and respected by all. I remember we had a pair of rather high-sided, heavyish pairs which few could handle because one could not get one's oar handle low enough to avoid a crab. We had some spare scull riggers available so we decided to convert both pairs to double-scull. I sent him off with sample pins and rowlocks to get some castings made. In no time he came back with a perfect match at an absurdly low price and we were away with two 'new' boats, converted by Anacleto, and highly popular they were too.")

At the 1955 Spring Regatta, Britain defeated

Switzerland in the International Fours, the British crew comprising Peter Kemery (bow), Nigel Rigg, Bruce Martin and Pinfold (stroke) with Barbara Pinfold coxing. Pinfold again won the single sculls and he made it three in a row by stroking the British crew to success over Holland in the "International Double Sculls". George Sturt rowed bow and H. White coxed. The club fours went to the crew of D. J. Nye, H. O. Higgins, W. Cox and H. J. Brook while Altwegg and Buckle won the "senior pairs."

Variation in the formerly regular pattern of races continued: at the 1955 Autumn or Christmas Regatta, the five events were: single sculls, double sculls, "Nomad fours", "newcomers' pairs" and "challenge fours". Catering at this regatta — including the serving of 87 "teas" — was handled by the Manila Club and arrangements were made with the Army and Navy Club, the Swiss Club, Nomads and the Manila Club for their members to sign chits for purchases.



Large group of predominantly Swiss oarsmen in 1954. They include Max Klingler (fourth from left at rear) and Hans Schaeppi (second from right at front)



V: INTERPORTS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS — 1955 to 1968



Interport rowing against Hong Kong was revived at this time. Over the Easter weekend in 1955, Hong Kong rowers journeyed to Manila for the first contest. Races were staged in fours, pairs and sculls and Manila finished ahead two events to one. Manila won the fours over the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile course by 2 lengths, its crew comprising Kemery (bow), Rigg, Boenheim and Pinfold (stroke) with Mrs. Pinfold again coxing. (Ian Purslow, formerly of MBC, rowed bow in the Hong Kong four). The Manila pair of Muysken and Pinfold won by $\frac{3}{4}$ length (the race rowed, at Hong Kong's request, in heavy boats over a shortened course) but Bull of Hong Kong proved too good for Boenheim in the sculls and won by almost 2 lengths.

Manila returned the visit to Hong Kong in November, 1955, and this time Hong Kong won every event. The Manila four comprised Sturt (bow), Keith Martin, Rudmann and Rigg (stroke) with Mrs. Pinfold (cox). The pair was E. Waspi (bow) and Sturt (stroke) with Mrs. Pinfold coxing again and Pinfold

we could handle after the placid Pasig and we were soundly defeated in all events. However, on the Saturday night there was a combined 'pirates' party with the yachting fraternity which was a resounding success. The next day or the day after we sailed in a big flotilla round the islands and dropped anchor for lunch in a beautiful bay, and enjoyed swimming from boat to boat to socialise."

A third regatta was held in Manila in March 1956 and Manila again took the series two events to one. Manila's successful crews on this third occasion were the Interport Four of Rudmann (bow), Martin, Tim Biron and Pinfold (stroke) with Mrs. Pinfold (cox) and the Interport Pair of Klingler (bow) and Schaeppi (stroke) with Hausmann (cox). Kelly of Hong Kong won the sculls but this may have been because Sturt, the MBC sculler, stopped rowing two strokes too soon. Barraclough recalls that "In the evening a party at the Yacht Club was held for the Hong Kong visitors. This was intended to be a cocktail party but con-



Winning four at the 1957 Christmas Regatta: (l. to r.) E. Precious, M. Igual, N. Roque and R. Marquez with G. Sturt

was the sculler. George Sturt recalls that "The choppy sea water [at Middle Island] was more than

Opposite: MBC squad for 1955 Interport in Hong Kong: (l. to r.) D. Pinfold, F. Rudmann, K. Martin, B. Pinfold, N. Rigg, G. Sturt and E. Waspi

tinued with some enthusiasm until 1 a.m." It is not recorded whether, at this party, Tim Biron exhibited his "great claim to fame", i.e. "his ability to drink a pint of beer whilst doing a backward roll and without using his hands — this was always a great attraction at Club parties".

Records of the average number of monthly outings are available from mid-1954 onwards. In the year to August 1955, the figure was 131 and this increased to 147 in 1956. In each of these years, the club's finances were reasonably satisfactory, with a profit, before depreciation, of more than ₱2,000 being realized.

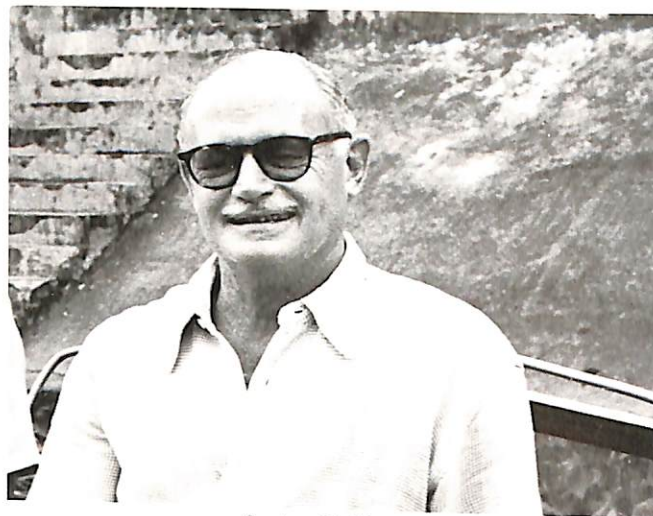
Additional events were held at the club in 1956. At the end of January, a single scull race and a heavy pair race were staged one evening, followed by a buffet supper and a film program. The Spring Regatta seems not to have been held in view of the Interport Regatta in March but, in July, a special race for three fours of new oarsmen — coached, respectively, by Messrs. Altwegg, Goldman and Biron — was staged, being followed by “beer and hot dogs for all”. An “Annual Stag Dinner” was also scheduled and a smaller-than-usual Christmas Regatta was conducted in December.

Informal parties were also staged on appropriate occasions. On 14 May 1957, Barraclough, club President in 1955/56, had his last row at the club in a four with Sasha Goldman of Manufacturers Life Insurance (the then President), Ted Jarvis (Australian Embassy) and Dick Jacquest (Philippine Refining Company). He recalls that, “after this was over, I was tended the compliment of a beer and sausage party in the Club House”.

Club dues were increased in the course of 1957. The monthly dues went from ₱8 to ₱10, the absentee fee also from ₱8 to ₱10 and the life absentee fee from ₱24 to ₱30. The annual meeting that year also varied the club's financial year from October 1-September 30 to September 1-August 31.

A more major matter also came before this meet-

ing: amalgamation with Nomads. This had been raised by the Secretary of Nomads who, it transpired, seemed to be “the only member of the Nomads Board of Directors really interested in this arrangement”. Some virtue was seen in an amalgamation which might be followed by the purchase of land near the river big enough for playing fields and rowing as well



Sasha Goldman

but the idea was not felt to be feasible. Even the suggestion of reciprocal membership for a six month trial period was deferred for consideration by the new Board.

The 1957 meeting also discussed the decline in the number of outings during the year (from the monthly average of 147 the previous year to only 89). Even before depreciation, a small financial loss was recorded for the year. With very few Europeans being permitted to enter the Philippines, it was suggested —



The club house - 1956

and left to the new Board once again to consider further — that attempts be made to get high schools and universities interested in rowing as a sport with competitions and additional recruits for MBC being possible results.

A Spring Regatta was held in June 1957 and a large crowd — estimated at 250 people — attended the 1957 Christmas Regatta. The single sculling championship was rowed, for the first time, for the Pinfold Cup, presented by Barbara and Denys Pinfold. The winner was Mike Steffes of the U.S. Navy over Sturt. The International Pairs went to the U.S. (H.F. Prioleau Jr. and Steffes with K. Stoll cox) over the British crew of Sturt and Miles. Other races included the club fours, won by T. Soderland, F.E. Swain, Prioleau and Sturt with Biron (cox), a challenge race against Nomads (won by MBC), a "father and son double sculls" (in which the Jarvis combination from Australia defeated the Savage crew from the US) and a novice fours, won by Rey Marquez, Nap. Roque, Manolo Igual and Eric Precious.

A further Interport clash with Hong Kong took place in Manila in April 1958 and races which would normally have been rowed at the Spring Regatta were held the same day. The MBC crew for the fours was Michael Miles (bow), Rudolph Schwarz, Prioleau and John Mays (stroke) and, according to Miles, they "trained solidly for months under a chap called Anderson, commercial counsellor at the Australian Embassy (6 days a week) and were all very fit. On the day of the race, Anderson took us to the 'New Europe' (now gone) for a steak lunch and then on to the club. Full of confidence, we rowed up to the start but, upon commencing the race, John Mays dug in about 4 ft. and I missed the water altogether! We



First winner of the Pinfold cup, Mike Steffes (rt.) with George Sturt

started 3 lengths down and finished 3 lengths down and Anderson never spoke to any of us again!" Manila recovered well to win the pairs by 6 lengths (Steffes and Sturt) and also the sculls (Sturt) by $\frac{1}{2}$ length. In the regular International Fours event, the English crew of Sturt, Pinfold, Miles and Mays, which had defeated Switzerland in a heat some days before, went on to defeat the US crew by the narrow margin of $\frac{1}{4}$ length. Sturt was awarded the Pinfold Cup, presumably for his win over the Hong Kong sculler.

By the 1958 annual meeting, the subject of amalgamation with Nomads had been forgotten altogether. The increase in outings during the year (to



Winning MBC four at the 1958 Interport against Hong Kong

a monthly average of 138) was noted with pleasure, as was the excellent financial result (a profit before depreciation of ₱5,300). A modest start had been made with school boy rowing (in heavy boats) and this was, again, referred to the new Board as was the need for a coach to instruct new members in rowing techniques. George Sturt recalls an innovation in the club's activities: "In 1958 or so, we decided to put on a new roof of galvanized sheets, painted green. To raise money we introduced dances with live band and these were fairly successful if a trifle hot and steamy."

Six races were conducted at the November 1958 Regatta. The International Pairs went to the English crew of Sturt and Mays while the other events were novice pairs, light double sculls, MBC v Nomads fours, student pairs and Captain's four versus Vice-Captain's four.

Participation of Filipinos in club membership was, by this time, becoming more pronounced. One of the new Filipino members was Mariano (Jun) Ezpeleta while still a student of the University of the Philippines at the end of 1958. With experience gained at Harvard, Jun was soon coaching and coxing as well as rowing and sculling himself. George Sturt recalls that "Our style greatly improved" with his arrival . . . "he really get those 'hands away' at the end of the stroke". For the 1959 Spring Regatta, he coxed and helped prepare the British four of Sturt (bow). Claude Dickinson, John Trimmer and David Ritchie (stroke — actually an Australian). In an exciting finish, however, the heavier US crew narrowly

scratch heavy pairs and scratch fours.

At the time of the 1959 Annual Meeting, the club was facing a situation where outings were down (only 93 per month), finances were difficult (a loss before depreciation of ₱900 on the year) and ways and means of attracting and retaining new members were being explored. Donald Richardson, an American



The first school boy rowers: 1958

from the Embassy who joined the club about this time, recalls being taken to one side by Douglas Buckle, the then President, who "indicated that for the moment at least the British were through in the Philippines. The Laurel-Langley arrangement had made life very difficult, and he saw no future for the club in British hands. It was his notion that the Yanks would have to assume the responsibility." One matter



The U.S. four narrowly defeating the British four at the 1959 Spring Regatta

defeated the British four. The winning crew comprised A.L. Bentley (bow), R.A. Parker, Prioleau and K. Petterson (stroke). The Pinfold Cup for single sculls went to Prioleau who defeated Ezpeleta. Other events rowed were the club fours, light double sculls,

approved by the 1959 Annual Meeting was the investment of ₱6000 (from the Boat Fund) in San Miguel ordinary shares.

At the 1959 Christmas Regatta, the International Fours was won by the "international" crew of

Ritchie, Steger, Hedges and Miles with Ezpeleta (cox) who defeated the US four. Max Steger won the Pinfold Cup by defeating Ezpeleta and the heavy pairs went to El-Kareh and Sternberg, coxed by Laurent. There were upsets in the other two events, with the Vice-Captain's four downing the Captain's four and a Nomads crew defeating an MBC four in a special challenge.

After this regatta, Richardson writes, "the new board convened to review what had to be done. The board that met coincided roughly with the total active membership. There were two basic problems as I recall. The first was that the club not only looked disreputable, but the buk-buk had made their way into the rafters, the ceiling was sagging, the screens were rotting, the stairs were hazardous, the pantalan was sinking, the river had silted heavily, prejudicing the boats. Few were rowing, the main source of revenue apart from the proceeds of the bar. We felt that the one problem was interlocked with the other. Using club labor and purchased materials, we saturated the rafters with some patent medicine or other attested to by Stanvac, as I recall, painted the outside, renewed the screen, refloated the pantalan, had the river dredged, rehung a gate of sorts on the site of the original club gate, cleared the vanished drainage ditches, still tiled under the silt of war, planted shrubs, and so on. To the extent possible, we rehabilitated the boats, cleaning and revarnishing, since they were irreplaceable. We changed the decor of the design on the oar to be a bit more eye-catching (and to afford additional protection to the vulnerable blades). There could be no thought of replacement, given import restrictions at the time. Most of this renovation took place in stages during 1960, with Anacleto bearing the main responsibility for performing and overseeing when none of us was on hand."

Richardson continues: "Membership was another matter. It struck me that there would be increased interest in more regular rowing if there could be some form of competition between regattas. Mike Parsons arranged for a substantial purchase of silver spoons in Hong Kong, spoons with handles shaped as oars blades, with MBC engraved thereon. I took unfair advantage of this competition [a spoon being awarded to the member recording the highest number of outings each month] since I had in mind teaching my sons to row, and took every opportunity to do so. This resulted in the acquisition of a fair number of spoons in rather consecutive fashion, but also to a keener interest on the part of certain of the members in breaking this pattern. I eventually taught not only my sons, but my wife to row, and we managed on several occasions to take a light four up past

the bridge as a family affair. The by-product of increased activity was naturally better control over what was going on at the club, but also increased beer sales to all of age." The spoon competition was introduced at the beginning of 1960 with R.A. Parker the first winner with 11 outings (coxing being counted as well as rowing). Outings during the year 1960 overall went on to average 125 per month (with a profit of ₱1000 before depreciation being recorded).

Five events were conducted at the 1960 Spring Regatta. Steger retained his hold on the Pinfold Cup



Max Steger

by defeating Ezpeleta and the US took the International Fours — its crew comprising Parker, Dougan, Lilley and Bentley with Ezpeleta cox — against the "international four" of Ritchie, Steger, Schwarz and Miles with Thomas cox. Parker and Dougan won the light pairs and Houston and Armstrong the novice pairs. The club fours went to the crew of Ezpeleta, Armstrong, El-Kareh and Bolinger.

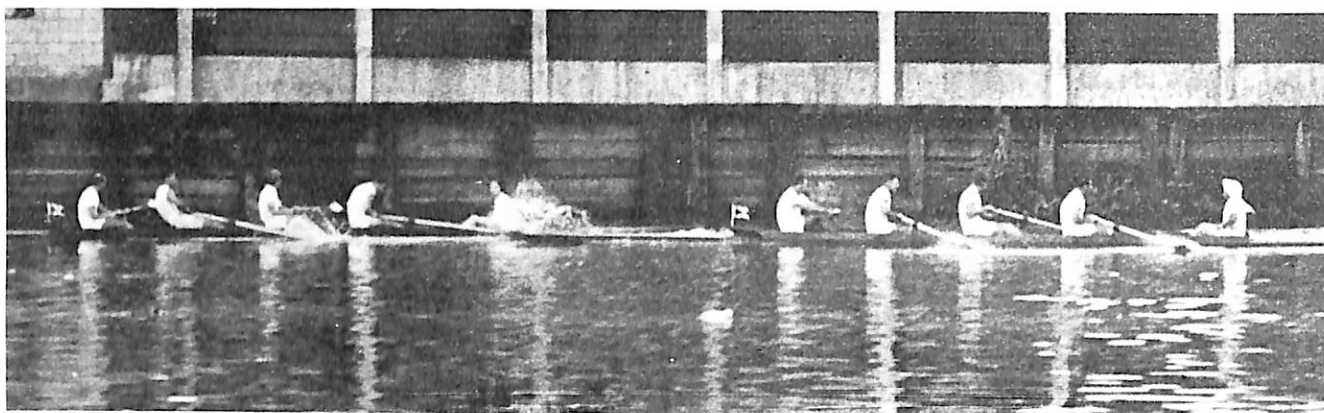
In June 1960, two crews — Steger/Schwarz and Richardson/Richardson — set out on a "reconnaissance expedition" to find a suitable site at Marikina. They came away, however, "with the conviction that taking a four up the Marikina would be unduly hazardous. The idea was abandoned." Richardson goes on: "My sons and I also rowed to Laguna de Bay in a clinker pair, to see whether that had any promise. What we determined was that, unless the club showed in force, there was a real danger that some of the locals would engage in river piracy and make off with the boats."

In July 1960, a special challenge race was staged in which a "business boat" — made up of Miles, Dougan, Dickinson and Armstrong — defeated,

“discreetly”, the “diplomatic boat” of Ritchie, Richardson, Lilley and Parsons. This race, Richardson notes, “took place, as I recall, at night, after a good bit of imbibing. It may have been one of our efforts to reinstate Club Night, serve food and invite the fairer sex. Certainly none of us should have been out on the river in competition. Token flashlights were affixed to the bows, but this was no safeguard against the sorts of things normally afloat in the

have done if we had had a heart attack on our hands. In Kaukonen’s case, I need not have feared for he left Manila for Oslo or Stockholm, learned to ski and a year later won a cross-country skiing contest against locals who had skied for years.”

It was at this time that names were given to the remainder of the Club’s boats. To this time, only five carried names: the three light sculls, “Trudy”, “Odo” and “Pourquoi Pas” (the private scull of



U.S. Embassy beating Standard Vacuum in 1960

Pasig.”

Steger surrendered his sculling title to Frost Prioleau at the Christmas Regatta in December 1960. In other events, Matti Tavela and J.P. de Visser van Bloeman won the heavy pairs, the MBC four of Don Richardson II (bow), Graeme Armstrong, Paul Dougan and Tom Wells (stroke) with Grove Richardson (cox) defeated a Nomads four, Steger and Armstrong won the light pairs and, in a special challenge race, the US Embassy beat a Standard Vacuum four. Richardson recalls the circumstances of the challenge race very well: “It did occasion a search for willing parties at the American Embassy. The first new candidate was Jorma Kaukonen, Labor Attache, whose blue Finnish oaths reverberated across the Pasig for many an evening until he had mastered the heavy pair. I picked up Angelo Semeraro, who had at least seen a shell before, from the Naval Attache’s Office. As bow we persuaded Carl McMillan, a member of the Embassy Political Section with a year in frosh crew at some eastern college. I believe my elder son coxed. We instituted the University of California tradition of rowing, with “Ready all . . . row” as the starting signal, replacing the British wording. To call a halt, the signal was “Way enough”. Similar recruitment activity was taking place, fortunately, within Stanvac, and as I recall, Ken Repath and another younger fellow were the first novices from that quarter.” Concerning Kaukonen, “who took a long time to teach”, Richardson adds that he “was 51, and I have often wondered what we would

Thomi Keller presented by him to the club on his departure in 1952) and the two light fours “Lander I” and “Lander II”. Richardson recalls that “It seemed to me that we ought to give the boats identities and I had the names of most of the past presidents, reaching as far back in history as possible, assigned to the boats”. The names thus honored were Kingsley, Arundell, Schulthess, Altwegg, Goldman, Barracough, Jacquest and Buckle. Richardson continues: “To build tradition further, I instituted a Berkely practice of using the blades of broken oars to record the regatta results. It was our hope that the tradition would endure, and provide the sort of decor that the club lacked.”

Two interesting events marked the club’s activities in 1961. Firstly, there was a further development in the earlier attempts to get the schools rowing: both Ateneo de Manila University and the American School commenced rowing. Richardson gives the following account of how this came about: “Throughout 1960 much talk was devoted to the need to increase the Filipino membership, and enhance the Club’s chances for survival. My sons were then attending the Ateneo de Manila, and I approached Father McPhelin, to see whether or not something could be arranged that would involve the school. He talked with Father Rector Araneta, and as I recall, the responsibility fell to the Voice of Liberation from Corregidor, Father Ortiz. Boys began to turn up for instruction. They learned well, and to my astonishment, with no damage to the boats (the heavy

fours were used). Similar overtures to the American School by Kaukonen, a member of the School Board, resulted in welcome participation from that quarter." Outings by the students were soon, in fact, at remarkably high levels.

The first-ever outing by Ateneo is recorded in the University's journal, "The Guidon", as follows: "At dawn of a cloudy May 28th [1961], four intrepid Ate-neans braved the morning cold, took to their shorts and shirts and jumped aboard a waiting boat by the banks of the Pasig river. These men were the Colum-buses of Philippine collegiate rowing. These were the first Blue Oarsmen. Arturo Ledesma, Renato Sar-miento and Raul Nivera, A.B. seniors, and Tucker Richardson from the Ateneo high school, manned their sculls. Coach Mariano Ezpeleta Jr., Harvard rower of a few years back, was on hand to explain the rudiments of a sport that grew whiskers long before basketball was born." (It may be noted that, while American School oarsmen rarely stayed on in Manila but pursued further studies in the States, the early Ateneo rowers included a number who were to become long-term club stalwarts such as Joey Ansaldo and Vic Dualan.)

appears to have been Patricia Ann Adams, of the U.S. Air Force, whose membership dated from November 1961. Two months later, two U.S. Embassy ladies — Shirley Epstein and Louise Huf-ford — also signed up.

Richardson notes, in summary, that "One way or another, we expanded the membership and activity of the club, hoping that one or another of the innova-tions would stick, and become the basis for survival of the institution".

Outings in 1961 (including the schoolboys) reached an average of 169 per month, an increase of 35 per cent over the previous year. And the member-ship was keen and enthusiastic: "much greater strength arrived from Stanvac. The Australians Graeme Armstrong and David Ritchie remained active. The Swiss, Max Steger and Hans Schmid, were mainstays. The Finns and pseudo Finns, Tavela and Kaukonen, provided superb support and enthusiasm. The Dutch, represented by J.P. de Visser van Bloeman, would have been even more useful in greater numbers." (Hans Schmid, Richardson adds, "was something of a 'strong man', amusing and very self-confident. He attached two rear view mirrors to the



Ateneo's winning crew in 1961 receive their trophy from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Richardson: (l. to r.) Timmy Nivera, Anthony Hill, Clayton Moore, Joey Ansaldo and Vic Dualan

The second event of interest was that ladies started becoming members of the club in their own right. Richardson says that "Since I had had my wife rowing for some time, it seemed only natural to see whether the idea of female members would work, given the limited nature of the facilities and the stern traditions to the contrary". The first lady member

scull he was in the habit of using, presenting an incon-gruous appearance when he went out for a row.")

At the 1961 Spring Regatta, the US Embassy — Standard Vacuum event was "re-rowed". The Embassy crew, with Donald Richardson Jr. replacing Angelo Semeraro, proved too good again. Dougan and Steger won the double sculls, while other events

included a novice pairs, an American four versus "international" four race, and a mixed banca race.

Attendance at the 1961 Christmas Regatta numbered more than 300, many present to see Ateneo win the first-ever clash with American School. Ateneo's crew comprised Vic Dualan (bow), Joey Ansaldo, Anthony Hill and Clayton "Tripp" Moore III (stroke) with Timmy Nivera (cox). Ezpeleta was coach of the winning crew. Among the other winners were Hans Schmid and Erwin Gabler in the double sculls and Donald Richardson and Carl McMillan in the light pairs with Jun Ezpeleta coxing both crews. A ladies' pair was also on the program, with Germain Mulvey and Susie Emory, coxed by Grove Richardson, romping away with the race.

Malcolm Churchill, a future President, first joined the club in December 1961. He recalls that "One of the Club traditions of the time was to gather, after a row, around the table in a dimly lit corner, which must have been about where the spectator gallery now is and roll the dice for a round or two of drinks. Many pleasant moments were spent around the dice cups." (The table referred to is, no doubt, the handsome round table bearing the club crest which was purchased in 1961 and bears the names of the 32 members who each contributed ₱20 towards the cost.)

The 1961 annual meeting could look back on a successful year although financially a loss of ₱160 before depreciation had resulted. Participants in the meeting were distressed however on one matter: after the Secretary had written to the Far Eastern Rowing Association requesting a supply of ties for Boat Club members, a reply was received indicating that "such ties were reserved for members who participated in one of the FERA Interport Regattas". A "general feeling of indignation" was the result.

The club was featured in an interesting article by Perry C. Solis in the *Philippines Herald Magazine* early in 1962. The writer noted that "Way down at Havana street in Sta. Ana, oarsmen of different nationalities hold their activities which consist mostly of friendly short-distance rowing races. Tuesday afternoon is the most choice time for them to congregate and make a row or two over the Pasig river after a tiresome routinary work in the office. They race up to seven in the evening and later complete the affair at the clubhouse chatting out their experiences over a bottle of cold coke or beer."

After noting that regattas were held at Easter and Christmas, Solis continued: "They are a happy lot, these MBC oarsmen — winners and losers — and their wives, husbands, friends and enthusiasts join in the fun and spirit by cheering for their loved ones".

The article continued:

"To the middle-aged members of the club, rowing, one of the oldest forms of sport along with polo game, is a sort of energetic recreational activity wherein they can oar fast and swift with every second counted unlike in the office where a day's work seems a longish activity with every second a patient waiting.

"On the other hand, younger members take rowing seriously and spend two or three hours each morning polishing up their wares. Schmid and McMillan,



1961 Ateneo crew in action

two of the younger bloods, say rowing is a form of exercise that gives them vigor and pep. 'It's nice rowing down here and make the water your slave,' they remark. To the oaring women, rowing, they claim, keeps their figures trim and slender.

"The club, as of now, are propagating the sport among the prep schools and colleges. Already, there are two schools in the country that included rowing in their sports agenda. These schools are the Ateneo de Manila and American School. To-date, there are a total of 40 student members in the club.

"The captain of the club, Donald Richardson, believes that with more younger members in the association competitive rowing, particularly the regattas, becomes more keener and livelier. He says anyone can join the club as long as he is interested in this sport and loves the water. 'The more oarsmen there are, the better and happier club we have,' he quips."

The year 1962 was a very successful one for the club due to a "tremendous" increase in outings by members plus the activities of the schoolboy rowers. The Treasurer could look back on a profit before depreciation of ₱4,137 due to the increased income from outings and the heightened attendance at regattas, especially when the schoolboys were participating. Additional funds could be spent on boat maintenance.

nance while 40 more shares of San Miguel stock were purchased, taking the total to 173 valued at over ₱7,500 (this constituting the "Boat Replacement Fund"). In this year, too, a new club crest — a sword-holding griffin over a pair of crossed oars — came into use. Previously, a blue and white flag with the initials "MBC" had sufficed.

Eleven races were scheduled for the Spring Regatta in March 1962, including three for the schoolboys. The club pairs went to Butt and Hemphill, the sculls to Schmid over Prioleau, and the ladies' pairs to Doyle and Mulvey. Other events showed considerable imagination: there was a Boat Club versus Yacht Club fours (won by the Yacht Club!), a "Volunteer Mixed Class Pairs and Doubles" (won by Schmid and Hans Muller), an "Impromptu Fours" (won by W. Doyle, Churchill, Ansaldo and Moore), a "Mixed Fours" (won by



Winning double scull at the 1962 Christmas Regatta: (l. to r.) Boying Eusebio, Michael Parsons and Walter Abraham

Adams, Viehe, Bentley and Wiltshire) and a "Challenge Fours" (won by Kaukonen Jr., Niemeyer, Kaukonen and Wiltshire). In the interschool races, the winning Ateneo four in the Christmas Regatta repeated its win over the American School but in the race for second boats, the American School was successful. A pair-oar race between two American School crews completed the program.

During 1962, the Board gave consideration to moving the club to another location along the Pasig. By early 1963, however, the President reported to the club's 60 members that the efforts to find suitable land had come to no avail. "The last possibility, the Lissar Estate at the ½ mile mark, has been zoned commercial and will soon be utilized for a flour mill." Instead, the Board decided to spend an amount estimated at about ₱3,500 in repairing and rebuilding the existing clubhouse. The work was to include lowering the ceiling; changing the location of the bar; installing a ladies' room; building an enclosed locker room;

changing insect infested timbers and flooring; and extending the present club facilities. (Most unfortunately, some valuable club records, including photo albums back to 1949, were destroyed during the cleaning out prior to the renovations.) A number of the club's older members agreed to shoulder a portion of the financial burden and the remaining amount was pro-rated among the other members.

The year 1963 was one of considerable activity for the Boat Club. In mid-January, a party for past President Gus Laurent, visiting Manila from Switzerland, was held. The Spring Regatta took place at the end of March, with a party being staged at the club the same evening to celebrate the completion of the renovations to the club house. Six events were scheduled: International Pairs (Netherlands v. Australia), club fours, single sculls, double sculls, scratch fours and a special MBC versus Manila Yacht Club challenge. In addition, schoolboy rowing was arranged by the individual teams from Ateneo and American School.

At this stage, some problems had arisen with the schoolboy rowing. A letter from the Treasurer of Ateneo dated 7 October 1963 states that "the Ateneo has not in any way contracted or arranged with the Manila Boat Club for rowing privileges for any of its students . . . the several students interested in rowing were clearly told that the Ateneo, in its present sports program, was not sponsoring or supporting any activities of its students in connection with the Manila Boat Club, and that any arrangements the students might make with the Manila Boat Club would have to be on their own responsibility and not that of Ateneo de Manila." The outstanding account was paid and the Boat Club was requested to "not bill us for further dues".

During the year, the club's finances also caused concern. The Treasurer issued a notice advising that "The condition of the Club at 31 August 1963, while not precarious, is cause for great concern and its correction will require the cooperation of all members". Fixed operating expenses (such as salaries and depreciation) were high and regatta expenses far exceeded regatta income. The cost of maintenance of the building and grounds had increased considerably and bar sales had declined. The remodelling, including the purchase of four lamps, had cost a total of ₱5,657 and the contributions of members and companies had amounted to only ₱2,970. Accordingly an overall loss for the year (before depreciation) of ₱1,188 had been experienced.

A further Interport Regatta against Hong Kong was arranged for Manila in December 1963. The Boat Club crews selected were as follows: Interport

Four — Michael Parsons (bow), Bernard Kubitza, Peter McArtney and Willem van Huystee (stroke) with Jun Ezpeleta (cox); Interport Pair — Peter Gamble (bow) and van Huystee (stroke) with Peter Beange (cox); Interport Double Sculls — R. Abraham (bow) and Gamble (stroke); and Interport Sculls — Hans Schmid. The regatta began with an Ateneo versus American School race with the latter scoring an easy win. In the Interport races, the honors were split — MBC won the single sculls and the pairs (by 4 lengths) but Hong Kong had clear wins in the fours and the double sculls.

A committee was appointed soon after the regatta to report on the condition of the boats, oars, boathouse and tools. As a result, four boats were removed from use for repair and efforts made to improve the situation all around.

A series of six "Club Tie Suppers" were held in 1964, most stag but one open to ladies as well. These functions were "designed to create interest in the Club and many guests to these functions found themselves to be members before departing".

The first rowing event of the year was a row to the Yacht Club early in February with two fours and a

sculler taking part. The Spring Regatta was held in April with five events being contested. The school-boys' fours went to the American School, the winner also collecting the newly-presented Shell Cup for this event. Australia (Gamble and J.W. Allen) defeated the Netherlands (van Huystee and de Visser van Bloeman) in the International Pairs. Schmid won the single sculls from van Huystee and Gamble and Lewis took the heavy double sculls. The light fours was won by the crew of van Huystee, Schmid, McArtney and Abraham. Musicians were engaged for this regatta, adding to the general enjoyment but resulting in a substantial loss from the financial point of view.

When news was received of the holding of a FEARA regatta in Singapore during 1964, the club decided to participate and to commence fund raising. The major fund raising proposal was in connection with the Autumn Regatta. Brian Harber took charge of preparing a program and selling advertising and a very handsome 54-page document resulted plus a profit of over ₱6,000. Great was the disappointment, especially among those training hard, when Singapore had to withdraw its offer. Later on, the venue was altered to Hong Kong at the end of the year but this proved not suitable to other clubs and the 1964



MBC oarsmen for the 1963 Interport against Hong Kong: (l. to r.) (seated) H. Schmid, P. Gamble, M. Parsons, B. Kubitza, W. Abraham; (standing) P. McArtney, M. Ezpeleta Jr., W. van Huystee

FEARA was never held.

Meanwhile, the club staged a race between two fours from Jones Bridge to Ayala Bridge as a contribution to the Araw ng Manila water pageant in June, helping to celebrate the 393rd anniversary of the founding of Manila. The winning crew received a handsome trophy from the Mayor, and this was given to the club for annual competition. A week after this event, a severe typhoon hit Manila and, although the clubhouse itself was not materially damaged, a large mango tree in front of the clubhouse and a balete tree planted by Jack Kingsley in 1932 at the rear of the premises were uprooted and could not be saved. Wire screening had also to be replaced.

A coaching boat was purchased from the Yacht Club (at a cost of ₱200) during the year plus an outboard motor (at a cost of ₱500).

A large program of events was contested at the Autumn Regatta in September (for which the new practice of announcing club regattas by posters in suitable locations was continued). Schmid won the final of the sculls and Ansaldo and Hemphill took the light pairs. The light fours went to van Huystee, McCartney, Winebrenner and Pont and races were also held for heavy pairs, heavy double sculls, scratch fours and schoolboy fours (with American School again successful).

For the year to August 1964, rowing outings averaged 109 per month compared with 135 the previous year. The monthly spoon competition for most outings continued with van Huystee winning on four

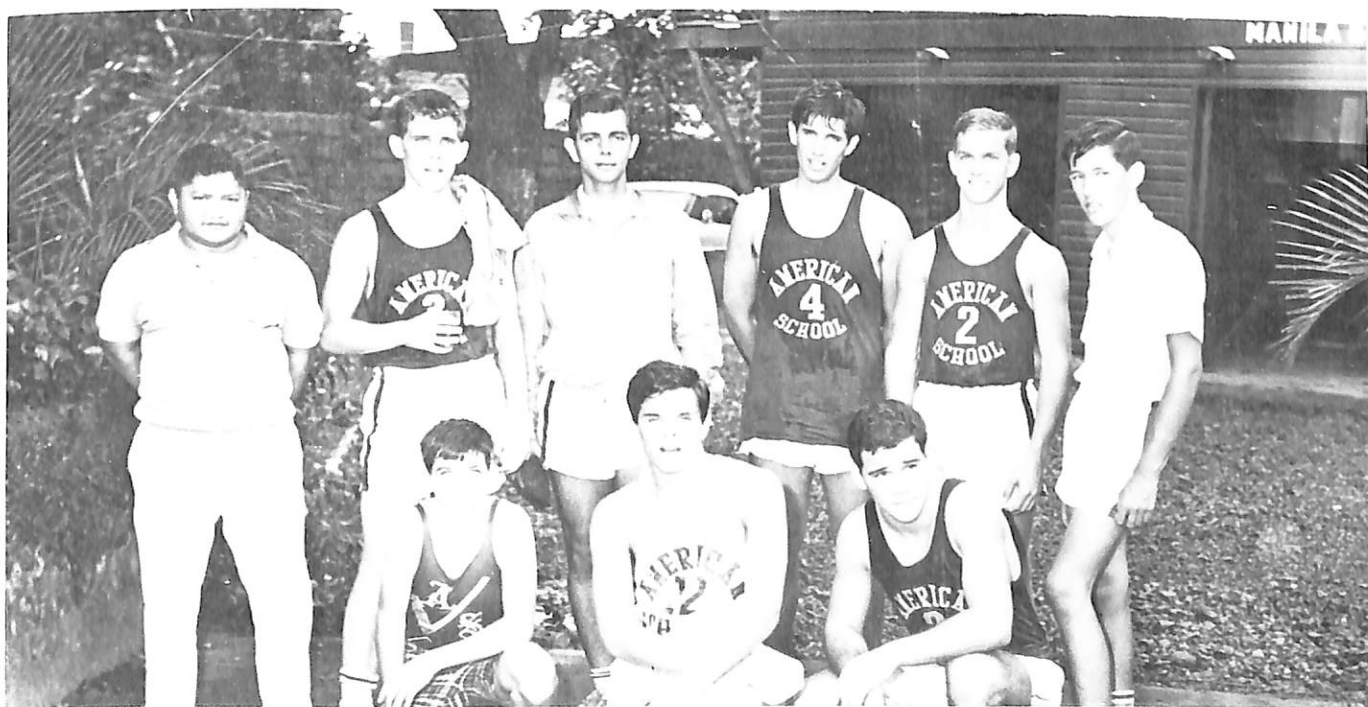
occasions. The financial result before depreciation was a substantial loss of ₱3378 (the funds raised from the program being excluded). One new measure taken was the introduction of chit-signing rather than paying in cash. Active membership at the end of August stood at 56.

At the annual meeting, held at the end of 1964,



Brian Harber

vigorous discussion took place on the desirability of the club having one or more eights. This resulted from the fact that a number of eights belonging to Shanghai Rowing Club had, prior to the Communist take-over, found their way to the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and the Victoria Recreation Club in Hong Kong. The latter body was not using its boats and the meeting recommended to the incoming Committee "to fully



Winning American School oarsmen, 1965. Coach Tablante is at left

and most carefully" explore the possibility of obtaining them. It was realized that having eights would require an extension to the boatshed and also a substantial lengthening of the pantalan.

The year 1965 was one of considerable activity for the club. A "Winter Regatta" was held at the end of January comprising eight events. Walter Abraham won the single sculls and combined with Leddy to win the double sculls as well. The club fours went to the crew of Sayde (bow), Pont, van der Steur and McCartney (stroke) coxed by Anacleto, and Sayde and Pont won the heavy pairs. American School won both events — "A" and "B" — against Ateneo with the remaining races being scratch fours and invitation light pairs.

A row to the Manila Yacht Club was undertaken in the middle of February with four fours, a pair and two scullers participating.

A highlight of the year was the FEARA Regatta held in Hong Kong on 5-6 March. A notice to members invited them to indicate interest and availability but not to comment on their competency to row in one of the crews — this would be decided by the Committee! The four selected comprised Ansaldo (bow), Pont, Leddy and McCartney (stroke) with Abraham (cox) and Abraham was also the selected sculler. Van Schaardenburg competed in the veteran



Walter Abraham

to McDonald, the ultimate champion. An invitation eights event was added to the program with MBC and American School rowers combining to defeat a crew from Penang Boat Club by 2 lengths.

A Manila/Hong Kong Interport Regatta took place in conjunction with the FEARA, with Hong Kong winning both sculls and fours events.

While in Hong Kong the question of purchasing one or more eights was resolved. The two boats in question were at least 30 years old and required



The winning light four at the 1965 Spring Regatta boating: (l. to r.) Spaulding, Pont, Johnson and Ansaldo

sculls, with Winebrenner acting as team manager and reserve. A crew from each of American School and Ateneo also made the trip to Hong Kong to compete. Hong Kong was successful in winning all finals, the MBC four bowing to R.A.F. Seletar of Singapore by ½ length in a heat. Abraham went down by 4 lengths

extensive renovation and repair. The cost of repair plus that of extending the boatshed and pantalan would, it was decided, be quite out of proportion to the amount of use likely to be obtained and the idea was dropped.

Back in Manila, the Spring Regatta was held at

the end of March. Four crews contested the light fours with the final going to the crew of Ansaldo (bow), Pont, Johnson and Spaulding (stroke). Johnson and Pont also scored a good win in the light pairs over the more experienced pair of van Huystee and van Schaardenburg. On the evening of the regatta, the annual dinner was reintroduced, being held at the Manila Polo Club and attended by 50 members and their guests. In the belief that the club had been founded in 1885, the Dinner also celebrated the club's "80th anniversary".

The enthusiasm engendered by these activities could not, unfortunately, be sustained and the Summer Regatta scheduled for 5 June was cancelled "due to lack of interest on the part of the rowing members".

₱30 to ₱50 for the entrance fee; from ₱15 to ₱20 per month for rowing members; and from ₱12 to ₱15 per month for non-rowing members. (In August 1965, "in view of the recent San Miguel Brewery increase in prices", the price of beer in the clubhouse was increased to ₱0.70 per bottle!)

A part-time accountant employed by the club was dismissed during the year as "our books were not kept in the order in which we would have liked them to be". Thus the club's staff remained at three — Anacleto, Fidel and Lacson.

The 1965 annual general meeting also agreed that the club should host the FEARA Regatta in February 1966 with a Manila/Hong Kong Interport Regatta being held in conjunction and preparations for this big occasion soon commenced. Meanwhile,



Receiving line at the 1965 "80th anniversary" Dinner: (l. to r.) the McArtneys and the van Schaardenburgs

Outings during the year ended August 1965 overall averaged 118 per month, showing a slight increase on the previous year. Recording of mileages in the log book had commenced in September 1964 due to presentation of the Caltex Cup for the highest mileage rowed during the year. The first awardee — for the year ended August 1965 — was Hendrik Pont with 310 miles.

The financial result before depreciation was another loss — ₱2400 — although an amount of ₱2447 received as final payment of the club's war damage claim against the U.S. Government was placed in reserve for building renovations and repairs. Because of the loss, increases in dues were approved at the 1965 annual general meeting — from

however, at the instigation of the new President, Peter van Schaardenburg, a Dutch-sponsored informal row and social gathering was held in November 1965 open to all members with a group of Dutch agricultural students at Los Baños as special guests.

A FEARA Regatta organization committee, well headed by Peter McArtney, was established and it decided, among other activities, to prepare a special program. A 72-page program well supported by advertisers was the result and enabled a profit of over ₱10,000 to be shown on the occasion.

Only Hong Kong was able to visit Manila for the regatta and they succeeded in winning most of the trophies. Their FEARA Four (concurrently Interport "A") beat the MBC crew of Gustavsen (bow),

Harber, Johnson and van Huystee (stroke) but by only 1 length over the one mile course. Wilson of Hong Kong beat Louis Baker of Manila in the FEARA sculls but the latter had some consolation by rowing over to win the FEARA veteran sculls. Van der Heyden and Hardie of Manila were beaten by Wilson and Brandwood of Hong Kong in the FEARA pairs and Hong Kong also won the Interport "B" Fours (over Sayde (bow), Preston, van der Steur and van Schaardenburg (stroke)), the Interport "B" Pairs (over Sayde and Pont), the Interport Double Sculls (over Roque and Leddy) and the Interport Single Sculls (over both Baker and Parsons). Three other events completed the program: the MBC President's Four defeated the FEARA Hon. Secretary's four; a United States four beat Britain in the "International Fours" event; and the American School's "bulky rowers" beat Ateneo once again in a school fours event.

Following the success of this regatta, the Spring Regatta was held at the end of March. Events were rowed in sculls, double sculls, pairs and fours and the regatta was a success but, unfortunately, the results are not available. A few weeks later, the traditional row to the Yacht Club took place, with three fours and a sculler completing the course. A further "afternoon of events" was held early in May with races in sculls, pairs, fours and double sculls, being followed by a sneak preview of a new film by former club president, Mike Parsons. (Shortly thereafter, the club was pleased to receive the donation of a sculling boat, "Michele", from Mr. Parsons.)



Mike Parsons

Financial matters were now again causing concern with the club's expenses in excess of income and it was decided in mid-year to retrench one employee. The services of Felix Lacson, which had not always been fully satisfactory, were accordingly terminated. He had been with the club for 14 years. On a pre-

depreciation basis, the club showed a profit for the year in excess of ₱10,000 but this was almost wholly due to the FEARA Regatta profit.

The winner of the Caltex Cup for most miles rowed in 1965/66 was Kees van der Heyden (of Shell!) with 476½ miles. Seven other members exceeded 150 miles each during the year.

Rowing activities in 1966/67 were at a much



Louis Baker

reduced level. An "Informal Row" was held in October to farewell Willem van Huystee and a restricted Christmas Regatta was held in December. A Winter Regatta took place early in March 1967 "after various postponements". Four races took place with the light fours going to Leddy (bow), Fondse, Wiersema and McArtney (stroke) and the sculls to Dodge over Hardie. The other events were school fours (with American School winning again) and scratch fours, largely composed of the school-boys.

Board meetings were few and far between and, at them, much discussion was devoted to how to reactivate members' interest in the club. A number of "club tie suppers" and social evenings were arranged but they did not have the desired result of encouraging members to participate in rowing activities. At the end of August 1967 the President noted that "At present, there are only approximately six active rowing members and it is obvious that unless the Club can increase the active membership, then a decision must be taken as to whether the Club can continue to bear its present rate of overheads. The situation is indeed serious and no member should be disillusioned." The Boat Captain described the continuing trend of members leaving the Philippines or switching to less demanding sports coupled with their ranks not being filled by new rowers as "a dangerous development which if left unchecked could spell the end of our Club". Outings for the year averaged only 61 per

month, a drop of 45 per cent compared with the previous year. With the reduced number of active members, it had been "nigh impossible to get sufficient rowers on the water to prepare for the type of regattas held in previous years".

Four members did, however, exceed 150 miles in the year, and the performance of one of them, Father Jim Dodge, must be noted for he totalled no less than 842 miles. Willem van Huystee describes him as "certainly the most unusual priest I ever ran into and a very enthusiastic boat man," so much so that one day he and I met on the river sculling and, even though he was at least twenty years my senior, he refused to be overtaken and concentrated so much on staying ahead of me that he paid no attention to a bend in the river and put the scull with full force against the embankment and then graciously sank into the river, with the scull in splinters, of course". (Van Huystee continues: "He is now on assignment in Austria, involved with orphan children and, according to his brother, he has recently taken up "hot dog" skiing after becoming bored with skate-board riding, and all that while being in his early sixties".)

Other rowing clubs in Asia were also having problems, it seemed, and the 1967 FEARA Regatta, scheduled to be hosted by the Royal Singapore Yacht Club, was cancelled.

Only five members attended the annual meeting of the club held in October 1967 in a private residence. Among matters discussed was the possibility of a newsletter to generate interest in the club. Mike Parsons was proposed as President, subject to his approval, but he left the Philippines in January 1968 for an indefinite period and it is not clear who, if anybody, took his place.

While limited rowing activity continued, no regattas were conducted at all in the year 1968. More seriously, no Board meetings were held, no annual report for 1967/68 was prepared and no annual meeting conducted towards the end of 1968. In July, the Hon. Treasurer, Kees van der Heyden, sent letters to several Manila colleges attempting to induce them to use the club's facilities but without success. Even Ateneo de Manila, receiving a bill from the club for dues said to be owing for the period 1966 to May 1968, decided to terminate its arrangements with the Boat Club. Finally many of the few experienced members remaining left the Philippines for other shores. Rowing outings for the whole of 1968 dropped to the dismal level of 370, or 31 per month.



Poster announcing 1966 Far Eastern Amateur Rowing Association cum Interport Regatta

Kees Leenders, who joined the club in July 1968 and soon after took over from van der Heyden as Treasurer, recalls that "Apart from Jun Ezpeleta, Nap Roque, Nandy Garcia, a few FNCB people, one or two from Phillips, there were very few members active in 1968. It was not seldom that, coming down on two successive Saturdays, you would see nobody's name [in the log book] other than your own which you put down last time. But old Anacleto was there, of course, and the boats in surprisingly good condition and the club building old and peeling a bit, but clean. . . In itself the club was in a healthy financial position short term (San Miguel shares, land, building) but slowly dying of attrition. Not for the first time, probably, it was thought that it might be better to sell the club and distribute the proceeds to the remaining members."



VI: SQUASH — 1969 to 1973



The first club meeting after that of October 1967 took place in February 1969. It dubbed itself the annual meeting and Kees Leenders took the chair. Six other members were present. A new Board of Directors was elected (all those present being successful in the election) and the job of reestablishing the club on a sound basis commenced. Amongst the matters discussed at the meeting was absent members: "It was suggested that the Club laws be amended to avoid the situation whereby some persons paid ₱30 to become absent members, in the expectation that if the club closed down they would be entitled to a share of the club's net worth (which was perhaps around ₱200,000)". The minutes go on: "Further consideration was deferred until the by-laws are located".



Kees Leenders

At the following meeting, in June, a major event occurred: a motion "That quotations be sought for construction of a squash court at the Manila Boat Club", was considered and carried. As the minutes record, "It was felt that squash would be popular with existing members and might attract new members who might later also row. The club had space and sufficient funds to meet the cost (perhaps about ₱25,000)."

Of this period, Kees Leenders, "speaking strictly as an historian", notes "A big change came over the

Club when it was joined [in early 1969] by Alan May, who succeeded in re-awakening/re-animating the few remaining active members. Without his friendly pushing, calling up members, suggesting that they bring friends along, being there on Saturdays and Sundays, putting together a new Board, rowing (and rowing), suggesting a small internal regatta, bringing all 'Australilia' along etc etc it is very doubtful that the Club would have survived. . . Of course, under the ashes there were some (m)embers left. The Board became quickly enthusiastic about Alan's suggestion to put up a squash court (seconded by the undersigned, I am proud to say, and further supported by Jun Ezpeleta who had played American squash in the U.S.)."

Although the new Board was not then aware of it, the sport of squash *had* existed in Manila previously. In about 1932, the Manila Club erected two courts at its San Marcelino premises. Philip Arundell was, indeed, present at their inauguration and recalls how Governor-General Teddy Roosevelt, "who was invited to play an exhibition game with Tommy Aplin (who was very good), defeated him in no uncertain manner". Another report asserts that the Army and Navy Club also had one or more squash courts just prior to the War. Both clubs were, of course, completely destroyed during the liberation of Manila and neither rebuilt their courts (the Manila Club constructed bowling alleys instead!). Two American-style courts were built at Clarke Air Base at Angeles City in the mid-1960s but these, of course, were not open for public use. An American-dimensioned court was also built in a private home in Quezon City in 1968 by Ramon Tablante, a former Harvard University medical student who had been impressed by the game. (This originally concrete-floored, no-ceilinged court was converted to a regular British-style court in 1972 and opened to the public as the Hillock Squash Club.)

Moves to strengthen the club proceeded in other directions. Group membership was granted to the Organization of Netherlands Volunteers (the Dutch Peace Corps) and a keen batch of young Dutchmen were soon rowing. Continued encouragement was extended to Ateneo and the American School, including reduced fees for any of their oarsmen joining the club after leaving school. The son of Anacleto

Opposite: World Champion Jonah Barrington playing at the Boat Club

— Boying — was taken on the staff as boatman to learn the craft from his father, who had not been in good health. Improvements to the pantalan and other club facilities were planned.

Regular outings on Sunday mornings soon boosted the number and the skill of the active oarsmen, while small regattas were held in both August and September. At the regattas, most races went to members of the Dutch Volunteers and, particularly, to the two outstanding oarsmen Jos Bredie and Egbert Balsma, who put in many, many miles in training. Kees Leenders recalls these two “training ferociously in light pair, double scull, single scull, every afternoon and sometimes twice a day, getting steadily thinner and browner. Alan May as coach. Egbert, black bel-

outings overall totalled 652, a 76 per cent increase over 1968 but still well below the level of earlier years.

By the end of the year, also, plans for construction of the squash court had been drawn up and necessary building licenses were being obtained. In preparation for this, the latest copy of the by-laws which could be located was carefully examined and amendments proposed to prepare for the new “era”. A crucial change — to overcome fears that the number of members interested in squash might soon overwhelm the number of members interested in rowing — was to limit entitlement to vote at meetings and to serve on the Board of Directors to members “taking an active part in rowing activities” (later con-



Jos Bredie (bow) and Egbert Balsma

ter in judo, very strong and seldom uttering a word. Jos, talkative, intelligent and with the stronger character. They did well in regattas, obviously, and finally made it all the way to Australia” [where they represented the club at the Sydney Rowing Club’s Centenary Regatta and the Australian National Championships in May, 1970, on their way back to Holland].

The first major regatta for almost three years was held in December 1969. Six events were held, including two for schools with American School beating Ateneo in both. Balsma and Bredie won the light pairs easily and Balsma defeated Bredie in the sculls. The club light fours was won by the crew of May (bow), Smits, Policarpio and Ansaldo (stroke) while the Dutch Volunteers beat a combined Ateneo-American School crew in the heavy fours event.

For the year 1969 as a whole, Bredie totalled no less than 884 miles and Balsma 817½. Rowing

strued as having rowed at least three times). The club’s financial year was also altered from September 1 to August 31 to the calendar year. The new by-laws were approved in mid-December 1969. A membership circular, “Welcome to Manila Boat Club”, was also prepared in readiness for issue when construction of the squash court commenced.

Several quotations for construction of the court were received and, in April 1970, the contract was awarded to Eureka Engineering for the amount of ₱20,500.

Rowing activity was, meanwhile, continuing. The row to the Yacht Club was revived in January 1970 with four fours, a pair and two scullers taking part. The scullers — Balsma and Bredie — promptly rowed back the same afternoon. While funds were raised to help pay their expenses, Balsma and Bredie stepped up their training for the events in Australia. In April, a farewell regatta for them was held, during which

they gave an exhibition row. The light four event was won by Bredie (bow), Leenders, May and Policarpio (stroke) and the heavy four by the Dutch Volunteer crew of Bruin (bow), Rosenstok, Pronk and van Dam (stroke). (The Sydney Rowing Club Centenary Regatta was held on 2-3 May 1970. Balsma and Bredie gained second place in their heat of the maiden pairs and came fourth in the final. They improved rapidly with intensive training in Australia but found the competition in the Australian Championship Coxed Pairs at the Australian Rowing Championships at Penrith a week later far too strong. At this regatta, Balsma also competed in the Australian Championship Junior Sculls but, once again, found the standard too high. Regatta programs and newspapers made special mention of the fact that oarsmen from the Philippines were racing at regattas in Australia for the first time.)

Construction of the squash court proceeded. It was decided at an early stage that a British — or international — style court should be constructed but, with none other to copy in the Philippines (and the only U.S.-style courts being in the military bases), this inevitably led to problems. The initial source of the court's dimensions was, in fact, the *Encyclopedia Britannica*! It was decided to put holes in the telltale at the base of the front wall to permit air-flow and the contractor felt this was such a good idea that he started to add telltales on the side walls as well! Rather than sell the club's San Miguel shares at that particular time, a bank loan of ₱25,000 was obtained to pay the construction cost plus the cost of concreting the driveway (to present a better "image" to possible

new members), re-screening the building, and cementing the passageway from the foot of the stairway to the entrance to the squash court.

The court was finally ready for opening on 26 July 1970 and a total of four rather nervous members were present for the big occasion. Alan May, as President, made a short speech expressing the hope that the court would trigger the increase in membership the club so badly needed. The court was then christened with champagne, the remainder consumed, and the Captain, Jun Ezpeleta, and the President took the court to play the first game. They were followed by the Treasurer, Joey Ansaldo, and the Secretary, Kees Leenders, all being watched by the very puzzled families of Anacleto and Fidel who had no clue at all as to what this Board of Directors was up to.

The court opening was preceded by a Board meeting at which, with commendable forethought — and some knowledge of the consumption of liquids that follows the game of squash — the price of beer at the club was raised from ₱0.60 per bottle by more than 50 per cent to ₱0.95 per bottle.

A major boost to the success of this undertaking soon occurred. Earlier in 1970, Pakistan International Airlines had agreed to sponsor a tour by five champion squash players to the various cities in Asia and Europe to which it flew. In June, Aftab Jawaid, a PIA employee and three-time British Amateur Squash Champion, visited Manila to decide the "best" location for the "squash circus" in that city. He was shocked at first to find no court existed in Manila and, second, delighted to learn the Boat Club was building one. He came to inspect the on-going



The PIA "squash circus": (l. to r.) Rainer Ratina, Aftab Jawaid, Jonah Barrington, Abou Taleb and Sharif Khan

construction and made several useful suggestions as to its completion. And then, at the end of October, he was back with the rest of the troupe — Jonah Barrington, the reigning world champion, Sharif Khan, Abou Taleb and Rainer Ratinac. They played on two consecutive nights, delighted the large crowds with their skill and wizardry, gained a great deal of newspaper and television coverage, and helped enormously to boost the game of squash in Manila and the recovery of the Manila Boat Club.

In 1969, three new members had joined the club and, at the end of that year, total dues-paying members had fallen to only 15. With the court almost completed and then in operation, the long-wished-for new members began to appear. Two were admitted in June, three more in July, 16 in August, ten in October, seven in November and ten more in December. New members in 1970 totalled 51 and membership at the end of the year stood at 58.

The special program prepared by the club for the October exhibition noted that "Although the squash court has been open only for three months, some thirty members are making good use of it, including a number who had never heard of the game before this time". It went on:

"The club's top players at the present time are principally persons who played the game in their home country before coming to the Philippines (and who, in many cases, have missed the opportunity of playing squash a great deal). Top of the club's squash 'ladder' is Mike Hartley, an Englishman with Warner, Barnes, and Mike has so far managed to maintain a fair gap over his other opponents. Number two is Scotsman Malcolm Peat, a lecturer at the University of the Philippines Medical School, here under the Colombo Plan. Then come two more Englishmen, John Purcell of Shell and John Goulden of the British Embassy. Bill Vawdrey, an Australian with the Asian Development Bank, is next, ahead of club captain Jun Expeleta, the top ranking Filipino member. Jun, however, played a great deal of squash at Harvard in his student years. A number of other Filipinos — quite new to the game initially — are now forging their way up the ladder. They include the Ansaldo brothers, Bobbie and Joey, and Mari Olbes, while persons of many other nationalities are also trying out the game."

On the rowing scene, a FEARA regatta was scheduled for Singapore at the end of October, 1970, the first for four years. MBC advised the organisers it would make every endeavour to be represented but that financial problems concerning participation would have to be overcome. Considerable training

ensued but, in the event, no crews could be sent, although the International (formerly American) School sent a four, stroked by Alan Stewart, and were successful in winning the event for College Fours and the club President also attended. The team from the Rowing Section of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club performed best overall with Changi Yacht Club of Singapore second.



Bill Vawdrey (left) talking to Judy and Mike Hartley with Malcolm Peat in the background

The report of the Board of Directors for the year ended December 1970 was a confident one. It began as follows: "The year 1970 saw a considerable revival in the fortunes of the Manila Boat Club. The opening of the club's squash court, late in July, led to a considerable increase in members, a number of whom are also keen oarsmen. The down-turn in the club's activities came to an effective end and a promising future now seems to lie ahead." Rowing outings totalled 672 compared with 652 in 1969 (when Balsma and Bredie were training so much) and only 370 in 1968 (all figures excluding the schoolboys). The fleet was in good order and use of the squash court — at a fee of ₱2 per half hour — had averaged 21 hours per week from the opening to the end of the year. Income in the first half of the year had been ₱3,252 but had increased to ₱20,478 in the second half. The 1969 net loss (before depreciation) of ₱7,152 had been turned into a net gain in 1970 of ₱3,964. Through the sale of the San Miguel shares for ₱14,000, the Bank loan outstanding had been reduced to ₱10,610.

At the annual meeting in March 1971, the possible need for a second squash court was raised and one of the first actions of the new Board was to approve its construction, in the face of the great demand for squash court bookings. It was also decided to incorporate a built-in gallery in the new court and to have new changing rooms for men and for women below the gallery, thus allowing for the conversion of the old

changing room area on the upper floor.

Meanwhile, another Boat Club-to-Yacht Club row was arranged in March with two fours, a double scull, a pair oar and a sculler taking part. Four oarsmen — Ben van der Kaay, Harm von Wier, Jim Collins and Denis Dovey — also rowed back to the club the same day, a distance of 19 miles in all.

and becoming enmeshed with a sampan.)

The major rowing event of the year was still to come — the Summer Regatta held early in July as part of the “Gala Weekend” during which the second squash court was inaugurated and the semi-finals and finals of the club’s first squash tournament held. (The lowest bidder for the construction work was



Winning open four at the 1971 Summer Regatta.

A seven-event regatta was held in April and was “an immense success. It has been a long time since so many crews have competed.” International School won three events — the school fours, the heavy pairs “A” and the heavy double sculls — while the light fours went to the crew of Denis Dovey (bow), Jun Ezpeleta, Jim Collins and Mike Jensen (stroke). Alan Stewart won the open sculls and teamed with Wim van Doornik to win the light pairs as well. (Stewart went on to compete for MBC at a Hong Kong regatta early in May, en route to the U.S. for higher studies. He was narrowly beaten in a semi-final of the sculling event after leading Hong Kong’s sculling champion

again Eureka Engineering, with Andy Reyes as principal. The contract was for ₱42,000, financed by a further bank loan. In addition, 22 members contributed ₱100 or more each towards construction costs, their action being suitably recorded on a second table in the club.) Nine rowing events were conducted, the heats on a Saturday morning and the finals the following afternoon, with large and enthusiastic crowds present on both occasions and a special program, replete with advertising, being prepared. The open fours went to Dovey (bow), Ezpeleta, May and Jensen (stroke), and the open sculls to Ezpeleta. Dovey and Collins won the open pairs and Pee wee Adriano and



Winning novice four receiving their trophies from Mary Rose Ezpeleta: (l. to r.) Andy Reyes, Pee wee Adriano, David Hailes and David McCormack

Collins the open double sculls. David McCormack and David Hailes won both the novice double sculls and the novice pairs and, with Adriano and Andy Reyes (who had been induced to try rowing but who never ever attempted squash), the novice fours as well. Adriano also won the novice sculls, while a ladies' double sculls was conducted and was won by Libby Horrobin and Carol Child.



Father Martinez and Felipe Monserrat inaugurating the second squash court

Four divisions were held in the squash tournament with 78 entries in all being received. After many exciting matches and many upsets, Mike Hartley emerged as the first open champion, defeating Bill Robinson in a five-set final before a crowd of around 150 (a rather sharp contrast to the crowd at the opening of the first squash court!). Wendy Collins beat Pat



First open squash champion, Mike Hartley (left) being congratulated by runner-up, Bill Robinson

McCormack in the ladies' final while S.P. Malbarosa defeated Vic Dualan to become novice champion and Pat Knapp beat Itong Reyes (father of the squash court builder) to win the veterans' final. Pakistani champion Aftab Jawaaid returned to the club to referee the finals, present the trophies and give an exhibition.

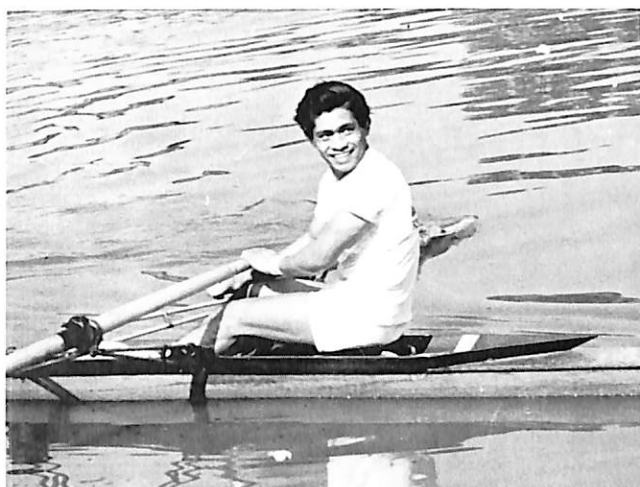
With club membership still expanding rapidly (161 new members were admitted to the club in 1971!), rowing activities also continued to boom. Rowing outings in 1971 leapt to 1689 from 672 the year before and a number of new events were added to the club's program. Vice-captain Jim Collins devised the "Head of the Pasig" and, in August, four fours, two double sculls and three pair-oars rowed up-river from the club house the four miles to the meeting of the Marikina and Pasig Rivers. The crews were then despatched on a handicap basis for the return journey. The event was won by a crew from Ateneo boated Dinjo Salang (bow), Rogelio Laset, Joseph Cohen and Manolete Gonzales (stroke) with Roberto Laviña (cox). In November, boats were towed to the Yacht Club and a handicap marathon back to the club was held. Twenty-three oarsmen took part, with the Dutch light four of van Doornik, Leeders, van der Kaay and von Weir completing the event in 1 hour 43 minutes and winning on a handicap basis by one second!

A two-day Christmas Regatta in December ended the year's rowing activities. Nine events were on the program including two races for schools both of which were won once again by the International School. A feature race was the reintroduced International Fours won, for the first time ever, by the Philippines with the crew of Jun Ezpeleta (bow), Toto Africa, Ben Policarpio and S.P. Malbarosa (stroke), who defeated the United States in the final by half a length. A crew from the Asian Development Bank won the Company Fours event and Joy Hailes and Judy Williams won the ladies' double sculls. Races for novice sculls (won by S.P. Malbarosa), novice double sculls (E. Verde and E. Moya), mixed double sculls (J. Hailes and J. Collins) and handicap sculls (D. Hailes) completed the program.

A disappointment during the year was that plans to participate in the FEARA Regatta hosted by the Miri Belait Boat Club of Brunei in October finally fell through. Despite the distance and the lack of scheduled air services to the regatta site, determined efforts to compete were made and special training undertaken. A very late and unexpected change of dates led to the club withdrawing.

Club activity continued at a high level in other areas. Usage of the squash courts reached 110 hours

per week in September and consideration of construction of a third court soon commenced. Competition for positions on the squash ladders for men and women proved vigorous and, apart from regular play, the courts also saw the club's own invention of "squash-alai" on two occasions. This was squash played according to the rules of jai-alai (the game played every evening except Sunday in the "fronton" in Manila with much (legal) betting taking place on the results), with players adopting the practice of wearing colored and numbered singlets and being cheered on by their supporters. Late in the year, five squash "trainers" were designated to play with members (for a small fee) and assist them to improve their



S.P. Malbarosa, novice sculling champion, 1971

games. (One of the five was, surprisingly, the previously well-overweight Fidel who had taken up the game and soon proved quite proficient — at the game and at coaching novices — and who, in the process, also lost a great deal of weight!)

Additional staff were required to cope with the

heightened activity and Anacleto, Fidel and Boying were joined by Fidel Argente Jr. and Danilo Sablan as bar assistants and Pablo Rodoy as assistant boatman.

Financially, the year was a very successful one, with a surplus before depreciation of P36,950 being shown. Total income for the year exceeded P90,000, over three times the level of 1970. Advantage of the increased interest in the club was taken to increase the entrance fee from P50 to P150. By the end of the year, membership totalled 194, compared with 58 a year earlier. Twenty-two nationalities were represented in the club's membership, the largest group being, probably for the first time, Filipinos (103), followed by Australians (22), Americans (20) and British (16). The September meeting of the Board of Directors actually decided to close the club's membership and open a waiting list when a level of 200 members was reached to prevent excessive strain on the club's resources (an idea not later pursued).

Among other developments, a newsletter — duplicated at first and later printed — commenced, a draught beer unit was installed and beer mugs, beer mats, car stickers, shirts and shorts carrying the club's crest were obtained for members. A 10 h.p. Mercury engine for the club's speedboat was obtained (the engine bought in 1964 had earlier been sold to a Board member) together with a number of new seats and slides for the boats. A stag party for men only and a Christmas party were held and, at the end of the year, a 24-page annual report was printed in booklet form.

Rowing outings during 1972 increased to 2046, with a total of 136 individuals rowing at least once each. Thirteen rowers qualified at the end of the year for special mugs labelled "100 miles on the Pasig".

Five major rowing activities were held within the



Winning open four at the Spring Regatta in 1972: Jim Collins (bow), Toto Africa, Miles Duncan and David Hailes (stroke)

club. The first was the Head of the Pasig in March, won by the heavy pair combination of Viggo Groope and Tadashi Abe from six other crews. At the Spring



Viggo Groope (left) and Tadashi Abe

Regatta in April, six events were contested, with David Hailes winning the open sculls. Denis Dovey and Jim Collins won the open pairs and their respective wives, Simonette and Wendy (the latter better known as the ladies' squash champion) won the ladies' double sculls. Having his first club regatta was the young and powerful English oarsman, Miles Duncan, who had rowed for Oxford in 1969. Together with Hailes, Collins and Africa, Duncan was in the winning open four. Two events for novices were also conducted. A further Yacht Club-to-Boat Club handicap marathon was held in May and the ladies' double scull combination of Simonette Dovey and Joy Hailes proved successful, their time being 2 hours and 5 minutes.

In July, "Gala Weekend '72", a repeat of the very successful squash-rowing weekend the year

before, was conducted with ten rowing events being held. Two of Hong Kong's top oarsmen — Henning Voelzke and Des Robinson — helped make the regatta particularly memorable by their vigorous participation, their very friendly personalities and — certainly not least — by the fact that they failed to defeat the local oarsmen! Star of the regatta was the young American Alan Stewart, who beat Voelzke and Duncan in the final of the sculls and teamed with Duncan to defeat Hong Kong in both the pairs and the double sculls. For good measure, he teamed up with Judy Williams to win the mixed double sculls as well. Other



Alan Stewart

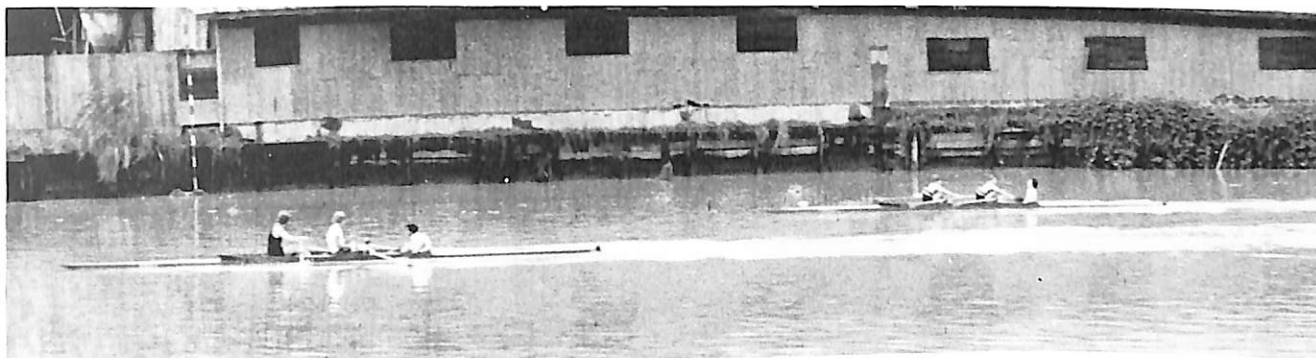
winners were Dovey and Hailes in the ladies' double sculls (a row-over); Martin Gascoigne and Buds Cervantes in the novice double sculls; Peter Holt and Charles Petre in the novice pairs; Nas Escobar in the novice sculls; Tadashi Abe, Daniel Chen, Someth Suos and Martin Staab in the novice fours; and Daniel Chen, Dieter Bergmeier, Viggo Groope and Tadashi Abe in the junior fours.



Denis Dovey (left) and Jim Collins

Two newspaper accounts of this regatta are of interest. Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* headlined its story "HK oarsmen back empty-handed" and went on "It is a long time since the rowing fraternity have returned from overseas without any silverware". The other interesting account was by Paulynn P. Sicam writing in the *Manila*

were eliminated the day before, the club manager explained as one took notice of the predominantly Caucasian faces of the men manning the sculls. Regatta, that revered sport of Oxford and Cambridge, is, one quickly discovered, hardly exciting for the volatile Filipino spectator. The rowers — one or two or four to a boat with a cox-



Duncan and Stewart defeating Hong Kong in the pairs.

Chronicle whose interesting impressions, particularly the last of all, of the "Regatta on the Pasig" were as follows:

"The atmosphere at the Manila Boat Club along the swollen Pasig River last Sunday was definitely colonial. Oh, there was a sprinkling of Filipino members in the crowd but the majority who came to root for their friends were foreigners — Britishers, Europeans, Japanese, etc. The members of the oldest club in the Philippines (1906) [sic] sipped their drinks served by dark-skinned waiters while white-uniformed yayas hovered over their little rosy-cheeked wards.

"It was the Summer Regatta finals — an affair constantly threatened by darkening clouds. The Filipinos who competed in the semi-finals

swain (usually a young boy who guides the boat) — go a quarter of a mile up river to the starting line and row back to the finish line right by the pantalan of the club. Whoever gets there first wins. With only two boats participating for every event, there really wasn't much competition. And then, the ladies' double sculls event that one was waiting for turned out to be merely a row-over for lack of competitors.

"What proved interesting though, were the sculls themselves — those long, narrow wooden boats, 'imported' said the club manager, many years back and handled with the utmost care by the club's well-trained boatmen. No one who had not been cleared by the club's boatmaster may get on one of these paper-thin crafts, one was



MBC four for the 1972 Far Eastern Amateur Rowing Association's Regatta in Hong Kong

told. And the single scull, which can take only one rower — who can't even wear shoes in the very light boat and who has no cox to help him steer — is reserved only for the most experienced of the sportsmen.

"It was an afternoon that may well have been wasted had it not been for the discovery that the much-talked about warmth and friendliness among the people there — islander and foreigner, club members and servant — was all too real."

Three months after this regatta, the annual FEARA regatta was held at Hebe Haven in Hong Kong and this time Manila was represented by six oarsmen and oarswomen plus a four from the International School. The imposition of martial law in the Philippines only a few days earlier meant that all MBC representatives were foreigners as no Filipinos were allowed to leave the country. The club's FEARA four, which had trained hard, was boated Charles Petre (bow), David Hailes, Alan May and Miles Duncan (stroke) but they were beaten in a heat of their 1400-meter race by an excellent crew from Tokyo University of Mercantile Marine. Singapore went on to win the final by less than a second from the Tokyo crew. MBC's best performance was by Duncan in the sculls in which he finished second to Miri Belait after defeating the titleholder in a semi-final and leading in the final until the last few strokes when he lost his oar. Judy Williams and Joy Hailes competed in the ladies' events and members of the men's four also rowed in pairs and sculls. At the annual meeting of FEARA, held during the regatta, it was

two school races with the usual result. International races were held for fours and pairs and the United Kingdom crews — driven on by Duncan — proved too strong. He teamed with Basil Burt to win the pairs and with Basil, Rollo Prendergast and Mike King to win the fours. Australia was runner-up each time. Duncan also won the sculls while Petre and



1972 FEARA four in action in Hong Kong

Nazareno won the casa pairs for First National City Bank. Other races contested were novice double sculls and scratch fours.

The club's boats remained in good condition throughout the year despite their age and the heavy usage, with the exception of the light scull "Pourquoi Pas", originally presented to the club by Thomi Keller, which broke up in rough water during the Yacht Club-to-Boat Club row. An order for a new boat — a training scull — was placed with Sargent and Burton



Winning U.K. International Four receiving trophies from Joy Hailes: (l. to r.) Miles Duncan, Mike King, Basil Burt and Rollo Prendergast

confirmed that Manila would host FEARA in 1973.

On returning home, one rowing event remained: the Christmas Regatta. Held over two days once again, eight events were contested including the usual

of Australia towards the end of the year. Rowing outings for the year as a whole rose sharply, as noted, to 2046.

It was also an active year in the field of squash.

particularly as it was decided in August to build a third court. The opening of the court, again built by Eureka Engineering, took place in November. Court number 3 was built adjacent to court number 2 with play on all three courts being watchable from the club house area. Highlights in the first part of the year were the first ever handicap tournament in February (won by the remarkable Scotsman Len Hendry), and the visit to the club in April of Heather McKay, the world champion woman player, and her husband, Brian. (The astonishment of the Filipino members and staff when she defeated all the club's top male players with ease was wonderful to behold.) The annual tournament commenced in April with the semi-finals and finals being features of the Gala Weekend '72 in July. Ron Skeates won the men's final from Bill Robinson and Margaret Brady beat Nancy Smith in the ladies'. Peter Holt won the junior division, Felipe Monserrat the veterans', Bambi Torres the novice and Danny Sablan the staff division. The number of entries for the six divisions totalled 110, while Aftab Jawaaid was again on hand to referee the finals and to thrill the crowd with another wonderful exhibition of squash.

The club's first-ever squash teams tournament was held in November/December and created much interest. Four teams of five players took part with that captained by the keen Malaysian Zolkipli bin Abdul being finally successful. Competition for ladder posi-

tions continued, one squash-alai event was held, and club champion Ron Skeates competed in the Singapore Open Championship in September to record the first occasion the club had been represented in an international squash competition.

Also of interest on the squash scene was the



Heather McKay meets club staff

opening in March of the Hillock Squash Club at Quezon City (with one court), thus opening up the prospect of future inter-club competition.

There were major developments in the club's life in other areas in 1972. A snack bar commenced oper-



Heather McKay (top) in action against club champion Margaret Brady



Brian McKay (left) and Ron Skeates

ations in February, at first on a concession basis but, from September, operated by the club's own employee, Ms. Leticia Ravinera. The kitchen was located in the area formerly used as the men's shower room, the rest of the old changing area then becoming a pool

room. A club manager was engaged from 1 March but the first incumbent proved an unfortunate choice and had to be dismissed six months later. A second manager, Mr. Jose Templonuevo, was then engaged. Three more staff appointments — an accountant, an accounting clerk and a janitor — were made during the year to take the club's total staff to 11 at the end of the year.

A long-term expansion plan was drawn up for the club by architect/member Ariston Nakpil in the middle of the year. The Board decided on this development in an attempt to avoid the possibility of piecemeal construction over time. The first stage of the expansion plan, which was endorsed by the Board after careful discussion, was completed in November. It included the third squash court and a new staff residence at the rear of the property. Moving of the bar and extension of the boat shed were also involved in this development, which cost some ₱70,000.

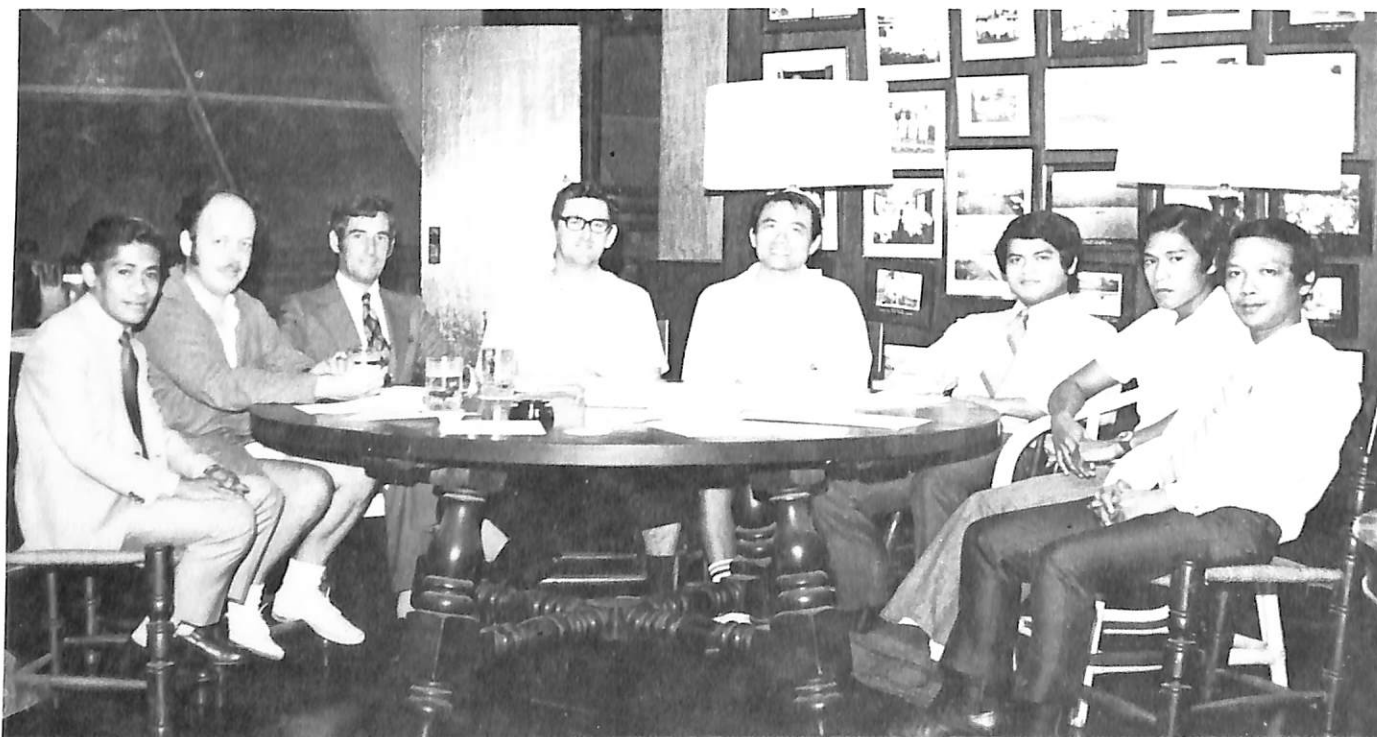
A special meeting of members was held in September to consider proposed changes to the By-Laws of the club. The meeting amended Article IV Section 2 to read "All members of the Club shall be entitled to vote at any general or special meetings of members and shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors". Previously, members had to take an active part

ment of some squash players at the existing rule — suggested that relaxation of the requirement was a desirable and workable step.) The meeting also agreed to increase the entrance fee from ₱150 to ₱250, payable in full on application, and the monthly dues from ₱20 to ₱30.



At 1972 Christmas party: Hans Springer and V.V. Desai with friends

Social activities — other than general support to the bar — were also maintained and included a tour of San Miguel's Polo Brewery, a stag night (fortuitously held on the evening martial law was declared)



Board of Directors, 1972: (l. to r.) S.P. Malbarosa, K. Leenders, D. Dovey, A. May, F. Garcia, V. Africa, V. Dualan and R. Lumongsod (Manager)

in rowing activities before qualifying for these rights. (The extraordinarily harmonious co-existence of the two sports of rowing and squash — and the resent-

and a Christmas cocktail party. The club took on Nomads at tug-o'-war once again but was unsuccessful, making up for this soon after with a sound victory



Staff residence, 1972

at cricket. Publication of a newsletter continued, a souvenir program appeared for the Gala Weekend

and the annual report was a handsome printed document once again.

The membership and financial positions remained very sound. New members — at the higher entrance fees — totalled 113 and year-end active membership stood at 249. Almost all resignations during the year were non-Filipinos leaving the country. The net surplus for the year before depreciation came to ₱52,250 or 40 per cent as much again as in 1971. Less than half of the 1971 loans remained outstanding but a new loan for ₱80,000 had been negotiated in 1972 with repayments to commence in 1973. Total income in 1972 was almost ₱139,000 with ₱81,000 coming from membership dues, ₱24,500 from squash court rentals and ₱12,500 from bar profits.

Manila Boat Club



VII: FEARA — 1973 to 1975



The club's major activity in the year 1973 was the holding of the FEARA Regatta in Manila early in December and much effort was expended in ensuring the Regatta would be well organized and that the club's representatives would perform well.

A new President guided the club during this exciting year. Alan May, President since 1970, did not stand for re-election and was succeeded by Jesus P. Dualan, the club's first-ever Filipino President. Miles Duncan took over as Captain, thus holding the primary responsibility for the FEARA Regatta arrangements, while Pilar Sandejas made history by becoming the first lady elected to the club's Board.

The year began with extraordinary interest being shown in rowing activities. Outings in January climbed to the staggering level of 445, with many members undertaking long rows to Laguna de Bay and back. To give as many people as possible an opportunity to use the boats, a rule was introduced that, on Saturdays and Sunday mornings, outings had to be limited to no longer than one hour. When a group row to Laguna de Bay was arranged in the middle of February, no less than 24 rowers — including five ladies — took part in the 17½ mile marathon. (One of those taking part — Bonggoy Manahan — enjoyed it so much that, the following week, he rowed to Laguna again each day for four days in a row!)

At the end of January, the club received a visit from its patron and former member, Thomas Keller, President of the Federation Internationale des Societies d'Aviron (International Rowing Federation) since November 1958. Keller expressed great satisfaction at the sound condition of the club and at the amount of rowing taking place.

As early as the Easter Regatta in March, races on the program were being deliberately set to include those scheduled for FEARA. The open fours was won well by an all-Filipino crew comprising Tanny Gonzales, Bonggoy Manahan, Boy Nazareno and Alan Tabhan. Miles Duncan won the open sculls and, with Espen Poulssen, the open pairs. Pilar Sandejas won the ladies' sculls and the ladies' pairs went to Simonette Dovey and Joy Hailes. Races for novice

sculls, pairs and fours and veteran sculls completed the program.

At the end of April, the club took part in the Caliraya Summer Festival of Arts and Sports at the Lake Caliraya Country Club in Lumban, Laguna. Four boats were carried by trailer to the beautiful lake setting and 14 rowers made the trip and gave an



Thomi Keller with Alan May and Simonette Dovey

exhibition of rowing.

Other rowing activity remained at a high level and, by the end of April again, 15 rowers had passed the 100 mile mark, seven of them the 200 mile mark, and the leading oarsman, Bonggoy Manahan, was two short of 400 miles! Many of the mileage enthusiasts, such as Tom Ellwood, Pilar Sandejas, Benjie Ramos and Manahan himself, were quite new to rowing as a sport. Tom Ellwood recalls that he joined the club to play squash and only went rowing to qualify to vote at the annual meeting. He soon, however, caught the bug and, in January and February alone, rowed a total of 251 miles. (Soon after, the long-standing outing fee of 50 centavos was reviewed and increased to ₱1.50 with effect from 1 July.)

The Head of the Pasig was rowed once again in June, the winners being the light four of Singapore visitor Colin O'Connell, Malcolm Churchill, Alan May and Miles Duncan. The next big event was the



Pilar Sandejas

Gala Weekend of Rowing and Squash held in mid-July and there were a total of 12 events on the program. Unfortunately, not all the results are available

but among the winners were Denis Dovey in the veteran sculls, Malcolm Churchill in the junior sculls, Simonette Dovey and Tineke Leenders in the ladies' pairs, Dovey and Joy Hailes in the ladies' doubles and Hailes, Dovey, Leenders and van Beek in the ladies' fours.

Work had already begun on preparations for the December FEARA and it included the painting and repair of the club house, surfacing of the driveway and parking area with gravel, dredging of the river in front of the club house, and overhauling and varnishing of all competing boats. Posters and stickers were designed and advertising solicited for what was to end up a 64-page program, printed by the National Media Bureau, and including messages of goodwill from President Marcos, Secretary of Tourism Aspiras and Makati Mayor Yabut.

In the expectation that the regatta would be a money-making affair (as, indeed, it proved to be) and due to the need for more equipment, two training sculls were ordered from Sargent and Burton. (The boat ordered late in 1972 arrived in Manila at the end of December 1972 but was not released for some six months while the club argued about the requirement



Cocktail party to greet guests at the 1973 FEARA Regatta

that it pay a tax of 107 per cent of the purchase price. The boat was subsequently named "Anacleto" (soon converted to "Anacleto I" by the recipient) in honor of the long-serving senior boatman.) These sculls cost the club almost \$A600 each (including oars) and were released from customs one month before FEARA itself, thus supplying a great morale boost to the preparations. (The boats were subsequently named "May" and "J. Dualan", the latter evoking some comment as the club's first Filipino President was a non-rower.)

Training for the regatta began in August and crews soon formed up. As usual, many rowers were novices and the major problem was to develop enough technique on which to build fitness and speed. Miles Duncan supervised much of the coaching and himself trained hard for the sculls. The hopes of the local oarsmen for success were boosted shortly before the events themselves by the arrival in Manila of three experienced rowers, Heiner Harder, Paul Stanton and former champion sculler Alan Stewart.

A squad of 16 rowers represented Hong Kong at the regatta with remaining overseas competition coming from a group of five old boys from Waseda University, Japan, rowing as Tomon Tei-Yu-Kai. (Invitations had been sent to all FEARA member clubs plus also to eight Indian Clubs, the Burma and Sri Lanka clubs and to certain Japanese clubs.) Nevertheless, the regatta proved an outstanding success, with Manila itself taking the overall FEARA championship.

A grand cocktail party was held at the club the



Marianna Torres (stroke) and Pilar Sandejas (bow), ladies' double sculls winners

Lawson, Voelzke and Philbrick won the fours, defeating Manila "A" (Duncan (bow), Greg Byrnes, Stanton and Harder (stroke)) in the heat and Manila "B" (Tony Warren (bow), Bob Adams, Peter Holt and Malcolm Churchill (stroke)) in the final. Hong Kong also won the veteran sculls with Robinson defeating Denis Dovey of MBC and the ladies' sculls with Litmaath defeating Simonette Dovey. The remaining two events, pairs and sculls, were, however, all-Manila finals with Duncan defeating Stewart by two feet only in the sculls and Duncan and Harder beating Stewart and Hans van Beek in the pairs. The scoring system for FEARA gave Manila the championship over Hong Kong by 37 points to 23 with the Japanese oarsmen failing to score.

Six additional races were held with Manila win-



Heinrich Harder (stroke) and Miles Duncan (bow), FEARA Pairs winners

night before the regatta commenced and the grounds were gaily decorated and in excellent condition. For the regatta itself, the assistance of the Philippine Coastguard in closing the river to normal traffic resulted in near ideal racing conditions.

Five events counted towards the overall FEARA championship. The Hong Kong crew of Brandwood,

winning the ladies' pairs (Judy Williams and Simonette Dovey) and the ladies' double sculls (Pilar Sandejas and Marianna Torres). Hong Kong won all four junior events for men: fours, pairs, double sculls and sculls. A barbecue dance proved a happy conclusion to an excellent weekend and a successful rowing year for the club.

One last rowing "happening" in 1973 is deserving of note. On 22 December, Denis Dovey and Steve Stull decided to row to Laguna de Bay and, on their return to the club, decided they still had some energy left. They continued on to Manila Bay, a decision they subsequently regretted on the way back! Nevertheless, they somehow made it back and proudly



Boat captain Miles Duncan about to come to a fitting end after the FEARA win

recorded a distance of 31½ miles for a single outing in the log book. (In this regard, it is of interest to note the recollection of pre-war oarsman Philip Arundell that "the longest row accomplished on the Pasig River may not be to the credit of a member of the Boat Club. I used to be the Agent for N.V. Stoomvaart Maatschappij, the Dutch Shipping Line, and the Captain of one of their vessels, during the mid or late 30's, who kept his own skiff on board his ship, rowed from his vessel, which was at anchor on the south side of the



Steve Stull

breakwater in Manila Bay, all the way up the river to the Lake, and back, in one day. On his return journey

he stopped for a short rest, and drink, at the Boat Club, and his name, together with a record of the row, was entered in the Boat Book [no longer available]. This was Captain Jan Drent, who was well known to Father Selga and other Jesuit priests for his observations on the weather.") Rowing outings for 1973 surpassed all former (extant at least) records: 3454 or 69 per cent more than the record of the previous year.

Despite the priority placed on FEARA in 1973, squash activities remained bouyant. Early in the year, a challenge was received from Hillock Squash Club for a teams' squash match and this commenced in mid-March. The Boat Club players took the challenge far less seriously than did Hillock with the outcome that Hillock won the A and C Divisions and the



Danny Sablan (left) and Bill Robinson

overall trophy as well, leaving MBC with only the B Division trophy. Prominent for the Boat Club were Bill Robinson, Max Ricketts, Ding Dong Austria, Bambi Torres, Chris Titterington, Barry Mason and Peter Parsons.

Pakistan's reigning squash champion, Mohibullah Khan, and the runner-up, Qamar Zaman, passed through Manila in May en route to Australia and, thanks to two Pakistani club members, an exhibition of outstanding squash was arranged at the club at short notice.

The open squash tournament commenced in May with the finals taking place during the Gala Weekend. In the men's open division, Bill Robinson defeated Danny Sablan in the final from a field of 39 while Margaret Brady defended her title successfully in the ladies', defeating Wendy Adams in the final. Chris Titterington defeated Robert Veloso in the junior division, Tanny Gonzales won over Bruce Cowled in the novice and Bob Thomas defeated Nandy Garcia for the veterans' title.

In December, an intra-club teams' competition was arranged comprising four teams, each with four male and one female player. The "Arundell" team proved victorious with "Kingsley" second and "Odoy" and "Trudy" finishing thereafter. "Arundell" was made up of Chris Titterington (captain), Ray Brady, Peter Parsons, Tony Hope and Margaret Brady.



Tanny Gonzales receives his trophy from Belen Dualan while Jes Dualan looks on

The Board of Directors elected in 1973 considered, at the outset of its term of office, plans for a major renovation of the clubhouse, including the addition of two squash courts to the existing three. Representations were also made for the possible acquisition of the property adjoining the club's entrance. The annual report notes, that "Considering however the financial capacities of the Club, as well as the extent of its existing obligations, the Board felt that a more modest program of improvement and expansion of facilities was the more appropriate until the Manila Boat Club could at some future time afford to undertake heavier financial obligations". Among the improvements undertaken were the construction of an internal staircase for access to the squash courts, replacing of defective and worn out electrical wirings and repainting of the change rooms. Staff were also required to wear uniforms while on duty "and generally maintain a level of tidiness and order in the Club's premises".

New members totalled 107 during the year but 92 resigned or were expelled for delinquency to give a net increase of 15. The club manager resigned during the year and Mr. Alfredo ("Freddy") Montemayor was appointed to the position in August. Three additional employees were engaged to take the total staff to 14.

Total income in 1973 was ₱243,000, 75 per cent higher than in 1972. In the middle of 1973 a circular

to members said that "The major problem the Board face at present is one of inadequate cash flows. Although our profit and loss statements indicate that operations are profitable, funds are not coming in fast enough to meet maturing obligations. We are trying to step up collection efforts and urge members to pay their monthly bills promptly. Over the past few months, our cash position has been quite tight and after we pay out salaries and various other bills, we have very little left for contingencies."

The higher entrance fees and monthly dues then introduced resulted in this source of income rising from ₱81,000 to ₱128,000 while an increase in squash court rentals from ₱2 to ₱3 per half hour in July boosted earnings from squash. Income from advertising for the FEARA program came to ₱24,000 and net income before depreciation increased to ₱92,275 despite substantial increases in salaries and wages and other costs.

The 1974 annual meeting was not held till the second half of May, giving the previous Board a term of more than 14 months and opening a more substantial gap than usual between the Board's term of office and the club's financial year of January to December. Dr. Alvaro Orejana, Jr., an orthopedic surgeon and keen rower and squash player, became the club's second Filipino President.

The financial problems that were hinted at in the 1973 accounts and President's report unfortunately assumed more serious proportions in 1974. As the President's report was to note, "Except for the Saigon FEARA, no major project was entered into, so that the Club can meet various obligations and commitments. The fiscal year of 1974 tested the ability of the Manila Boat Club to hurdle and adapt itself to the pressures brought about by internal organizational and financial stresses and external economic challenges."

Compared with all the drama and excitement of the rowing scene in 1973, activity was much more subdued in 1974. Nevertheless, some momentum carried over and participation in the 1974 FEARA in Saigon at the end of the year became an immediate aim, with a "FEARA Committee" being set up at the first meeting of the new Board in June.

The initial activity was a Boat Club-to-Yacht Club race. A small flotilla raced down on a handicap basis on a Saturday and returned at a more leisurely pace the following day. A second row-down occurred shortly thereafter when, at the request of Malacañang, the Boat Club participated in a fluvial parade on the lower reaches of the Pasig. This took place on 5 June in celebration of World Environment Day and Independence Week.

The Gala Weekend took place in the middle of September, the eleven rowing events serving as a prelude to FEARA training. (The open fours was won by the crew of Bob Adams, Tony Hope, Tony Warren and Ben Duncan, Ben being Miles Duncan's brother and the Cambridge Rowing President only a few



Ladies' sculling champion Judy Williams receives her trophy from Boat Captain Bob Adams

months' before.) After this regatta, about a dozen rowers commenced intensive rowing activities with Saigon at the beginning of November the aim. To raise funds to subsidize the cost of participation a "200 Club" aimed at raising ₱11,000 was successfully launched.

The Club Nautique de Saigon had hosted the FEARA Regatta twice previously, in 1958 and 1962, but Manila had not been represented on those occasions. As the FEARA program noted, "After a rather

long period of silence, favorable conditions have returned to our Club and we accept the challenge of organizing the Regatta for the third time . . . Because of the war situation, athletic activities has met many difficulties, however, due to the good will and tenacity of its veteran members, the Rowing Section has maintained a continuous and good training program. During the last several years an increasing number of young members have been participating in rowing, consequently, the Rowing Section has improved."

A squad of 10 rowers represented Manila at the Regatta, held at the club's annex at Thi Nghe on the Saigon River, a short distance from town. Hong Kong was represented by a large squad, with the only other competition coming from CNS itself, all of whose representatives were Vietnamese. MBC boated two fours the number one crew being Keith Jackson (bow), Malcolm Churchill, Miles Duncan and Bob Adams (stroke) and the number two crew Ben Policarpio (bow), Tadashi Abe, Alan May and Tony Hope (stroke). In the fours event, however, Hong Kong proved too good and they also won the pairs and the ladies' sculls. The MBC pair of Duncan and Hope finished strongly to gain second place while Judy Williams gained second place for Manila in the ladies' sculls, very nearly scoring an upset win. Miles Duncan successfully defended his FEARA sculling title to give Manila its only win while Saigon won the veteran sculls. In the overall championship, Hong Kong scored a good win with Manila second and Saigon third.

Back in Manila, and still stimulated by Saigon, two marathon rows-cum-picnics were held in the clos-



MBC representatives contribute a number at the dinner after the Saigon FEARA Regatta

ing weeks of 1974 — one to the Laguna de Bay light-house and the other into the Marikina.

Boat Captain Bob Adams, who, with Miles Duncan as well, left Manila for good soon thereafter, included some interesting observations in his section of the 1974 annual report. He felt "The clear need for the future is to narrow the gap between the large group of casual rowers for pleasure and the small group of competitive rowers. . . I believe that one of our difficulties today lies in the very success of our rowing program. Three years ago the Club was in a rejuvenation period, and virtually all of our rowers were inexperienced. Today, many of those same oarsmen are still rowing, having in the meantime developed considerable expertise. For the beginning oarsman, it is perhaps more difficult than formerly to envisage himself competing in Club and international regattas than was the case when all our rowers were inexperienced."

The total number of outings in 1974 came to 1394, substantially down on the record level of 1973. Top mileage oarsman was Tony Warren on 500, followed by Churchill and Adams. While there were no changes in the fleet during the year, the scull "Michele", which had been "loaned" to a member in Nonoc without the Board's approval, returned to the safety of the club house.

The major event in the club's squash year was, once again, the Open Squash Tournament. The Tournament was announced immediately following the election of the new Board and, by 30 June when entries closed, a total of 156 entries had been received for the six Divisions. As well as many



Wendy Adams (right) being congratulated by Pete Cervantes entrants from the club itself, entries also came from players from the Manila Polo Club (which had built three squash courts) and the Hillock Squash Club.



Fausto Preysler receives his trophy from club patron, Bong Tanco

Tournament matches commenced on 1 July and the knockout games proceeded until the semi-finals and finals were reached during the club's Gala Weekend on 14-15 September.

In the men's open division, titleholder Bill Robinson was defeated in three straight games in the final by the up-and-coming Fausto Preysler of Manila Polo Club. The other semi-finalists were Buds Cervantes and Satish Vaish. Preysler also won the men's junior division, defeating Pablo Rodoy in the final. Wendy Adams became ladies' open champion with a win over Pete Cervantes, while Mervyn Browne defeated Alvin Orejana to win the men's veterans. Winners of the two novice divisions were Helen Clurman and Daniel Sanchez.

A highlight of the Tournament finals was a squash exhibition by Pakistani champions Qamar Zaman and Mohibullah Khan. These players turned on magnificent performances and those who saw them play were not surprised that Zaman, a few months later, won the British Open Championship.

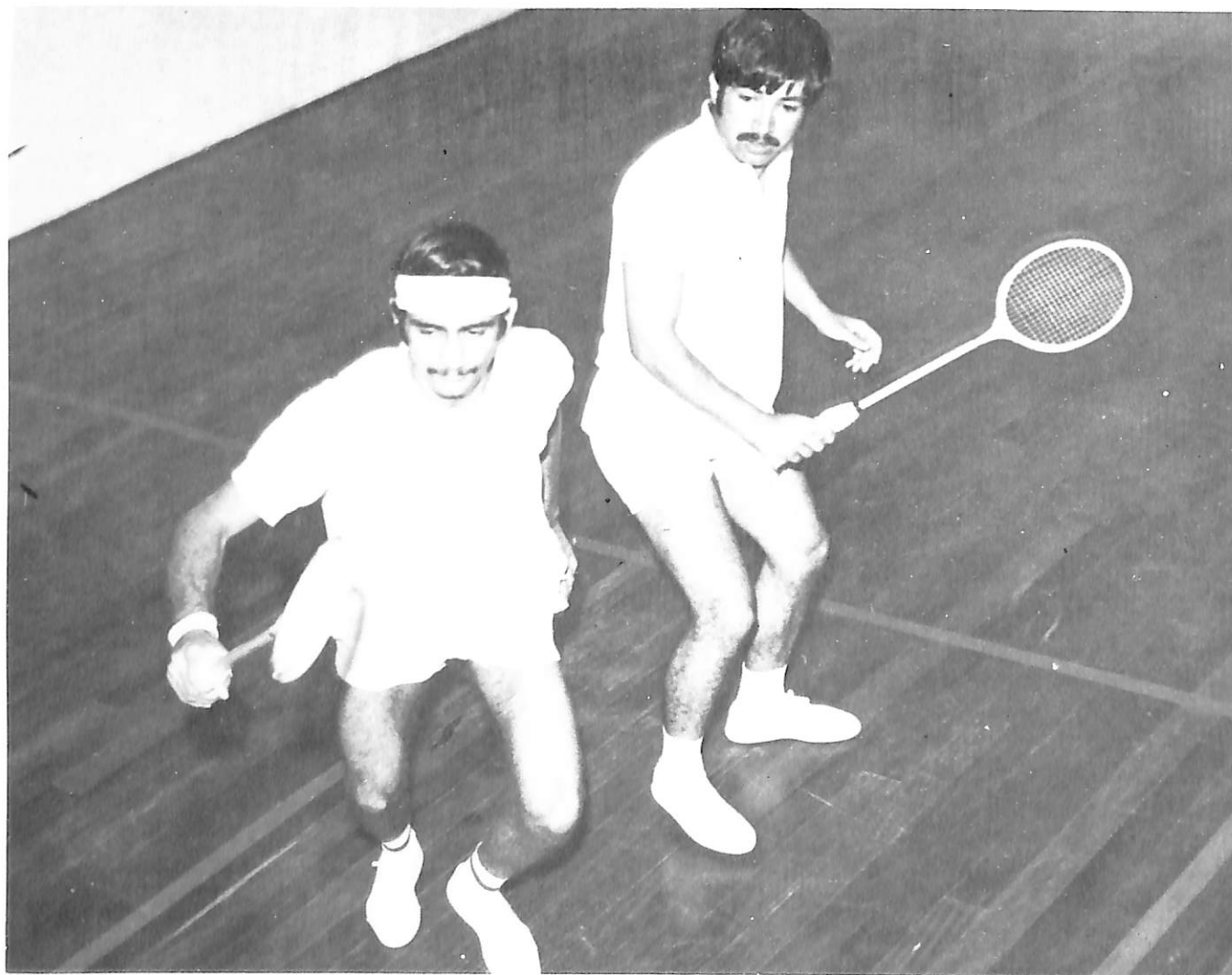
At the conclusion of the tournament, the club's squash ladders were recommenced and many exciting games took place. Bill Robinson left the club in October, a special one-night round robin tournament — won again by Fausto Preysler — being organized in his honor. At the end of the year the club's top players were Buds Cervantes, Satish Vaish and Tanny Gonzales among the men and Pete Cervantes and Sonny Knapp among the ladies.

The club's entrance fee was increased to ₱500 with effect from 1 July 1974 (with the usual result that 25 new members were admitted at the June Board meeting, thus beating the increase!). The total number of new members for the year — 52 was, how-

ever, more than offset by 54 resignations and expulsions for non-payment of accounts. Total income in 1974 fell slightly to ₱224,320 while expenses climbed to ₱227,366 resulting in a profit before depreciation of only ₱21,307 and a loss after depreciation of ₱3,046. The major reason for the turn around was a 50 per cent increase in the major items, "salaries and wages, bonuses and allowances", largely due to implementation of the new Labor Code. And there was considerable dissatisfaction with the services of the club's employees: "Improved operations will demand increased skilled responsibilities and expect higher standard service qualities which are beyond the experience and capabilities of the present club personnel". The report of the President went on that "The year 1975 will also be a crisis year. To alleviate the situation a more vigorous reorganization of the staff and review of general policies will be undertaken."

In light of the financial situation, the Board's early plans for expansion of the clubhouse area alongside squash court number 3 could not be fulfilled. (The main objective was expansion of the boat shed area below and provision of an air-conditioned meeting room/restaurant area on the second floor. Club member Ariston Nakpil estimated possible costs at one stage at ₱224,000.) A number of other ambitious and highly desirable plans mooted by the Board — sponsorship of the rowing activities by a corporation, addition of rowing as a sport by local schools and universities, preparation of brochures on the facilities and services of the club, commencement of research on the history of the club through the creation of a Historical Committee — all came to nought.

There was considerable dissatisfaction, too, with the basic upkeep of the club. One member was moved to write of the physical condition of the club at the end



Mohibullah Khan (left) and Qamar Zaman in action at the club

of 1974 in the following terms:

"Upon arrival you walked up slippery steps that hadn't seen any paint in years, past mosquito nets with gaping holes in them and a notice board that wasn't fit to grace a pigsty. Talking of which reminds one of the conditions of the men's changing room. If you played squash you weren't too sure whether you couldn't see the ball because the lights didn't work or because the walls were so black. If you felt like a row you stood on a pantalan which was half under water and climbed into boats which had had no maintenance work on them in months. For a drink afterwards you sat in a bar which lacked all imagination and interest surrounded by walls covered with dirty and peeling paint."

So bad was the situation deemed to be that a group of seven members put themselves forward for election to the new Board as a "Recovery Slate". They issued a circular to members which began as follows:

"The situation at the Manila Boat Club is critical. The MBC is virtually bankrupt. We are on the verge of defaulting on bank loans and having our beer and utilities cut off for non-payment of bills. We can not restructure our high interest, short term loan because we are delinquent on our 1974 property taxes. In short, we are one step away from collapse."



Chris Titterington (right) explains a point to Zaman and Mohibullah

The group said that "Control of Club affairs has slipped out of Board Control, and the first objective of the Recovery Slate, if elected, will be to re-establish Board direction". Importantly, "leakages" in terms of unwarranted costs and "leakages" in terms of revenues not received — the heart of the financial problem — would be stopped. Monthly dues

would be increased and collection procedures tightened. More would be expected of employees in terms of accountability and service and increased salaries were promised.



Tony Hope (left) and Tony Warren

The membership responded to the circular as the group hoped and all seven were elected.

Rowing interest in the opening months of 1975 was directed at the planned FEARA Regatta in Hong Kong in the middle of May. Despite the relative closeness to the Saigon event and the loss of some oarsmen and unavailability of others, a team of 12 was finally mustered with considerable training taking place. The MBC A crew comprised Tony Warren (bow), Tony Hope, Keith Jackson and Bob Hall (stroke) while the B crew was made up of Elliot Musry (bow), Bonggoy Manahan, Alan Burrell and Tadashi Abe (stroke). At Deep Water Bay, the crews encountered rough water and a heavy swell and both fours were well beaten by their Hong Kong opponents. In the single sculls Tony Warren was easily defeated by Des Robinson of Hong Kong, the ultimate winner. Others to compete for Manila were Malcolm Churchill, Peter Capotosto, Mariana Torres and Lesley Burrell. Hong Kong dominated the rowing and easily retained the overall championship over Manila and Singapore while, in the ladies' events, Hong Kong was also far too good for Manila and the visiting Japanese oarswomen. A highlight of the weekend for the Manila rowers was the unofficial eights events, being the first opportunity for several to ever row in an eight. (Tadashi Abe became the only MBC rower to win a trophy when he rowed in the winning crew.)

The next event on the year's schedule was a hand-

icap marathon from the Boat Club to the Yacht Club at the end of June. Three fours and three scullers competed with Tony Warren doing the fastest time over all (2 hours. 1 min.) and also winning on handicap.

A special regatta was staged at the end of July to farewell Tadashi Abe, who had competed for the club in the FEARA regattas in Manila, Saigon and Hong Kong. It is of interest to note that, when Abe first went down to the club in 1971, it was the first visit by a Japanese since the war and Anacleto was immediately on his guard. Abe's powerful rowing, keen interest and friendly nature, however, soon made him very popular in the club — including with Anacleto! Six events were held with 21 rowers, including eight novices, competing.

With so many new members trying rowing, a special training and racing point score competition was conducted on Sunday mornings in August and September. From 10 to 11 a.m. was devoted to coaching, after which crews were formed up and races held. A number of rowers literally had their first race within an hour or so of their first row! Twenty-three rowers participated with Dick Cayzer winning the novice division and Bob Hall the senior division.

A so-called "mini-regatta" followed in mid-October as part of a build-up to the big Christmas Regatta. The three senior events were rowed over 1/2 mile, with seven other events over 1/4 mile. Churchill won the senior sculls and Hall and Jackson the senior

and turned out to be a "thrills and spills" event, with a light four and a light pair both being swamped by heavy waves near the Guadalupe Bridge. The other five boats in the event also took lots of water but managed to complete the course without stopping. Both line honors and best time (27 1/2 mins) went to



Malcolm Churchill

the crew of Robert Veloso, Alfredo Gonzales, Tanny Gonzales and Francisco Domingo, rowing in a heavy four. Close up second in a heavy pair were Anne Kater and Gaye Hope.

The highlight of the year was the Christmas



Righting the light four during the 1975 Head of the Pasig

pairs with the senior fours going to Hope, Jackson, Warren and Ben Buck of Hong Kong. Warren Delaney and Peter Smith won the novice pairs and the novice fours went to Mike Turbott, Peter Smith, Keith Jones and Francisco Domingo. The ladies' pairs was won by Marlies Osterkamp and Gaye Hope while children also participated in one event.

The Head of the Pasig was rowed in November

Regatta on the first weekend of December with fifteen events staged and no less than 44 rowers participating. Churchill confirmed his position as the club's top sculler while the senior double sculls went to Warren and Hope and the senior pairs to Hall and Jackson. The senior fours was won by the crew of May, Hope, Warren and Hall. An International Fours event was also scheduled with Australia (War-

ren, Bryant, Hall and Hope) defeating a Philippine/American crew (Manahan, Ramos, Policarpio and Churchill) in the final. Mike Turbott and Tony Nutter won the junior pairs and, with Dick Cayzer and Warren Delaney, the junior fours plus, with Gaye Hope and Anne Kater, the mixed fours. Tito Orosa and Robert Valerio took the novice pairs and, with Russ Lord and Angel Cruz, the novice fours. Cruz also won the junior sculls and, with Ramos, the junior double sculls. Two races for children — in fours and pairs — were also on the program with Paul Churchill figuring in both winning crews.

Despite the limited funds available during the year, the fleet was well maintained with Anacleto excelling himself by completely rebuilding the two light sculls, "Trudy" and "Odo", which had been heavily damaged in previous years. The fee for outings was increased from ₱1.50 to ₱2.50 (for distances more than a mile) and coxing fees were adjusted to a sliding scale depending on the number of miles rowed.

The number of outings in the year increased substantially to 1851, reflecting, in particular, the efforts of the large group of new rowers during the year and the enthusiasm of Tony Hope, the Boat Captain, and his rowing committee. The top mileage oarsman in 1975 was, for the second year in a row, Tony Warren with 479 miles. Churchill and Hope were next in line.

The development of squash in the Philippines since its rebirth at the Boat Club in 1970 reached another stage in 1975. After several months of preparatory meetings, the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines, Inc. came into being in March, the nine incorporators being drawn from the Manila Boat Club, the Manila Polo Club, the Manila Squash Club and the Hillock Squash Club.

The Articles of Incorporation set out the basic aim and purpose of the Association as follows:

- "(a) to foster and promote the international game of squash rackets in the Philippines;
- (b) to represent squash players in all matters concerning national sporting associations;
- (c) to represent the Philippines as a member of the International Squash Rackets Federation;
- (d) to lay down rules under which an annual Philippine Open Squash Rackets Tournament open to all squash players shall be conducted;
- (e) to lay down the rules under which other tournaments open to players from more than one club shall be conducted;

(f) to ensure that the uniform rules and regulations concerning courts, equipment and the playing and umpiring of squash rackets of the ISRF are observed;

(g) to determine and appoint through appropriate umpiring qualifying procedures persons qualified to act as umpires and markers at inter-club tournaments;

(h) to settle inter-club disputes where brought to its attention; and

(i) to do anything which in the opinion of the Association may be conducive to any of the above purposes, including the taking of disciplinary action against clubs breaking its rulings."

Felipe Monserrat, outstanding sportsman, former President of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation and the National Olympic Committee and active squash player, accepted the position of Patron of the Association and the first office-bearers were Ronnie Tablante (President), Alan May (Vice-President), David Arcenas (Secretary) and S.P. Malbarosa (Treasurer). The Board of Directors comprised Manolo Lopez, Buds Cervantes, Joe Castro, Syed Hasan and Alvin Orejana.

One of the Association's first activities was to conduct the first "S.R.A.P. Inter-Club Squash Rackets Championship". Each club nominated a team of five plus reserves for a two-round round robin competition. The Boat Club team comprised Bruce Cowled, Satish Vaish, Vic Dualan, Philip Rillorta and Robert Veloso. They won 11 of their 15 games in the first round and 9 in the second to finish second in the overall standings behind Manila Squash Club.

At the Boat Club, the squash courts remained active as usual. A one-night handicap tournament with American scoring took place in February, with Bruce Cowled (off minus 6) defeating Tanny Gonzales (minus 9) by 21—19 in an exciting final. The club was host to a number of British and Australian naval officers visiting Manila for SEATO exercises at the end of February and a further exciting squash-alai evening was held in March.

The club's own tournament took place in August/September, with five Divisions being contested. The open title went to Buds Cervantes over Bruce Cowled; the junior to Frank Fletcher over Tony Hope; the novice to Philip Rillorta over Richie Mata; the veterans' to Odd Stray-Gundersen over Nandy Garcia; and the ladies' to Pete Cervantes over Marina Francisco.



VIII: PROSPERING — 1975 to 1979



In the second half of 1975, the club's newly-elected Board of Directors devoted much attention to improving the club's serious financial situation. The new Treasurer, Keith Jackson, noted that the financial situation when the new Board took over was "similar to a car careering down towards a cliff and hopelessly out of control. On taking office, the front two wheels had already slipped over the edge and it was only a matter of weeks before the whole car would plunge over." The club had two outstanding



Keith Jackson (left) and Alvin Orejana

debts with FNCB and had seriously defaulted on repayment while accounts payable exceeded ₱20,000 and suppliers were close to cutting off all further supplies. Within the first two weeks of taking office, the new President received a subpoena to appear at Camp Crame to explain why one particular account had remained unpaid.

Major efforts were made to pay off the outstanding accounts as soon as possible and FNCB's assistance was obtained to roll over a short term loan and to reschedule a long term obligation. Both these loans were repaid in full during the Board's term of office. These efforts were facilitated by an increase in monthly dues from ₱30 to ₱45 in June 1975, by a number of members who advanced money to the club

and allowed their accounts to be credited with the amounts and, particularly, by a tightening of the credit policy to members whereby those whose accounts were overdue by more than 60 days were denied further credit. The cost of labor was also reduced by cutting down on the number of staff, especially bar staff, and by introducing strict time schedules for employees to cut down on high overtime costs.

The net financial result for the year 1975 was a profit before depreciation of ₱36,272. Total income was ₱222,186, about ₱2,000 less than the year before, but expenses were held down to ₱209,627 compared with ₱227,366 the previous year. It was clear that the corner had been turned and the club's finances were in order again.

The changes brought about by the new Board resulted, not surprisingly, in some unhappiness on the part of the staff. A letter sent by the President to all members in September included the following:

"The group of employees most affected by tighter inventory control and higher standards of conduct is expressing its displeasure by looking for scapegoats among the other employees. At a time when prospects for the Club have never looked better, it is distressing to find that the crisis created by this behavior threatens all that we have achieved so far."

One employee was suspended for the month of July after a fight with another and a general warning was issued that violence or threats of violence would not be tolerated. Another employee was dismissed and a trainer terminated after a further incident at the end of August. (The former action led to a lengthy legal dispute and the latter, after the intervention of a number of members, and an apology from the trainer concerned, to eventual reinstatement.) Satisfaction was, however, expressed with the services of the club Manager, Bill Mirasol, and Anacleto and his boat staff.

A major and unfortunate occurrence, for the club at least, in the year 1976 was the resumption of 848 sq. meters of the club's land by the Government for the construction of a pumping station on the Santa Clara estero. Not only did this reduce the available parking space and virtually end the scope for further expansion, but the existing staff house had also to be destroyed to make way for the pumping station.

Opposite: Thomi Keller (fourth from right) presents a FISA flag to delighted club members, November 1978

The first rowing activity for the year was shared with cricket and squash. It was a day's sporting competition against Nomads in mid-March. After the rowing and squash competitions in the morning at the Boat Club, MBC was ahead in the point score. In the afternoon at Nomads, however, the Boat Club was soundly defeated in the cricket match, to give Nomads a close overall win in the total point score after a most enjoyable day.

A further one-day mini-regatta was staged at the end of March. Twelve events were raced, the most exciting being the senior double sculls which ended in a tie between the Churchill/Tulloch combination and that of Hope/Warren. Churchill again won the senior sculls and the senior fours went to Jones, Tulloch, Warren and Hope. Peter Smith won the novice sculls and Smith and Delaney the junior pairs. Lesley Hammond and Gaye Hope won the ladies' pairs and Tony and Gaye Hope the mixed pairs. Children's pairs and fours were contested once again.

The FEARA Regatta for 1976 was scheduled for Colombo in June and serious consideration was given to participation. In view of the high cost of the air fares, however, the club decided, reluctantly, against being represented. (The regatta proved a three-sided contest between Colombo Rowing Club, Madras Boat Club and Hong Kong, with the latter winning all events.)

It was Malcolm Churchill's turn for a farewell regatta in July. Malcolm had joined the club origi-

The Head of the Pasig was held early in October, with three fours, two double sculls and a single scull competing. The winning crew was the heavy four of Tony Hope, Peter Smith, Lesley Hammond and Gaye Hope. Another interesting "happening" in October involved the rescuing of two very young Filipinos who had jumped on to a bank of water lilies which the strong current later swept into the middle of the Pasig. Toyo Kato and Alan May, in a light double scull, came upon the two terrified urchins around the 1½ mile mark and they very gratefully climbed aboard. They were soon transferred to a heavy four which, in turn, delivered them to terra firma.

Three events were contested during a "rowing weekend" at the end of October. Bob Hall and Tony Warren had a close win over Tony Hope and Jim Taylor in the light double sculls and the mixed heavy fours went to the winning Head of the Pasig crew, with P. Holigores replacing Peter Smith. Four crews contested the heavy fours, with the ultimate winners being the crew of Tony Warren, Dick Cayzer, Jan Wijenberg and Derek White.

The Christmas Regatta took place at the end of November with nine events scheduled. Two highlights were the emergence of a new sculling champion in the form of Jim Taylor, a U.S. Air Force flight controller (with lots of time available during the day for training) plus another exciting light double event in which Hope and Taylor were able to reverse the result of their October meeting with Hall and War-



Tony Hope (stroke) instructing wife Gaye, Marlies Osterkamp and Anne Kater (bow) in the finer points

nally in 1961 when first posted to the U.S. Embassy in Manila. He rejoined in 1972 and was soon in the thick of rowing activities once again. In June 1975, he headed the "Recovery Slate" and, as President, had the satisfaction of seeing the substantial improvement in the club's fortunes come about.

ren. The ladies' heavy pairs finished in an exciting dead heat between Jill Bryant/Lesley Hammond and Anne Kater/Gaye Hope. Butch Hagedorn won the novice sculls and he rowed in the all-Filipino four (with Tito Orosa, Francisco Domingo and Benjie Ramos) which won the junior fours. Winners of the

senior fours were Tony Warren, Tom Bryant, Bob Hall and Jim Taylor while the mixed fours went to Gaye Hope, Anne Kater, Tony Nutter and Tom Bryant.

Malcolm Churchill had amassed 313½ miles on the river in 1976 by the time he left Manila and only towards the end of the year was this level passed by Alan May. A new oarsman, however, Jim (Butch) Hagedorn, rowed 309 miles in the last three months



Butch Hagedorn

of the year alone to take the mileage title with a total of 382 miles in all. Rowing outings overall totalled a quite respectable 1530 for the year.

A splendid Christmas present for the club was the arrival in Manila on Christmas day of its first-ever eight, along with a set of ten new oars (with 8" "shovels"). The eight, which was about 25 years old, was donated to the club by North Shore Rowing Club of Sydney through the good offices of Spencer Grace and Albert Joris, the latter being a business associate of MBC Boat Captain, Tom Bryant. The boat, which had been cut in two for shipment, was damaged somewhat in transit, while many of the fittings required replacement, thus entailing a great deal of work by the boat boys.

The work on the eight, and all other such work, had, after September, to be undertaken without the assistance of Anacleto. After 34 years of outstanding service since he was first employed in 1932, Anacleto retired due to ill health. Despite recurring heart trouble, his carpentry skills and his overall enthusiasm had remained unsurpassed. In addition, his memory of past events and past club personalities was exceptionally sharp and old MBC members revisting Manila and the club were always delighted with the welcome they received from him.

Anacleto's able successor as senior boatman from October was his elder son, Anacleto Eusebio, Jr., known to all as Boying.

The year also saw one other unusual development: the formation of the "Philippine Amateur Boat Rowing Association, Inc.", in close association with the Philippine Navy. The launching of their first boat, locally constructed, took place at the end of April and what a craft it was: 58 feet long and 34 inches wide and accommodating six rowers. It was said that all schools with naval reserve officer training corps units were promoting boat rowing as another water sport in the country, but nothing further was heard of the boat or of the new Association.

The 1976 squash year began in spectacular fashion with the holding of the First Far East Open Squash Tournament in Hong Kong from 30 January to 8 February. The eight-member Philippine team selected included three Boat Club players — Buds Cervantes, Robert Veloso and Danny Sablan. The Philippines finished in fourth place in this competition.

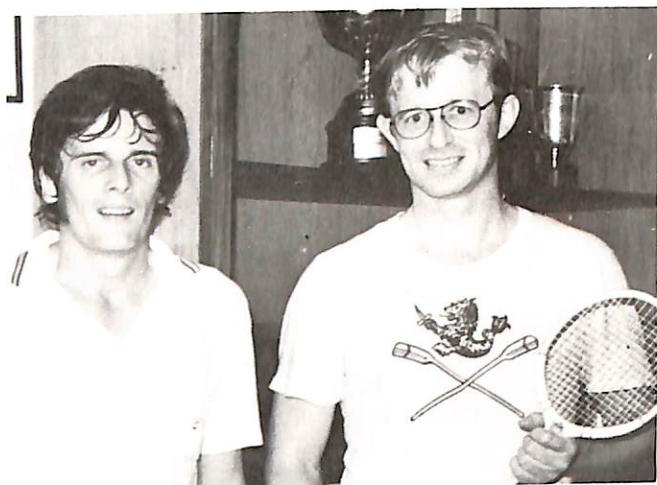


The master craftsman, Anacleto

The club's first intercolor squash tournament was played in March/April, the inauguration being marked by an exhibition match between All Philippines Champion Fausto Preysler and the Boat Club's Sablan. Over 80 players participated in nine different teams with the winners being the Brown team, captained by Bill Vawdrey, over Bruce Cowled's Red team. The best individual score trophies went to Dilip Shrivastava (who preferred to be known simply as "Dilip"), Martin Staab and Nancy Staab, while Boyong Deles earned a special recognition plaque for

his steadfast participation in the tournament, often as the sole representative of his team. (A kiddies' tournament was also organized about this time and ten participants were attracted. Jojo Francisco was declared winner with Leo Suarez the runner-up.)

There were further opportunities for interna-



Bruce Cowled (left) with Daryl Williams

tional squash competition in 1976. The Philippines entered a team in the Pakistan Invitation Team Championship in Karachi in April and Sablan and Cervantes were amongst those gaining selection. In May, a Philippine team which included Philip Rillorta, Cervantes and Veloso visited Tokyo for a special interport competition against Japan.

In July/August the S.R.A.P. conducted its second inter-club tournament with, on this occasion, Nomads joining the other four clubs in participating. Veloso headed the MBC's men's team and Helen, his wife, the ladies' team. Manila Squash Club were the overall winners with the Polo Club second and MBC only fourth.

In the S.R.A.P.'s Philippine Open Championship, Preysler of the Polo Club remained the number one with the Boat Club's Sablan and Cowled finishing second and third.

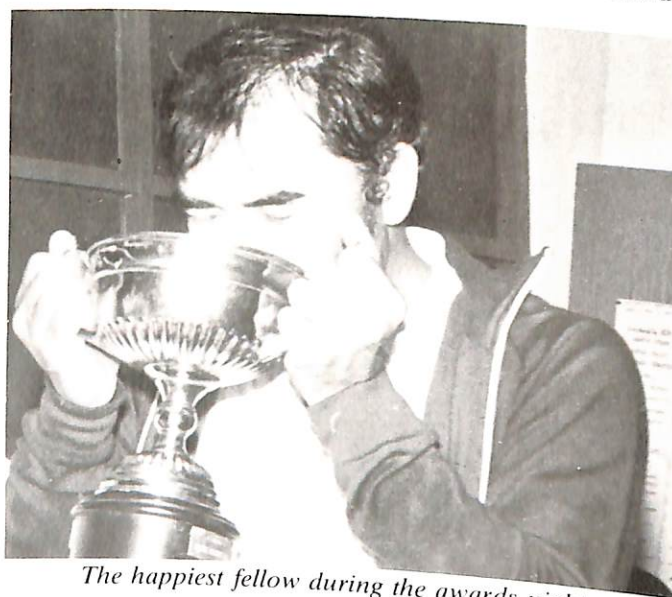
A match with Nomads followed soon after, being won easily by the Boat Club. The start of this tournament coincided with a visit to the club by Bongbong Marcos, son of the President, who played against Jes Dualan and Sablan.

In October, the annual MBC squash tournament took place with the usual keen preparation and fierce tournament play. Cervantes won the open title and the silver "President's Cup" for the second year in a row with Keith Jones taking the junior division and Dilip the novice. Patsy Cayzer won the ladies' open and Sue Hall the ladies' junior. Bill Sommers had his name added to the honor roll for the men's veterans.

As the Squash Secretary's report notes, "Buds Cervantes, 'Mr. Senior-Fox' in Philippine Squash, was the happiest fellow during the awards night as he practically drank all the beer from the silver cup".

The Boat Club was host to a group of squash players from H.M.A.S. Parramatta in September and, in November, to a group of 22 players from the Singapore Cricket Club. The Boat Club finished on even terms with the Cricket Club and also assisted in arranging matches for them with Nomads, the Polo Club and a combined club team.

Under the sponsorship of the S.R.A.P., an outstanding Pakistani squash trainer, Mohammed Amin, arrived in Manila in December for an eight-week stay. He played at the Boat Club on occasion as well as providing training for the Philippine team for the Second Far East Open Squash Tournament due early in 1977. Also in December, S.R.A.P. conducted its first Trainers' Tournament, with the title going to Sablan of the Boat Club. Steve Ansiboy, Nestor Argente, Pablo Rodoy and Peter Taclan also competed for MBC with distinction. A further Inter-Club Tournament was conducted late in the year, but neither the MBC men's nor women's team did well. (It should not, however, be thought that the S.R.A.P. was a highly organized and efficient body command-



The happiest fellow during the awards night

ing the respect of all. The Club's minutes for December note that "while [MBC's] attendance has been on an 'ad hoc' basis, the Club's position is not clear. There is, in fact, some doubt as to whether MBC is a member of the S.R.A.P. Considering the state of the S.R.A.P., which is viewed as ineffective and not representative of the sport on a country-wide basis, the Board unanimously voted to stay away from any involvement.")

Aside from regular squash games at the club, the ladder was reconstituted in April with a new and better ladder board being donated for the purpose. At the end of the year, the top three men players on the ladder were Veloso, Dilip and Sommers with the top ladies being Cayzer, Marina Francisco and Veloso.

Away from the river and the squash courts, the most significant event during the year was the resumption of 848 sq. meters of the club's land, including the area occupied by the staff house, to permit construction of a pumping station by the



Robert Veloso

Bureau of Public Works. Formal notification was received by the club in April. Investigation showed the staff house could not be moved to a new location as its structural supports were cement. There was also not enough space remaining to erect a new staff house on club property. It was agreed, however, that the occupants might salvage whatever they wished of the existing property for removal to a block of land the Argentes owned in the neighborhood. The Board also approved a ₱500 grant plus a ₱2,000 interest-free loan repayable over ten years to the Argente family to facilitate their relocation. Another charge henceforth was for the services of a security agency to provide protection to the club house with no one resident on the premises. An agreement was also drawn up between the club and the BPW contractor, Caruncho Construction, to protect the club against any damage to its property during the course of construction (which began late in the year). Nevertheless, considerable inconvenience was suffered when the construction company positioned its equipment and materials in such a way as to reduce available car space to a minimum.

Problems concerning staff were far less prominent than in 1975. Indeed, the annual report noted that "Club Staff have mostly worked well and har-

moniously". The club manager, Bill Mirasol, resigned in June and a successor, Pacifico Abungan, was appointed in August. Staff salaries were increased by 12 per cent across the board in July and deserving staff in all sections of the club received promotions. Nevertheless, it was felt desirable to draw up an "Employees' Rules and Regulations" booklet to guide all staff in their duties. An illustration of the improved atmosphere was the holding of a staff family Christmas party (in addition to a well-attended Christmas social for members).

A number of physical improvements to the club house were undertaken, including roof repair, purchase of refrigerator and freezer and squash court repainting. In August, a newsletter was introduced which soon became a lively monthly publication looked forward to by all. The editor was Bill Sommers of the U.S. Embassy, who both rowed and played squash and, as evidenced by the following two limericks from an early issue, tried to accommodate the prejudices of extreme members:

"There once was a rower named Stosh
Whose feats drew out cries of 'Good Gosh!'
He could row for six hours
And without pause for showers
Beat the bloody top seeds at their squash."

"There once was a squasher named Lowing
Whose efforts were couched in terms glowing
But his game lost its nifty
When he pushed over sixty:
Nothing left then but retirement and rowing."

A further increase in the entrance fee — from ₱500 to ₱750 — was approved as from 1 October (with 18 new members joining just before the new rate applied) and an increase in the monthly dues to ₱55 from 1 November. Regular membership at the end of the year stood at 216.

Boating fees were again increased during the year from ₱2.50 to ₱4.00 per outing, the reason being that "the current rates are patently unrealistic since they hardly make any contribution to the Club's funds". Coxing fees were also adjusted from ₱1.60 to ₱2.80 for distances up to five miles.

Financially, the club showed a net profit before depreciation of ₱22,447 but this was much affected by the payment of back property taxes totalling ₱19,762 (and financed by a bank loan of ₱20,000). Total income rose to ₱254,510, an increase of about ₱32,000 over 1975. Collection problems with certain members remained and, indeed, the Board recommended to members a change to a cash system with only monthly dues and locker rent being paid through a billing system.

The first rowing event of 1977 started as a revival of the former Interport series between Hong Kong and Manila. The revival was suggested by Hong Kong in September 1976 and the idea of racing over the Chinese New Year weekend in February was quickly accepted by the club. Kuala Belait Boat Club of Brunei, prospective hosts of the 1977 FEARA Regatta, were also invited but were unable to accept while Republic of Singapore Yacht Club Rowing Section — now including former MBC stalwarts Denis Dovey (Captain) and Bob Adams — heard about it and invited themselves! A team of nine finally arrived from Hong Kong and three from Singapore but, in view of the agreed informal nature of the events, “borrowing” of oarsmen from other clubs helped make up the necessary numbers.

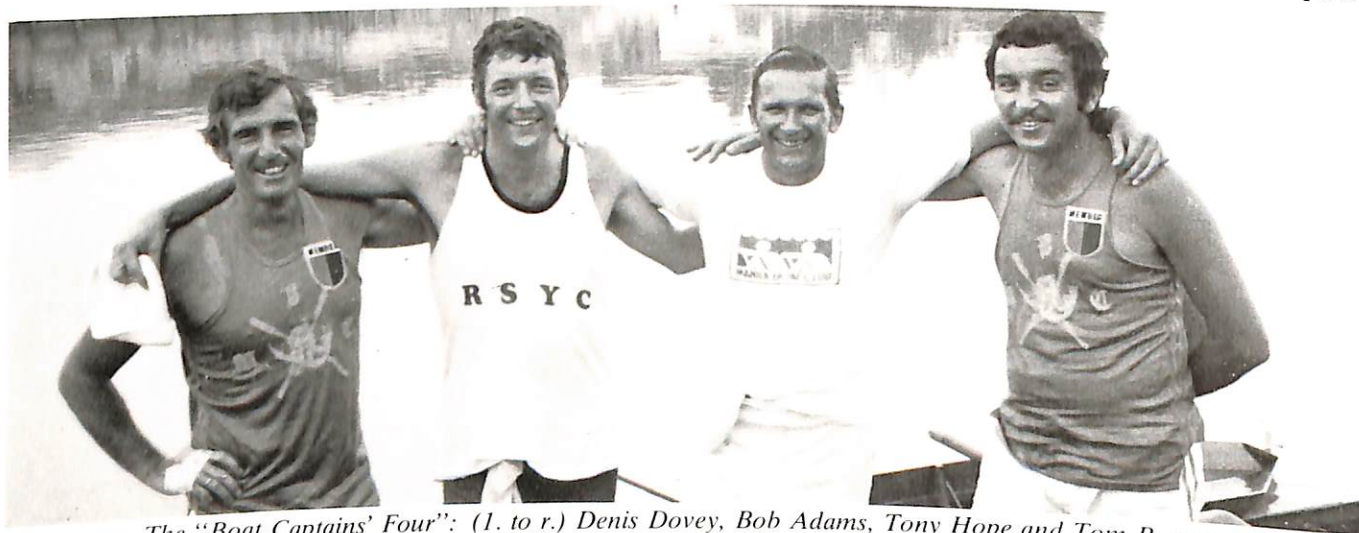
The highlights were the narrow win of Hong Kong in the senior fours over Manila's finest (Warren, Taylor, Hall and Hope) and the win of Henning Voelzke for Hong Kong in the senior sculls over Bob Adams. Six crews contested the senior pairs with Hong Kong's number 1 crew of Mike Tanner and Jim Walker finally defeating MBC no. 1 comprising Taylor and Warren in the final. Bob Hall won the junior sculls for Manila while another interesting

The most interesting event in March seems to have been the winning of the “Pasig Fetid Water Award” for March by Bob Hall. Bill Sommers, in the “Newsletter”, claimed that Hall, “piloting a single skull (sic) up a branch of the Pasig, fearlessly rammed



Bob Hall stroking a light four

a hand-paddled ferry-banca, carrying three men, two women, one child, three chickens and a pig. The scull road (sic) up the outrigger, punctured the banca and tossed our fearless warrior into the water on a post-



The “Boat Captains’ Four”: (1. to r.) Denis Dovey, Bob Adams, Tony Hope and Tom Bryant

event was the “Boat Captains’ Four” — containing four MBC Boat Captains — winning over a combined Hong Kong-MBC crew. Remaining events were the “Gentlemen’s Pair”, scratch fours, novice sculls and ladies’ pairs. The regatta proved very successful: as Hong Kong’s Rowing Secretary wrote, “The hospitality was tremendous and rowers and supporters alike thoroughly enjoyed themselves”. The wish was expressed that the regatta could become an annual event.

errior flip. The incident drew a sizeable crowd on the stream side where Our Man Hall was accused of Black Water Imperialism wherein, soaked with the effluent of years, he beat a hasty retreat to the guarded safety of the Club. Repairs to boat were minimum — to the ego, however, that is another story!”

The Boat Club-to-Yacht Club row was reinstated at the end of April with two heavy fours rowing down on the Saturday and back on Sunday morning.

A mini-regatta in honor of Jim Taylor — the first of several key oarsmen to leave during the year — was held at the end of June. Jim stroked a crew to the final of a light four event but, in the final, went down to the crew of Smith, Sone, Veloso and Hope by 2 feet only. Three weeks later, a similar regatta was being held for Tony Warren. Due to heavy rain, only one race was held but, this time, the honoree was in the winning crew.

Partly due to the unavailability of these two key oarsmen, the club, for the second year in a row, failed to participate in the 1977 FEARA Regatta, hosted by the Kuala Belait Boat Club early in August. A further factor was, of course, the difficult training conditions due to the monsoonal rains in Manila at that time.

A curious event occurred a little earlier in the month of July. Japanese member Toyo Kato was rowing a heavy scull back to the club, powered in part by a very strong current due to heavy rain. He stopped off the club house a few strokes too late and the current took him rapidly towards the logs in the water awaiting processing at the Santa Clara Lumber Company. Before a startled and very concerned group on

the pantalan he was, firstly, tipped into the water and, secondly, the scull disappeared completely under the logs! Kato soon was quite safe but the boat boys commenced — without too much hope — searching for the remains of the scull. After several unsuccessful attempts, some of the logs were separated and, suddenly, a rigger appeared followed immediately by an intact and undamaged heavy scull! (Kato, who had been anxiously inquiring about the cost of replacing a scull, took several weeks off rowing after this unsettling incident!)

The launching — at last — of the club's eight was now imminent. The boat — plus the new oars — was released from customs in March and the boat boys then commenced work on the many repairs necessary. This was slow work but it was performed very thoroughly and, after one practice run, all was ready for the big event, which took place on 27 August. At the request of the North Shore Rowing Club, the boat retained the name "G.D. McPherson" after the Australian oarsman who lost his life in World War II. Ambassador Gerry Nutter of Australia spoke at the ceremony while Jill Bryant ably performed the re-christening. Former Boat Captain Tom Bryant took



Toasting the eight

the seat of honor at stroke in the first official outing with several other crews taking part as well. (On the row back to the pantalan, indeed, two of the crews which set off before the eight caused something of a stir by neglecting to "allow" it, as agreed, to row past them!)



Benjie Ramos (bow) rowing with Boyong Deles

Only one week later, the eight was put to excellent use when members of the Australian eight which had competed in the World Championships in Amsterdam found themselves with a day or two to spare in

December. International Fours headed the program and the three entrants — Australia, Philippines and United Nations — rowed a round robin with Australia (Cayzer, Bryant, May and Hope) emerging the winners. Winners of the sculls were Ted Deed (novice), Benjie Ramos (junior) and Tony Hope (senior) while Ramos and Jun Gatchalian won the heavy pairs.

Total outings in 1977 — at 1137 — were well down on the previous year but the top mileage rower — Jim Taylor — was up on the previous year with 401 miles. Boat Captain Ted Deed was next with 308 and Tony Hope third with 264.

The highlight of the squash year in 1977 occurred very early: the Second Far East Open Squash Championships were held in Manila from 18-25 February. Four Boat Club players — Sablan, Veloso, Rillorta and Cervantes — gained selection in the Philippines' eight-man team and one morning's play (19 February) took place at the Boat Club. Hong Kong won the team's competition from Singapore with the Philippines moving up to gain third place. In the individual competition, Preysler secured the championship for the Philippines, helped, slightly, by the return of Hong Kong's number 1 player to the Crown Col-



The eight in action on launching day

Manila. With the Australians in the stern four and the local oarsmen in the bow four, MBC's rowers gained a rather startling introduction to what top class rowing was really all about!

After two attempts to stage the Head of the Pasig in September were aborted due to inclement weather, attention turned to the Christmas Regatta early in

ony before the event.

The final day's play of the 1977 Inter-Color Tourney took place on the afternoon of 19 February, after the international players had departed and with the heats of the Interport regatta going on at the same time. There were seven teams of eight players each (two alternating players for each of men's "A", "B"

and "C" and ladies) and the winning team was Dilip's "Brown" line-up which included Erkki Juslen, David Powell, Bob Hall, Jojo Francisco, Alex Francisco, Patsy Cayser, and Gaye Hope. The "Yellow" team, headed by Tony Hope, finished second.

A second "Kiddies" tournament concluded in May with Jojo Francisco retaining his class "A" title with Reggie Cayzer runner-up and Angie Cayzer taking the Class "B" with Ivo Dualan the next best.

Immediately prior to the Annual Meeting in May, a "Challenge Dilip" tournament was held to farewell (temporarily only, as it proved) Dilip Shrivastava. Dilip defeated five players successively in 11-point sets and then went on to beat Cervantes to gain the top of the ladder.

In June, two more challenge matches against individual clubs were played: MBC beat Manila Squash Club 2-1 and Nomads 6-2. In July, return games with Manila Squash were held with MBC's men's and ladies' "B" teams winning 5-4 and the men's "A" team going down 2-3. A return match against Nomads saw Nomads having a sparkling win by 6 matches to 1. A similar contest against the Polo Club in December saw MBC successful by 10 to 4. A handicap tournament was also scheduled with Rillorta winning the men's division, Winnie Francisco the ladies' and Nestor Argente the trainers'. Soon after this, three Pakistani amateur players — Abdul Rehman, Fahim Gul and Shams Zaman — were seen in a sparkling exhibition at the club.



Triple champion Buds Cervantes

1977 was quite a year for Danny Sablan. He gained selection in the Philippine team for the

Hashim Khan Tourney in Karachi only to see it postponed due to political disturbances. He later joined in the Malaysia and Singapore Open Squash Championships in August and, in November, won the Trainers' Tournament for the second year in a row (the runner-up being Nestor Argente). In December and — granted — in the absence of the temporarily retired Preysler — he won the S.R.A.P.'s Philippine Open Squash Championship, beating Ray Precilla in



Erkki Juslen (left) and Philip Rillorta at the end of a game the final. (Not quite so lucky was Eileen Mount of the Boat Club who saw the Philippine Ladies' Open Tournament cancelled after she was the only player who had officially entered!)

The 1977 Inter-Club Tournament had, meanwhile, taken place. The Boat Club celebrated a fine win in the men's "C" competition, the team consisting of Tito Orosa, Jimmy Quiray, Benjie Ramos, Jun Gatchalian, Willy Ingles, Hans Springer and Bambi del Castillo. Manila Squash won the men's "A" and the ladies' and a newcomer, Makati Sports Club, took the men's "B".

Finally, in December, the club's own annual tournament concluded with Cervantes scoring a hat-trick in the men's open in a hard five-setter against Rillorta. Eileen Mount took the ladies's title and Paul Frankland the men's "B". Nandy Garcia won the men's veterans and Dennis Cabalfin the men's novice. Sablan added the trainer's title to his impressive year's successes.

The ladders had, meanwhile, been continuing with various degrees of enthusiasm throughout the year. By the end of December, the men's "A" was headed by Rob Mather, Bill Robinson (back in the Philippines for a second stretch) and Robert Veloso. Top three in the ladies' were Eileen Mount, Helen Veloso and Winnie Francisco.

Financially, the year was a good one for the club with a net profit of ₱39,508 being realized before depreciation. The major increase in revenue

(₱22,242) came from the higher entrance and membership dues (increased again to ₱75 from October) with earnings from the squash courts, at ₱36,008, and the sale of goods, at ₱18,325, roughly the same as the year before (and despite an increase in squash court rentals from ₱3 to ₱4 from September). Expenditure on repairs and maintenance was well down on the previous year but, offsetting this, bad debts written-off came to ₱10,051 compared with only ₱358 the year before.

There was actually a substantial net loss of members during the year, the number of regular members falling from 216 to 161. A total of 24 memberships were terminated as a result of accounts being unpaid for a period of more than six months. In addition to the regular members, there were 13 guest members and 111 absentee members at the end of the year.

After the resignation of the club manager at the end of July, it was decided not to seek a replacement.

January 1978 with an amount of ₱95,642 being due.) The bulk of the bank loan to pay the back taxes was paid off during the year and the club was out of debt by January 1978.

Publication of the newsletter continued on a monthly basis, the editing shifting to the husband and wife team of Dick and Patsy Cayzer from June. A new social group within the club was born soon after with the creation of the "Goat Club" by Jes Dualan and other appreciators of San Miguel. This group held a number of barbecues on Saturday nights and also helped ensure the success of the club's Christmas Party. (A return to the previous practice of occasional stag parties was planned in November but it would have coincided with a campaign by the First Lady against the reemergence of "old society" activities and was quietly dropped.)

The 1978 rowing activities commenced with a further Chinese New Year visit from a small group of



Back at Nagtajan. Eileen Mount holds the cake.

A general salary increase was granted to staff and the club's operations continued satisfactorily on the new basis. A second staff Christmas Party was also held.

The compensation due from the Bureau of Public Works was not received, despite intensive efforts by a number of Board members. (The deed of absolute sale of the land was, indeed, not executed until

rowers from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. In an informal Sunday morning regatta, races were held in light fours, sculls and heavy pairs. Hope won the sculls over Arnold and Boyde of Hong Kong but the visitors proved too good in the light fours, with the crew of Arnold (bow), Fawthrop, Walker and Brownlee (stroke) defeating the MBC crew of Tom

Bakiewicz (bow), Simon Nish, Jaime Atkins and Tony Nutter (stroke) in the final. The final of the heavy pairs was won by the MBC crew of Kevin Butt and Steve Banta.

The postponed "1977" Head of the Pasig was the next event scheduled and it took place on 25 February. Two fours, a pair and a sculler participated and the race was won by the light four of Ted Deed (bow), Sonny Sone, Tom Bakiewicz and Robert Veloso (stroke), thus making Veloso the first person to win the race twice.

The Boat Club was invited to stage the FEARA Regatta in 1978. Serious consideration was given to it but, largely due to the departure of many rowers at about the same time and the consequent need for rebuilding, it was decided not to accept the invitation. There had been expectation that Hong Kong would fill the gap but, in the event, the 1978 Regatta was not held. (To encourage more rowing activity, the outing fee — which had been raised from ₱4 to ₱6 in September 1977 — was reduced to ₱4 again as from March.)

A trial reintroduction of moonlight rowing took place in June, dampened somewhat when the full moon failed to make an appearance.

A new event introduced in the year was a row "back to Nagtajan" on the last Saturday in July, commemorating the similar date in 1932 when all the boats were transferred from the old Nagtajan site to the new club at Santa Ana. Twenty-one rowers took part in a successful outing and they were joined at the site by several more members and dependents where refreshments were taken.



Eileen Mount (stroke) and Gaye Hope

Another new event followed: the first-ever team color regatta. Each of four teams nominated a four, a double scull and a single scull for a round robin competition on three successive Sunday mornings in August/September. The winning "Green" team com-

prised Tony Hope, David Webster, Norman Clarke, Peter Smith, Jim Hagedorn and Eileen Mount.

Next in line was a mini-regatta in October in which four events were contested. The mixed heavy doubles went to Eileen Mount and Steve Banta and



Thomi Keller with Anacleto

the club fours to Gaye Hope, Jim Hagedorn, Norman Clarke and Kevin Butt. In a special challenge, the Boat Captain's four of Peter Smith, Geoff Jones, Alan May and Sonny Sone defeated the President's four, while the winners of the final of the double sculls — Hope and Webster — were decided by the toss of a coin.

A memorable evening at the club was 15 November when club patron and former captain Thomi Keller, President of the World Rowing Federation, paid a nostalgic visit to his old club. Thomi thrilled a keen group of members with an account of the just-completed World Rowing Championships in New Zealand and presented a FISA flag to the club.

In the 1978 Head of the Pasig, held soon after, two fours, a pair and a double scull competed. The handicapping proved better than usual and only 30 seconds separated all crews at the finish. Winners were Geoff Jones and Steve Banta in the heavy double with an elapsed time of only 26 minutes.

The Christmas Regatta finalised a busy year on the river. Six events were held with Jim Hagedorn walking away with the handicap sculls, Tom Barts and Greg Belen winning the novice pairs, Eileen Mount and Gaye Hope the ladies' doubles and Geoff Jones, Benjie Ramos, Norman Clarke and Gaye Hope the mixed fours. The keenly contested International Pairs went to Australia (May and Hope) and the club fours to Clarke, Banta, May and Sone.

Total outings in 1978 came to 1242 compared

with 1137 in 1977. The number of members, dependents and guests rowing at least once in the year was 94. Sonny Sone rowed the most miles during the year with 466, followed by Alan May on 297½ and Greg Belen on 204¾.

The 1978 Team Color Squash Tournament commenced in mid-January with seven teams of eight players each taking part. Winners were the "Orange" team comprising Satish Vaish, Tony Hope (captain), Dennis Cabalfin, Joe Francisco, M. Philipps, Ted Deed, Sophie Matiasz, and I. McAllister. The individual trophies went to Sophie Matiasz (who lost only six points in four matches) and Jun Gatchalian.

A number of challenge matches against other clubs were again scheduled. The first was with a team from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club on the Chinese New Year weekend in February with the Boat Club easily winning 6-1. (A return series of

the S.R.A.P. in February. In the All Filipino, Sablan was runner-up to Preysler in the men's "A", while Romy Ribaño won the men's "B" and Reggie Cayzer the men's "C". The ladies "A" was won by Rose Tablante of Manila Squash from her sister Rita. Dilip won the men's "A" in the Expatriates from Wayne Quasha, and Dick Cayzer took the men's "B" from Erkki Juslen. Sophie Matiasz annexed the ladies' division.

Five MBC members gained selection in the Philippine team for the Third Far East Asian Invitational Squash Tournament, held in Singapore over the Easter weekend. They were Sablan, Cervantes, Veloso, Prieto and Dilip. The Philippines gained third place in the Tournament behind Singapore, the champions, and Hong Kong.

On the local front, a further MBC Junior Tournament (for dependents under 15) was held in April.



After the 1978 Team Color Squash Tournament: (l. to r.) Tony Hope, Tito Orosa, Dennis Cabalfin, Satish Vaish and Jun Gatchalian

matches in Hong Kong was planned for May and fund raising activities, including a "bingo social" and a "200 club" raffle, were conducted. Some ₱7,000 was raised but, eventually, the proposed tour fell through.) Three challenge matches were played against Nomads (in February, May and June), the results respectively being MBC 4-1, Nomads 5-3 and MBC 6-3. In December, a Hong Kong Combined Services team visited Manila and soundly defeated the MBC side 6-1.

The Boat Club was well represented among the winning group in the All Filipino Tournament and the Expatriates Tournament conducted concurrently by

Reggie Cayzer won the "A" Division from Tintin Tabuena while Dennis Vu won the "B" Division from Robert Cayzer. A one-day handicap tournament was held in May with Dilip (off minus 16) defeating Veloso 21-13 in the final. A S.R.A.P.-organized Inter-Club Tournament was played in June/July, the participants being the Boat Club, Manila Squash, Manila Polo, Nomads and Makati Sports. The Boat Club finished champions in the men's "B" division and runners-up in the men's "C", the ladies' and the over-all championship (to the Polo Club which won the men's "A" division). Members of the winning men's "B" team were Keith Jones (captain), Paul

Frankland, David Powell, Dick Cayzer, Tony Hope, Reggie Cayzer and Harry Kent. A further handicap tournament in August saw Rob Mather win the men's division from Dilip and Patsy Cayzer the ladies' from Sophie Matiasz. In the "members/trainers" division, Harry Bingley won from Dilip.

The first Philippine Open Squash Championships with participants invited from overseas countries were held from 13-17 September at the Valle Verde Country Club. (The S.R.A.P. Tournament Committee which efficiently organized the Championships comprised five Boat Club members — Cervantes, Dilip, Matiasz, Veloso and Mather.) In the men's division, Pakistanis took the first three places: Atlas Khan was champion, Fahim Gul the runner-up and Rahim Gul was third. In the ladies' division, the Tablante sisters, Rose and Rita, finished first and second with Matiasz third.

The club's own annual tournament began in October. In the men's open, the reigning champion, Cervantes, was defeated in the final by Mather. Rose Tablante annexed the ladies' open crown, defeating Matiasz in the final. Other winners were Richie Mata in the men's "B", Bambi del Castillo in the men's novice, Nandy Garcia in the veterans', Barbara Bingley in the ladies' "B" and Seija Pertulla in the ladies' novice.

Two more major events still remained. At the end of November, a Japanese team visited Manila for matches. The Philippine Senior Team — which included Sablan, Cervantes, Bingley, Mather, Matiasz and Patsy Cayzer from MBC — won every game, although the Philippine Junior Team — which included Richie Mata and Reggie Cayzer — were well beaten. December saw the holding of the Philippines Closed Tournament and three Boat Club players — Sablan, Dilip and Mather — reached the semi-finals of the men's division. Winner of the final was the other semi-finalist, Bharat Parashar, with Sablan the runner-up.

The squash ladders — and particularly the men's "A" — were very active during the year with 20 to 30 challenges taking place most months. At the end of the year, the three top men players were Mather, Bingley and Wayne Quasha and the top ladies were Matiasz, Cayzer and Mount.

The game of darts became very popular in the club during the year, especially after the extensive renovations to the bar area which were completed in March (and were initially "christened" during a folk-singing evening on 31 March). With Willy Ingles as organizer, the first MBC Team Darts Tournament was held in August, the winners being Danny Gomez and Louie Muñoa. The club's two dart boards were in

use thereafter most evenings with weekly and monthly competitions being held.

Club membership moved up slightly over the year from 161 regular members to 169. The usual drive for new members was assisted by the production in August of a "Welcome to Manila Boat Club" brochure complete with photographs, application for membership and location map. A further increase in



Darts champion Danny Gomez being watched by Beth Umali

the entrance fee — from ₱750 to ₱1,000 — from 1 October also had the usual effect of encouraging those contemplating membership to make up their minds quickly. Sixteen new members were approved in the weeks before 1 October.

The club's financial performance in 1978 was the best since 1973. Net income before depreciation stood at ₱95,131, 140 per cent better than the year before. Reflecting, in particular, the darts activities, total bar sales increased by more than 50 per cent to ₱60,000. Profit on bar sales increased similarly to ₱24,000. Snack bar sales and profits were also up substantially. Income from squash court bookings was up more than ₱11,000 to ₱47,640, reflecting the full-year effects of the higher court charges introduced late in 1977. Entrance and membership dues yielded ₱177,845 (up by ₱19,000) and total revenues came to ₱284,643 (up by ₱53,859). Tightly controlled expenditures, including a substantially lower level of bad debts written-off, led to an increase in total expenses of less than ₱2,000 to ₱220,262. Staff salaries were increased by 10 per cent across the board from 1 February and merit increases were also awarded in April. The annual report recorded that "The majority of the staff worked well and harmoniously throughout the year".

Substantial renovation to the club house was

undertaken in the year. Both the men's and ladies' locker rooms were modernized and, as has been noted, the bar area was entirely redesigned to considerable effect. Complete electrical rewiring also took place.

One "major disappointment and a source of irritation" remained: the compensation from the Bureau of Public Works for taking over part of the club's land remained outstanding despite the Board's best efforts.



MBC defeating Hong Kong in the junior fours, 1979

The club's newsletter continued its lively and regular monthly existence under Dick Cayzer's editorship and the Goat Club's occasional social functions within the club also took place. A Christmas Social at the club on 16 December attracted some 130 persons and ended the year on a happy note.

The first major rowing event of 1979 was the

22 MBC rowers who competed trained hard for a lengthy period. Unfortunately, Hong Kong proved too good once again, but the competition, especially from Manila, was substantial. The MBC "A" four of



Jane Mothersill (left) and Anne Webster with Mitsubishi's Makoto Hatori

Steve Banta (bow), Sonny Sone, Benjie Ramos, and Norman Clarke (stroke) started with a good win against Hong Kong "B" but were beaten by the Hong Kong "A" crew in the final. Tony Hope won his way to the final of the sculls but was beaten by the now Hong Kong sculler Miles Duncan. The Boat Club won two events — Anne Webster and Jane Mothersill in the ladies' doubles and Peter



Manila "A" against Hong Kong in 1979

Chinese New Year Regatta held at the end of January, at which the club was host to 12 rowers from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's Rowing Section and to nine from the Mitsubishi Corporation Boat Club of Tokyo. Seven events were scheduled and the

Smith (bow), Kevin Butt, Dick Cayzer and Geoff Jones (stroke) in the junior fours — but the trophies for the junior sculls, junior pairs and senior pairs also found their way back to Hong Kong. Mitsubishi's young oarsmen tried very hard but without

success. A pre-regatta cocktail party at the club President's residence and an excellent buffet lunch sponsored by Mitsubishi after the rowing on the Sunday wound up an excellent regatta which also received outstanding newspaper photographs and stories the following day.

a heavy double sculls, a mixed double sculls, a "sculling relay", a mixed fours and a scratch fours. Later in the evening, the Goat Club staged a farwell party for Gaye and Tony Hope, the latter the President for the three previous years and the Boat Captain the year before that. A feature of the evening was the re-



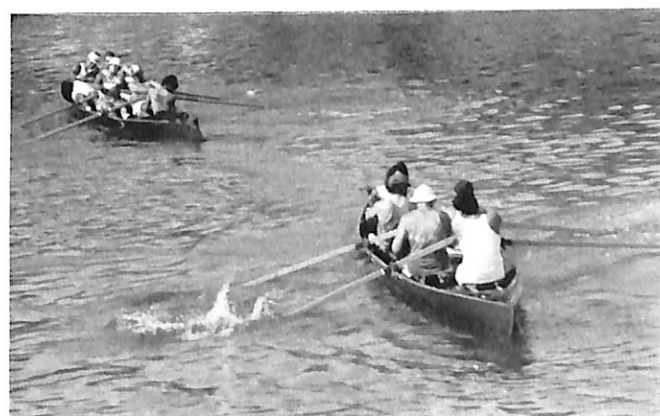
Australia wins the International Fours, 1979

The 1979 Spring Regatta took place over two days in the middle of March, with many of the previous traditional events being reintroduced. Past President Malcolm Churchill arrived back in Manila for a short stay in time to win the sculling championship while the International Fours went to Australia (Dick Cayzer (bow), David Webster, Alan May and Tony Hope (stroke)) in the tightest of finals over the U.S. crew. Ed Unson, in his first race, easily dominated the novice sculls and Anne Webster showed out in the ladies' sculls. The casa pairs went to Philippine Refining Company (Tom Bakiewicz (bow) and Brian Roberts-Wray (stroke)) and the junior fours to Peter Smith (bow), Eileen Mount, Benjie Ramos and Norman Clarke (stroke).

The next event was a farewell mini-regatta for two stalwarts — Tony Hope and Sonny Sone. The regatta took place at the end of April and featured a number of interesting "picnic" events, including a "tug-o-war" in heavy fours (which, the Newsletter recorded, "in view of the enormous strain it placed on the rowers, the boats and the blades, probably should never be held again!"). Other events held comprised

christening of the "Victory" the "T. and G. Hope".

At the end of June, the 1979 "Head of the Paisg", the eighth in the series, took place, with the winning crew being the light four of Banta (bow), Clarke, Ramos and Veloso (stroke), the latter thus



Tug-o'-War, 1979

securing his third win in the prestigious event, in the elapsed time of 31 mins. 10 secs. Five other boats took part including two heavy fours, a light double and two heavy sculls.

By the end of June, 73 members, dependents or guests had rowed once or more during the year, their outings totalling 958 (compared with 1242 for the whole of 1978). Ed Unson was top of the mileage table with 453½ miles from Greg Belen on 424½. (Still in prospect were a special "International" regatta in September and the 1979 FEARA Regatta

competition amongst themselves each month being introduced. This proved quite successful and, at the end of June, the top five male players were Rob Mather, Colin Hook, Colin Ayers, Wayne Quasha and Buds Cervantes, while the leading lady players were Patsy Cayzer, Liz Alwill, Eileen Mount, Seija Pertulla and Helen Veloso.



Club staff, 1979: top row (l. to r.) Pablo Rodoy, Peter Taclan, Ed. Laguador, Danny Sablan, Letty Ravinera, Jimmy Colless (trainer), Jojo Argente, Fidel Argente; bottom row Nestor Argente, Boying Eusebio, Roger Borja, Rogelio Badeo (absent Ely Banaag)

early in October to commemorate the 100th anniversary of rowing in Singapore.)

The 1979 squash year began early with a well-supported team color tournament. Nine teams participated with that captained by Gaye Hope winning out in a close finish. Other members of the winning team were Buds Cervantes, Danny Gomez, Willie Ingles, Tim Peterson, Ted Deed, Andy Davison and Anne Webster. Individual champions were Dilip (class "A"), Jimmie Quiray (class "B"), Chris Mothersill (class "C") and Patsy Cayzer (ladies').

The Fourth Far East Asian Squash Championships were held in Bangkok over the Easter Weekend with the Boat Club's representatives (Rob Mather, Danny Sablan, Colin Hook, Dilip, Mauro Prieto and Robert Veloso) appearing prominently in the national side. Unfortunately, their extensive training did not yield the desired results and they finished at the tail of the six-nation field.

Meanwhile, however, the squash ladder had been reactivated once again, with a new system whereby players were grouped in brackets of four for

A range of challenge matches against other clubs were also arranged by the new Squash Secretary, Rob Mather. In May, matches were arranged with Manila Squash Club and Nomads and, in June, return matches were played with both plus another match against the squash players of the Manila Polo Club. Also in June, an "All Filipino" versus "All Expatriate" match was played within the club with the result finishing a happy 4-all.

The enthusiastic darts activities, which got underway in 1978, continued strongly in the first six months with games among members taking place almost every evening. The first challenge to another organization — the Asian Development Bank team — took place in March but ended in a resounding loss with only Elvie Alvarez, Helen Veloso and Jimmy Quiray winning their games out of a team of 16. A return game ended in a more appropriate 8-all draw.

A Canadian — Peter Smith — became the new President early in May at an annual meeting attended by some 60 members and dependents. An English girl, Anne Webster, also gained election to the Board.



Board of Directors, 1978/79: (l. to r.) Dilip, Alan May, Tito Orosa, Danny Gomez, Dick Cayzer, Tony Hope and Peter Smith

becoming only the third woman and the first non-Filipina to do so. The new Board, disturbed over a further decline in membership, immediately commenced a drive for new members with the lure of two months free dues being offered to any member proposing a new member plus the prospect of some delay in the (inevitable) further increase in dues and charges if the drive was successful. The early response proved quite encouraging and, at the end of June, regular membership stood at 155 (with a further 144 persons holding absentee membership status).

Regular maintenance work on the club's property continued. Court number 3 was refloored in March/April and court number 2 received its regular repainting at the end of May. (The club's courts were,

in fact, widely hailed as the best kept in Manila in addition to being by far the most active.) Dredging of the Pasig near the pantalan also became necessary once again and was carried out at the end of June.

While the compensation from the Bureau of Public Works had still not been received by the end of June (but was reported to be not far off . . .), the financial situation for the first six months of 1979 was satisfactory, with a net profit before depreciation of ₱21,150. Expenses were, however, rising more rapidly than were revenues.

Overall, however, the club was, at the end of June 1979, as at many times in the past, a very active, efficiently-operating and prospering organization with a large group of enthusiastic members.

The outstanding Scottish oarsman, Eric Little, won his first International Four in 1914 and went on to stroke six further International Fours to wins between 1916 and 1925 before retiring to the ranks of the race officials. The great Swiss enthusiast, Otto Schulthess, had his first win in 1921 and went on to help Switzerland win a hat-trick of International Fours in 1927, 1928 and 1929. And watching most of these races was "Jock" Williamson who started it all in 1888 and was still attending regattas in the 1930s.

Many other names stand out in the club's first forty-odd years. Amongst them are Harry Foster who was winning races in 1906 and was club President several times in the mid and late '30s; Fred Heron, the Australian oarsman, who swept all before him in his brief stay in 1908; R.S. Findlay, the great Scottish stroke and sculler who gave his life in the Great War; P.S. Page, outstanding coxswain and great supporter of the club for many years; Ernest Heybroek, who insisted on being called a "Hollander" rather than a "Dutchman"; "Chick" Parsons, the American oarsman who was to assist the club greatly in getting re-established after the war; Steve Crawford, the lightweight English rower who contributed substantially to the club's activities over a thirty-year period; Gor-



Steve Crawford, 1979

don Mackay, the powerful Scottish oarsman and Thorig Ottiger, the outstanding Swiss oarsman, both of whom represented the club against Hong Kong; the "great" John Lander, the English Olympic champion who revitalized the club and enhanced substantially the standard of rowing; Nick Linley, the tall and strong Englishman who shared many of Lander's successes; Jack Kingsley, outstanding coxswain and proficient sculler for many years; Ben Johnston, club President at the time of the move to Santa Ana,



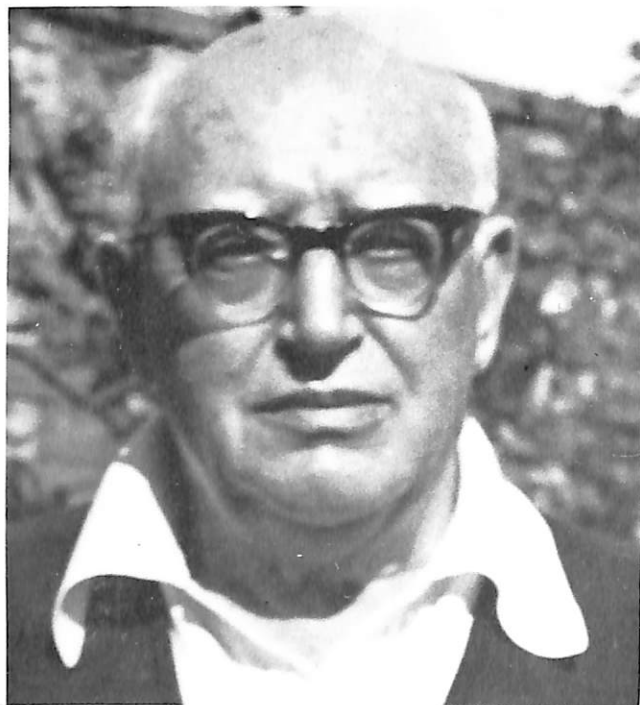
Nick Linley, 1979

whose influence helped overcome the many problems involved; Philip Arundell, keen and successful English oarsman who was to play a huge role in the re-establishment of the club after the war; John Rankin and Donald Stewart, who won a string of races for Scotland in the mid-'thirties; and Erwin Altwegg, who won many sculling races for Switzerland in the years leading to the Japanese occupation.

Several other aspects of the pre-War club stand out when reviewed by a modern member. Amongst them must surely be the stability if not rigidity of the racing calendar. The club's life stemmed around the two big regattas of the year: the Autumn Regatta each November with its standard three races (club fours, club pairs and handicap sculls until the "Fox Cup" for novices was presented in 1924 and the "Douglas Piercy Cup" for International Pairs in 1932) and the Spring Regatta in February/March with, again, its standard International Fours, junior fours, casa pairs and sculling championship. Activity on the river must have fallen well off between the hot months of April/May and the end of the rainy season and the threat of major typhoons about September, when training for the new "season" could commence.

Another is the complete absence of Filipinos amongst the membership (and, seemingly, of Spaniards as well). The attitude to the host population by the expatriate members appears, today, condescending in the extreme. In 1914, the "native coxes" were to wear uniforms "to distinguish them from the other natives about the Club House". In 1924, one of the rules for the "Fox Cup" race for pairs oars was "White coxes to be compulsory". In the late '20s,

it seems, the three club boys were referred to only as "No. 1 boy", "No. 2 boy" and "No. 3 boy" respectively. And yet, in the latter years at least, this is in conflict with the warm tributes paid to "our old Head Boy and Boatman Telesforo" and his two coxswain daughters and to "Eusebio, who was so good with the boats". Of Eusebio and Sefarino, indeed, one former member wondered "what they thought of us and whether they might have rowed a damned sight better than we did".



Philip Arundell, 1979

A third is what might today be called the "male chauvinistic" attitude of the club members, at least as

a body. Ladies were made very welcome at the two regattas but not, it seems, at other times. Where Mrs. Hoetinck, the Dutch lady coxswain of 1920, changed her clothes must remain a mystery. The mixed banca race of 1924 seems a daring experiment indeed, especially when the concern of the old men's four for the member who took a lady out on the river with him a few years later is recalled. The dance late in 1932 was one of the relatively rare social occasions at the club to which ladies were invited and the 1934 farewell party for Lander was, as far as Arundell is concerned, the "one and only cocktail party" given by the club. And yet the annual formal stag dinner at the Manila Club on Spring Regata finals' day is remembered by one and all with tremendous enthusiasm, even if "formality did not extend beyond one's attire".

The decade of the 'forties was a lost one for the Boat Club and, no doubt, for so many other organizations and bodies in the Philippines. The list of names of the members who suffered so much in the internment camps along with their families, quite apart from those who were killed, makes dismal reading and it is very difficult to comprehend the effect this had on the future lives of those who survived. Had Arundell not lasted those last "couple of weeks" before the Americans came into the camp, any future at all for the club would have been gravely in doubt.

And yet the club had earlier suffered its ups and downs and was, of course, to do so again. The Swiss provided a great boost in the recovery period and for several years thereafter. Anacleto Eusebio was still around to continue working miracles with the boats. Members came and members went but each new batch contained enough enthusiasts — including, increasingly, permanently resident Filipinos — to sus-



Outstanding Swiss oarsmen of the mid-'50s and earlier: (l. to r.) M. Hornstein, G. Laurent, W. Boenheim, O. Schulthess and E. Altwegg

tain considerable activity. If the role of the traditionally British trading companies in the club's affairs started to lessen, other entities filled the gap such as the U.S. and Australian Embassies, Shell, Standard-Vacuum and others. A considerable boost — and also considerable income — came from the commencement of rowing by the American School and Ateneo de Manila University in the late 'fifties and early 'sixties. And in 1961 the first lady to become a member in her own right appeared — albeit despite “the limited nature of the facilities and the stern traditions to the contrary”.

Other breaks with the past were occurring. What Lander would have made of the 1962 Spring Regatta's “Volunteer Mixed Class Pairs and Doubles” and “Impromptu Fours” and the absence of an International Fours is a matter for conjecture. And the installation in the same year of a ladies' room in the club building! Other traditions did continue, such as the Interport Regattas against Hong Kong, first begun in 1925 and pursued vigorously on several occasions between 1955 and 1966.

To this time — 16 years after the club got under way again — many names stand out as outstanding members. They include — but are not limited to — the following: Philip Arundell and Otto Schulthess; Ian Purslow; Frank Rudmann; Max Klingler; Thomi Keller; Hans Schaeppi; Erwin Altwegg; Denys Pinfold; Gus Laurent; George Sturt; Waldemar Boenheim; Peter Kemery; Nigel Rigg; Keith Martin; Tim Biron; Garth Barraclough; Sasha Goldman; Mike Steffes; Frost Prioleau;

Michael Miles, Rudolph Schwarz; John Mays; Jun Ezpeleta; Nap. Roque; Douglas Buckle; Claude Dickinson; David Ritchie; Max Steger; Donald Richardson; Paul Dougan; Mike Parsons; Graeme Armstrong; Jorma Kaukonen; Hans Schmid; Vic Dualan; Joey Ansaldo; Carl McMillan; Malcolm Churchill; Bernard Kubitza; Peter McCartney; Willem van Huystee; Peter Gamble; Walter Abraham; Ted Winebrenner; Peter van Schaardenburg; Hendrik Pont; Louis Baker; Brian Harber; Kees van der Heyden; and Father Jim Dodge.

It is clear, looking back, that the club faced — and, fortunately, overcame — a major crisis in its history in the late 1960s, when membership and rowing activity declined drastically and even meetings of the Board of Directors failed to take place. The club's future at that stage must be considered to have been very much in doubt.

The recovery which accompanied the construction of the squash courts is, as recorded, quite remarkable. From only three new members in 1969 to 51 in 1970 and 161 a year later! From a total membership of 15 at the end of 1969 to a level of 249 three years later! And a high level of activity at the club seven days a week in lieu of the odd sculler or two taking a boat out on a Saturday afternoon only a few years before.

One factor in all this was, of course, the enthusiasm with which Filipinos took to the game of squash. Apart from its worldwide attraction as an excellent source of concentrated exercise for busy

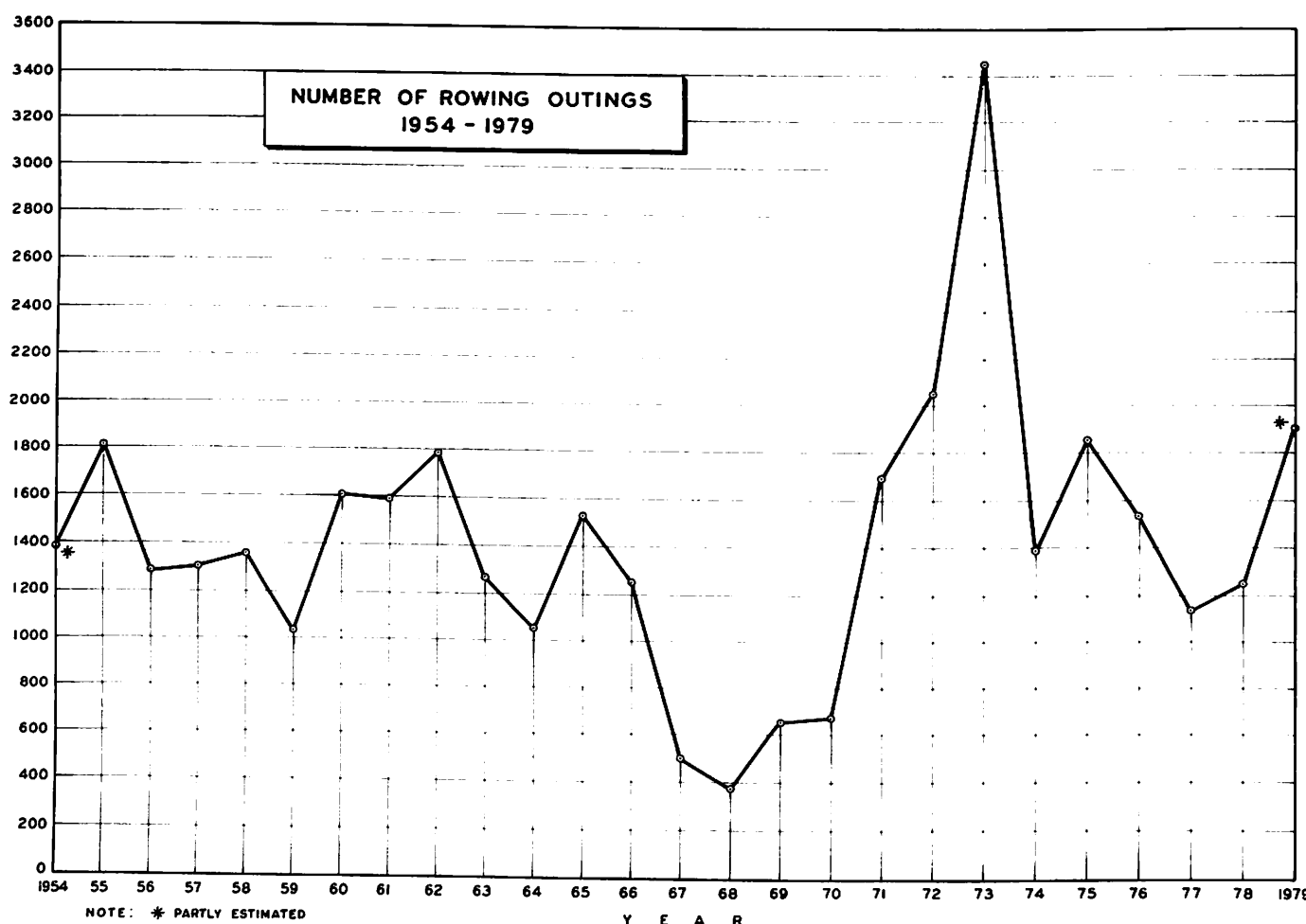


Spectators at squash match in early 1970s

people, the fact that it is played out of the sun and that physical size makes little difference to the result appear to have had great appeal. And a large body of permanently locally-based members has, of course, given the club the prospect of a secure future.

Activity on the water soon also recovered. From only 370 outings in the whole of 1968 to a

lands of water hyacinths" as early as the mid 1920s). Kees Leenders has written as follows: "The Pasig water. Anacleto once drank it. Boys bathed in it. Foul, thick, black and oily, water the devil could walk on, low when you wanted to row, filled with dreadful dead lilies, and other dead things (pigs, dogs, the occasional human . . .), perversely running upstream occasionally, filled with 30 fast fishing



peak of 3454 outings and the winning of the FEARA championship in 1973! And the purchase of new boats for the first time for two decades and the introduction of a range of new events and activities!

An event occasioning great interest to the rowing enthusiasts in particular occurred in August 1973: this was the signing of "Presidential Decree No. 274 Pertaining to the Preservation, Beautification, Improvement and Gainful Utilization of the Pasig River, Providing for the Regulation and Control of Pollution of the River and its Banks in order to Enhance its Development, thereby Maximizing its Utilization for Socio-Economic Purposes". That the Pasig had deteriorated markedly over time cannot be disputed (despite the references to "huge is-

boats when you were rowing a fragile scull, beautified by Imelda, yes, surrounded by "Hey, Joe"-screaming fests, stinking, rotting, sweating, blistering Pasig. Rowing, a sport for masochists, so nice when it stops and yet. . . the Pasig at 6:30 in the morning, quiet, cool, filtered sun. So nice to be on." While the First Lady's campaign is not yet completed — and encouragement of "regatta activities" is specifically mentioned in the Decree — there remains a lot of work to be done before the glory of past ages is recaptured. (New members occasionally also ask why the club was built in such a densely-populated area as Santa Ana. The photographs taken in 1932 with little more than the club and Santa Ana church in evidence at that time are immediately shown to them. . .)

Since the early 1970s, the club has continued to thrive despite the resumption of part of the grounds for a pumping station. Although some dozens of squash courts have been constructed by other clubs and resorts, the courts at the Boat Club have remained the busiest and most of the top players in the Philippines choose to play there. The sport of rowing continues to be pursued actively by devotees (and more casually by others) and the social side of the club's existence has been enhanced through a more attractive environment and a new found enthusiasm for the game of darts.

Listing prominent members over the recent period is, of course, a dangerous matter. Nevertheless, the prominent members who, firstly, were keen rowers, definitely include, but are not limited to, the following: Kees Leenders; Nandy Garcia; Jun Ezpeleta; Jos Bredie; Egbert Balsma; Ben Policarpio; Ben van der Kaay; Harm von Wier; Jim Collins; Denis Dovey; Mike Jensen; Alan Stewart; Wim von Doornik; David McCormack; David Hailes; Peewee Adriano; S.P. Malbarosa; Joy Hailes; Judy Williams; Peter Holt; Charles Petre; Tadashi Abe; Viggo Groope; Miles Duncan; Basil Burt; Tanny Gonzales; Bonggoy Manahan; Boy Nazareno; Alan Tabhan; Pilar Sandejas; Simonette Dovey; Tom Ellwood; Benjie Ramos; Malcolm Churchill; Hans van Beek; Greg Byrnes; Paul Stanton; Heiner Harder; Bob Adams; Tony Warren;

Turning to squash, and excluding such outstanding figures as Jonah Barrington, Aftab Jawaaid, Heather McKay, Qamar Zaman and Mohibullah Khan who have all played at the Boat Club, the leading players have included the following: Mike Hartley; Malcolm Peat; John Purssell; John Goul-



Philippine squash team in Singapore, 1977

den; Bill Vawdrey; Jun Ezpeleta; Bill Robinson; Wendy Collins; Pat McCormack; S.P. Malbarosa; Vic Dualan; Len Hendry; Ron Skeates; Margaret Brady; Nancy Smith; Peter Holt; Bambi Torres; Danny Sablan; Zolkilpi bin Abdul; Max Ricketts; Chris Titterington; Ding Dong Austria; Wendy Adams; Robert Veloso; Tanny Gonzales; Bruce Cowled; Peter Parsons; Tony Hope; Fausto Preysler; Buds Cervantes; Satish Vaish; Pete Cervantes; Mervyn Browne; Alvin Orejana; Sonny



Happy group of members and staff, 1976

Marianna Torres; Steve Stull; Tony Hope; Keith Jackson; Bob Hall; Warren Delaney; Peter Smith; Gaye Hope; Robert Veloso; Tom Bryant; Dick Cayzer; Keith Jones; Peter Tulloch; Toyo Kato; Lesley Hammond; Jim Taylor; Tony Nutter; Jim Hagedorn; Sonny Sone; Ted Deed; Steve Banta; Norman Clarke; David Webster; Kevin Butt; Geoff Jones; Eileen Mount; Anne Webster; Greg Belen; Jane Mothersill; and Ed Unson.

Knapp; Frank Fletcher; Philip Rillorta; Richie Mata; Odd Stray-Gundersen; Marina Francisco; Dilip; Martin Staab; Nancy Staab; Keith Jones; Patsy Cayzer; Bill Sommers; Nestor Argente; Erkki Juslen; Dick Cayzer; Gaye Hope; Reggie Cayzer; Winnie Francisco; Jimmy Quiray; Eileen Mount; Paul Frankland; Nandy Garcia; Rob Mather; Helen Veloso; Sophie Matiasz; Jun Gatchalian; Mauro Prieto; Romy Ribaño; Wayne Quasha; David Po-

well; Harry Bingley; Chris Mothersill; Colin Hook; and Colin Ayers.

Among the many changes which have been seen over the decades of the club's existence, one aspect has not altered: the genuine warmth and good fellowship which has always been a part of the club's life. Philip Arundell writes that he has "never belonged to any club that generated a greater feeling of fellowship, and genuine friendship among its members". E.V. Niemeyer, Jr., a member of the club in the early '60s, wrote when resigning that "I

about warmth and friendliness among the people there — islander and foreigner, club member and servant — was all too real" while Malcolm Churchill recalls the member who said that "I've suddenly realized as I leave Manila that most of the friends I've made during my stay here have been from the Boat Club". Six months after he left Manila in 1977, Tony Warren wrote that "Of the things I miss, the Boat Club is the saddest feature. There's nothing in Perth that could come close to the atmosphere of friendship at the M.B.C. — you have



Boat club rowers, 1979

don't think that I have ever been a member of a club in which I have enjoyed my participation more than the Boat Club. I wasn't much of a rower, and I don't think that I improved at all in my one and a half years of membership, but I really had fun getting out on the river, battling bugs and water lily, and squeeching the impurities from my blood with a little exercise... I will always remember the club and my happy days on the Pasig wherever I go." The **Manila Chronicle's** reporter at the July 1972 club regatta discovered that "the much-talked

to leave it to really appreciate how much pleasure the Club affords all the family." Numerous other comments recalling happy experiences and good fellowship at the Boat Club could be quoted.

In the years ahead, the club is certain to experience further change and further fluctuations in activity and success. Let us hope that, as in the past, the enthusiasm and warmth of the members will result in the Boat Club continuing to be, for one and all, "of happy memory".

**Principal Office-Bearers
1911 - 1980**

| Year | President | Captain | Hon. Secretary | Hon. Treasurer |
|-------------|---|--|--|---|
| 1911/12 | H.B. Foster | W. Scott | | N.M. Robertson |
| 1912/13 | F.L. Laurence | T.D. Aitken | | G. Allan |
| 1913/14 | V.C. Ressich | G.L. Davidson | | G. Heughan |
| 1914/15 | (H.B. Roe B.C.M. Johnston) | W. Scott | | F.B. Richards |
| 1915/16 | B.C.M. Johnston | H.C. Whittall | | F.B. Richards (F.B. Richards (F.R. Ormston (J.W. McMaster J.W. McMaster |
| 1916/17 | B.C.M. Johnston | H.C. Whittall | | |
| 1917/18 | B.C.M. Johnston | H.C. Whittall | | |
| 1918/19 | (W. Benson W. Scott | W.E. Little | | G. Allan |
| 1919/20 | | (W.E. Little W. G. Goodchild | | G. Allan |
| 1920/21 | W. Scott (W. Scott (J.R. Herridge | (W.E. Little (J. Plummer | | W. Maclachlan |
| 1921/22 | J.R. Herridge | (J.B. Findlay (N. Macleod (R.N. MacWilliam | | W. Maclachlan |
| 1922/23 | J.R. Herridge | (R.H. Gregory | | H.R. Northey |
| 1923/24 | J.R. Herridge | R.H. Gregory | | H.R. Northey (J. Lauder (G.M. Eady (T.W. Southam (J.C. Glegg J.M. Harrison |
| 1924/25 | H.C. Whittall | (R.H. Gregory (G.W. Mackay | | |
| 1925/26 | J.R. Herridge | H.C. Pope | | |
| 1926/27 | J.R. Herridge | (R.H. Gregory (M. Pollock | | M.B. Chapman (M.B. Chapman (O. Skinner |
| 1927/28 | J.R. Herridge | M. Pollock | | |
| 1928/29 | J.R. Herridge | (R.M. Jack (M. Pollock | | O. Skinner |
| 1929/30 | J.R. Herridge | M. Pollock | H.F. Gourlie | (D.F.S. Piercy (D.A. Brisbane |
| 1930/31 | B.C.M. Johnston | (R.M. Jack (S. Crawford (S. Crawford | (H.F. Gourlie (N. Linley | J.G.H. Lander (J.G.H. Lander |
| 1931/32 | B.C.M. Johnston | (J.G.H. Lander | N. Linley | (J.F. Bond |
| 1932/33 | B.C.M. Johnston | J.G.H. Lander | N. Linley | n.a. |
| 1933/34 | H.B. Foster | J.G.H. Lander (N. Linley | J.F.C. Kingsley | n.a. |
| 1934/35 | H.B. Foster | J.G.H. Lander | N. Linley | n.a. |
| 1935/36 | H.B. Foster | J.G.H. Lander | (N. Linley (J.B. Rankin (J.B. Rankin | G.R. Razavet |
| 1936/37 | H.B. Foster | J.G.H. Lander | (N. Linley (J.S. Craw | T.W. Farnell |
| 1937/38 | H.B. Foster | J.B. Rankin | J.S. Craw | n.a. |

Principal Office-Bearers (continued)

| Year | President | Captain | Hon. Secretary | Hon. Treasurer |
|---------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1938/39 | H.B. Foster | (J.B. Rankin (P.G.H. Arundell | (J.S. Craw (J.O. Dugdale-Bradley | T.W. Farnell |
| 1939/40 | n.a. | P.G.H. Arundell | (J.G.H. Lander (J. d'Authreau | n.a. |
| 1940/41 | n.a. | P.G.H. Arundell | J. d'Authreau | n.a. |
| 1947/48 | P.G.H. Arundell | P.G.H. Arundell | J. d'Authreau | n.a. |
| 1948/49 | P.G.H. Arundell | P.G.H. Arundell | n.a. | J. MacGregor |
| 1949/50 | P.G.H. Arundell | I.A.F. Purslow | n.a. | J. MacGregor |
| 1950/51 | J.F.C. Kingsley | I.A.F. Purslow | P. Magee | M. Pickup |
| 1951/52 | O. Schulthess | T. Keller | W.M. Porterfield | n.a. |
| 1952/53 | A.P. Goldman | M. Proulx (O. Schulthess | M. Hornstein | J. Muysken |
| 1953/54 | E. Altwegg | (K.J. Martin | G.V. Fehr | J. Winter |
| 1954/55 | E. Altwegg | D.R.M. Pinfold | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1955/56 | G.W.E. Barraclough | K.J. Martin | M. Steger | n.a. |
| 1956/57 | A.P. Goldman | T. Biron | P. Ammann | n.a. |
| 1957/58 | G. Laurent | G.H. Sturt | E. Altwegg | n.a. |
| 1958/59 | R.M. Jacquest | G.H. Sturt | F. Swain | N.S. Roque |
| 1959/60 | L.D.W. Buckle | M. Steger | (J.G. Trimmer (G. Armstrong | C.W. Dickinson |
| 1960/61 | D.M. Richardson | P. Dougan | (G. Armstrong (P. Deleplanque, Jr. | n.a. |
| 1961/62 | H.F. Prioleau, Jr. | (D.M. Richardson (H.W. Schmid | P. Deleplanque, Jr. | J.F. Wiltshire |
| 1962/63 | M. Parsons | H.W. Schmid | (P.D. Weldon (A.G. Gonzalez | (C.T. Wood (G. Beange |
| 1963/64 | (M.J. Parsons (P.J. McArtney | (P.J. Gamble (P. van Schaarden- burg | (P.J. McArtney (B. Kubitza | (G. Beange (W.E. Winebrenner |
| 1964/65 | P.J. McArtney | (B. Harber (P. van Schaarden- burg | W.E. Winebrenner | A.J. van der Steur |
| 1965/66 | (P. van Schaarden- burg (W.E. Winebrenner | B. Harber | W.E. Winebrenner | (A.J. van der Steur (C.A.J.M. van der Heyden |
| 1966/67 | B. Harber | F.N. Leddy | S.E. Hardie | C.A.J.M. van der Heyden |
| 1967/68 | M.J. Parsons | L. Wiersema | F.N. Leddy | C.A.J.M. van der Heyden |
| 1969 | J.P. de Visser van Bloemen | (L. Wiersema (M. Ezpeleta, Jr. | A.L. May | C.T. Leenders |
| 1970 | A.L. May | M. Ezpeleta, Jr. | C.T. Leenders | J. Ansaldo, Jr. |
| 1971 | A.L. May | M. Ezpeleta, Jr. | S.P. Malbarosa | J. Ansaldo, Jr. |
| 1972 | A.L. May | (D. Dovey (D.L. Hailes | (V.V. Africa (M. Gascoigne | F.L. Garcia |
| 1973/74 | J.P. Dualan | J.M. Duncan | A.L. May | N.C. Nazareno |
| 1974/75 | A.M. Orejana, Jr. | R.F. Adams | J. Baltazar | L.J. Gonzalez |
| 1975/76 | M.H. Churchill | A.R. Hope | J. Arroyo | (F.K.J. Jackson (P. Tulloch |
| 1976/77 | A.R. Hope | T. Bryant | C.P. Mata | P. Tulloch |
| 1977/78 | A.R. Hope | E. Deed | C.P. Mata | P.K. Smith |
| 1978/79 | A.R. Hope | A.L. May | D. Gomez, Jr. | P.K. Smith |
| 1979/80 | P.K. Smith | A.L. May | D. Gomez, Jr. | B. Ramos, Jr. |

Winners of Major Events 1905-1979

| Year | International Fours | International Pairs | Sculling Championship | Casa Pairs |
|------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1905 | — | — | T. D. Aitken | — |
| 1906 | — | — | T. D. Aitken | — |
| 1907 | — | — | T. D. Aitken | — |
| 1908 | — | — | F. R. Heron | Phil. Cold Stores |
| 1909 | — | — | N. M. Robertson | Findlay & Co. |
| 1910 | n.a. | — | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1911 | Great Britain | — | R. M. Tappan | Findlay Richardson & Co. |
| 1912 | Scotland | — | R.S. Findlay | Findlay Richardson & Co. |
| 1913 | England | — | N.M. Robertson | Findlay Richardson & Co. |
| 1914 | Scotland | — | T. R. Barclay | n.a. |
| 1915 | n.a. | — | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1916 | Scotland | — | T. D. Aitken | Findlay Richardson & Co. |
| 1917 | Scotland | — | T. D. Aitken | G. S. Yuill & Co. |
| 1918 | — | — | — | — |
| 1919 | — | — | — | — |
| 1920 | Scotland | — | T. D. Aitken | Findlay Richardson & Co. |
| 1921 | Scotland | — | T. D. Aitken | Findlay Richardson & Co. |
| 1922 | Scotland | — | T. D. Aitken or E. Heybroek | Findlay Richardson & Co. |
| 1923 | America | — | n.a. | Wise & Co. |
| 1924 | America "B" | — | J.R. Herridge | H. H. Bayne & Co. |
| 1925 | Scotland | — | W. Maclachlan | H. H. Bayne & Co. |
| 1926 | America | — | C. Parsons | W. F. Stevenson & Co. |
| 1927 | Switzerland | — | A. Brazel | n.a. |
| 1928 | Switzerland | — | L. A. Cubitt | n.a. |
| 1929 | Switzerland | — | n.a. | F. E. Zuellig & Co. |
| 1930 | Scotland | — | H. F. Gourlie | Warner, Barnes & Co. |
| 1931 | England | — | J. R. Herridge | Asiatic Petroleum Co. |
| 1932 | England | England | J. F. C. Kingsley | Asiatic Petroleum Co. |
| 1933 | England | England | n.a. | G. S. Yuill & Co. |
| 1934 | Scotland | Scotland | J. B. Rankin | G. S. Yuill & Co. |
| 1935 | England | Scotland | n.a. | G. S. Yuill & Co. |
| 1936 | Scotland | Scotland | E. Altwegg | G. S. Yuill & Co. |
| 1937 | Scotland | Scotland | E. Altwegg | G. S. Yuill & Co. |
| 1938 | England | n.a. | n.a. | G. S. Yuill & Co. |
| 1939 | n.a. | n.a. | E. Altwegg | n.a. |
| 1940 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1941 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1950 | n.a. | Scotland | E. Altwegg (I.A.F. Purslow) | — |
| 1951 | Switzerland | Switzerland | (T. Keller | — |
| 1952 | n.a. | Switzerland | T. Keller | — |
| 1953 | Switzerland | n.a. | n.a. | — |
| 1954 | Switzerland | Switzerland | D. R. M. Pinfold | Shell Co. |
| 1955 | Britain | n.a. | D. R. M. Pinfold | — |
| 1956 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | — |
| 1957 | n.a. | United States | A. M. Steffes | — |

Winners of Major Events (continued)

| Year | International Fours | International Pairs | Sculling Championship | Casa Pairs |
|------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1958 | England | England | G.H. Sturt | — |
| | (United States | — | (H. F. Prioleau, Jr. | — |
| 1959 | ("Intern'l Crew" | | (M. Steger | — |
| 1960 | United States | n.a. | (M. Steger | — |
| | | | (H. F. Prioleau, Jr. | |
| 1961 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | — |
| 1962 | n.a. | n.a. | H. F. Schmid | — |
| 1963 | n.a. | n.a. | H. F. Schmid | — |
| 1964 | n.a. | Australia | H. F. Schmid | — |
| 1965 | n.a. | n.a. | W. Abraham | — |
| 1966 | United States | n.a. | L. Baker | — |
| 1967 | n.a. | n.a. | J. Dodge | — |
| 1968 | — | — | — | — |
| 1969 | — | — | E. Balsma | — |
| 1970 | — | — | n.a. | — |
| | | | (A. Stewart | |
| 1971 | Philippines | — | (M. Ezpeleta, Jr. | — |
| | | | (D. Hailes | |
| 1972 | United Kingdom | United Kingdom | (A Stewart | First National City Bank |
| | | | (J. M. Duncan | |
| 1973 | — | — | J. M. Duncan | — |
| 1974 | — | — | J. M. Duncan | — |
| 1975 | Australia | — | (A. Warren | — |
| | | | (M. H. Churchill | |
| | | | (M. H. Churchill | |
| 1976 | — | — | (J. Taylor | — |
| 1977 | Australia | — | A. R. Hope | — |
| 1978 | — | Australia | A. R. Hope | — |
| 1979 | Australia | n.a. | M. H. Churchill | Phil. Refining Co. |

Note: International Double Sculls were raced in 1955 with Britain winning.

HEAD OF THE PASIG WINNERS

| | |
|------|---|
| 1971 | D. Salang, R. Laset, J. Cohen, M. Gonzales |
| 1972 | V. Groope, T. Abe |
| 1973 | C. O'Connell, M. Churchill, A. May, M. Duncan |
| 1974 | Not held |
| 1975 | F. Domingo, T. Gonzales, A. Gonzales, R. Veloso |
| 1976 | G. Hope, L. Hammond, P. Smith, A. Hope |
| 1977 | E. Deed, S. Sone, T. Bakiewicz, R. Veloso |
| 1978 | S. Banta, G. Jones |
| 1979 | S. Banta, N. Clarke, B. Ramos, R. Veloso |

NO. OF MONTHLY ROWING OUTINGS — 1954-1979

| YEAR | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | TOTAL |
|------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| 1954 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 184 | 147 | 97 | 70 | 94 | 95 | 182 | 59 | 1,392* |
| 1955 | 68 | 115 | 222 | 131 | 137 | 140 | 157 | 237 | 197 | 154 | 152 | 98 | 1,808 |
| 1956 | 122 | 110 | 223 | 89 | 99 | 108 | 137 | 98 | 59 | 67 | 86 | 83 | 1,281 |
| 1957 | 34 | 50 | 100 | 105 | 120 | 134 | 56 | 61 | 81 | 135 | 217 | 206 | 1,299 |
| 1958 | 112 | 129 | 227 | 160 | 77 | 62 | 70 | 53 | 48 | 123 | 218 | 78 | 1,357 |
| 1959 | 106 | 124 | 183 | 57 | 44 | 32 | 14 | 35 | 36 | 110 | 143 | 150 | 1,034 |
| 1960 | 101 | 127 | 247 | 166 | 51 | 109 | 100 | 96 | 109 | 105 | 212 | 181 | 1,604 |
| 1961 | 81 | 125 | 158 | 168 | 92 | 96 | 44 | 61 | 108 | 147 | 331 | 180 | 1,591 |
| 1962 | 226 | 323 | 318 | 137 | 128 | 103 | 109 | 65 | 52 | 100 | 122 | 105 | 1,788 |
| 1963 | 111 | 112 | 202 | 40 | 82 | 90 | 89 | 96 | 61 | 66 | 136 | 181 | 1,266 |
| 1964 | 76 | 86 | 56 | 112 | 133 | 178 | 53 | 52 | 166 | 58 | 19 | 60 | 1,049 |
| 1965 | 102 | 190 | 163 | 139 | 103 | 123 | 100 | 117 | 54 | 90 | 191 | 160 | 1,532 |
| 1966 | 225 | 206 | 133 | 84 | 94 | 71 | 42 | 67 | 44 | 112 | 106 | 71 | 1,255 |
| 1967 | 76 | 77 | 52 | 44 | 58 | 28 | 23 | 40 | 27 | 28 | 22 | 20 | 495 |
| 1968 | 35 | 58 | 32 | 11 | 9 | 18 | 24 | 20 | 47 | 41 | 40 | 35 | 370 |
| 1969 | 100 | 76 | 47 | 32 | 8 | 35 | 30 | 69 | 66 | 44 | 78 | 67 | 652 |
| 1970 | 105 | 68 | 78 | 90 | 46 | 20 | 44 | 58 | 32 | 26 | 28 | 77 | 672 |
| 1971 | 108 | 75 | 139 | 117 | 68 | 246 | 251 | 180 | 114 | 80 | 153 | 158 | 1,689 |
| 1972 | 81 | 61 | 102 | 221 | 104 | 167 | 265 | 167 | 153 | 122 | 215 | 388 | 2,046 |
| 1973 | 445 | 407 | 283 | 283 | 97 | 193 | 287 | 150 | 314 | 327 | 470 | 198 | 3,454 |
| 1974 | 170 | 152 | 116 | 79 | 46 | 123 | 129 | 125 | 140 | 192 | 60 | 62 | 1,394 |
| 1975 | 60 | 86 | 136 | 179 | 185 | 52 | 180 | 221 | 185 | 234 | 172 | 161 | 1,851 |
| 1976 | 144 | 127 | 132 | 82 | 45 | 80 | 129 | 105 | 114 | 219 | 266 | 87 | 1,530 |
| 1977 | 137 | 142 | 85 | 85 | 43 | 53 | 103 | 169 | 71 | 94 | 78 | 77 | 1,137 |
| 1978 | 44 | 59 | 60 | 110 | 63 | 134 | 118 | 113 | 131 | 86 | 61 | 263 | 1,242 |
| 1979 | 315 | 128 | 236 | 127 | 49 | 103 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 1,916* |

Includes members, dependents and guests. Excludes club staff and school boys.
 *Partly estimated.

TOP ROWING MILEAGES — JANUARY 1972 TO JUNE 1979

| MONTH | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| January | Policarpio 13½ | Ellwood 127½ | Torres, M. 77 | Churchill 33½ | Churchill 47½ | Taylor 129½ | Sone 35 | Unson 80 |
| February | Leenders 9½ | Manahan 206 | Williams, J. 84 | Warren 31½ | Hope, G. 30 | Taylor 71 | Bergmeier 45½ | Unson) Belen) 117 |
| March | Escobar) Malbarosa) 20½ | Manahan 81 | Stanton 73 | May 152 | Churchill 62½ | Taylor 51 | May 131 | Unson 150 |
| April | Malbarosa 28½ | Ramos 56 | Warren 60 | Manahan. 85½ | Warren 37 | Taylor 68½ | Hope, G.) Matiasz) 72 | Belen 70½ |
| May | Hailes, J. 38 | Ramos 59 | Churchill 25 | Manahan 62 | Churchill 40 | Taylor 50 | Sone 47½ | Belen 56 |
| June | Hailes, D. 45½ | Duncan 67 | Warren 75½ | Hope, A. 31 | Churchill 51 | Deed, E. 43½ | Sone 67½ | May 59½ |
| July | Stewart 48½ | Dovey, S. 49½ | Adams 58 | Cruz 36 | Churchill 29½ | Deed, E. 42 | Sone 69 | |
| August | Hailes, D. 43 | Adams 56 | Adams 43½ | Warren 65 | May 73 | Deed, M. 46½ | Sone 39½ | |
| September | Hailes, D. 60½ | Churchill 100½ | Warren 42½ | Warren 41 | Taylor 49 | Churchill 50 | Sone 41½ | |
| October | Petre 51½ | Warren 136½ | Duncan 55 | Hope 50 | Hagedorn 88½ | Hagedorn 52 | Sone 25½ | |
| November | Duncan 60½ | Duncan 116 | Churchill 38 | Churchill 46 | Hagedorn 122 | Deed, E. 51 | Sone 33½ | |
| December | Petre 64½ | Adams 142½ | Churchill 33 | Churchill 35½ | Hagedorn 98½ | Deed, M 14 | Sone 57 | |
| Year | Hailes, D. 388 Duncan 268 Petre 212½ | Adams 612½ Ramos 574 Churchill 518 | Warren 500 Churchill 419½ Adams 366½ | Warren 479 Churchill 400½ Hope, A. 383 | Hagedorn 382 May 335½ Churchill 313½ | Taylor 401 Deed, E. 308 Hope, A. 264 | Sone 466 May 297½ Belen 204½ | Unson 453½ Belen 424½ Clarke 179½ |

SQUASH SECRETARIES

1972 - 1980

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 1972 | V.P. Dualan |
| 1973/74 | F.L. Garcia |
| 1974/75 | A.L. May |
| 1975/76 | V.V. Desai |
| 1976/77 | S. Gatchalian, Jr. |
| 1977/78 | R.A. Cayzer |
| 1978/79 | D. Srivastava |
| 1979/80 | R.B. Mather |

MBC SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

| | Men's Open | Men's B | Men's Novice | Men's Veterans | Ladies' Open |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1971 | M. Hartley | — | S.P. Malbarosa | P. Knapp | W. Collins |
| 1972 | R.S. Skeates | P. Holt | B. Torres | F. Monserrat | M. Brady |
| 1973 | W. Robinson | C. Titterington | T. Gonzales | R. Thomas | M. Brady |
| 1974 | F. Preysler | F. Preysler | D. Sanchez | M. Browne | W. Adams |
| 1975 | B. Cervantes | F. Fletcher | P. Rillorta | O. Stray-Gundersen | P. Cervantes |
| 1976 | B. Cervantes | K. Jones | D. Srivastava | W. Summers | P. Cayzer |
| 1977 | B. Cervantes | P. Frankland | D. Cabalfin | N. Garcia | E. Mount |
| 1978 | R. Mather | R. Mata | B. del Castillo | N. Garcia | R. Tablante |

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