

ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON.

On Thursday evening the annual meeting of the Royal Yacht Squadron took place in the clubhouse, Esplanade, Semaphore. The commodore (Mr. F. V. Sanderson) presided over a good attendance. The committee reported:—

The squadron has experienced another successful year. The yachts on our register number over 50, and the roll shows a membership of 190. Twelve new members were elected during the year. The racing during the season proved very interesting. Every race was keenly contested, and the entries were satisfactory. Mr. W. Fisher's *Reverie*, besides winning the flag officer's trophy with 21 points out of a possible 30, also won the Kintore cup. Out of six starts the *Reverie* won three firsts, one third, and one fourth, and in each instance crossed the winning line first. In the length class the committee's trophy was won by Mr. J. Williams' *Yvonne*, with 24 points out of a possible 30. Mr. McFarlane's *Celtic* coming second with 22 points. Two races were held for motor launches, and proved so successful that the committee suggests fixing several dates on the programme next season for similar events. Our register shows a steady increase in the number of these craft. A substantial and permanent improvement has been made on our water frontage at Birkenhead by building a solid ramp of stone and cement to replace portion of the wooden structure which the ravages of teredo navalis caused to collapse. Mr. R. Woolmough's handicapping has again given satisfaction. He has consented to act for the coming season. Several additions have been made to our fleet of yachts, the most noteworthy being Mr. H. Dutton's schooner *Vera*, at present on her voyage from England to South Australia, and Mr. H. J. D. Munton's *Alfreda II.*, which arrived from Sydney during the past active season. The officers regret that Mr. J. Williams' intention to permanently reside in England will deprive the squadron of the services he had so long and ably rendered as one of its executive officers. The clubhouse still continues to show a useful surplus over working expenses. The squadron balance of assets over liabilities is now £2,608 against £2,366 at this time last year, an increase of £242.

The balance-sheet showed an overdraft of £21 for the year ended September 30.

The reports and balance-sheet were adopted. The officers as nominated at last meeting were elected. Mr. R. M. Hawker was elected a member. The racing programme for the coming season as drafted by the sailing committee was confirmed. It consists of 15 events, three of which are for motor launches. The opening demonstration was fixed for November 4.

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The Darwin man, Mr. Joseph Tyson, who bartered for five pence his possible inheritance of the five millions left by the late Mr. James Tyson, a bachelor, who died intestate in Australia some five years ago, has explained his position in the matter. His father, he says, was the millionaire's brother, and he (the claimant) believes that he is the nearest blood relation surviving. Many persons of the name of Tyson sent in claims, but his own, he thinks, is the only one which was not rejected, and a solicitor has been engaged for the past two years presenting his case. His extraordinary conduct in selling his interest in the millions for fivepence is said to be characteristic of his careless disposition, but the purchasers seem to have taken it so seriously that the receipt has been stamped at Somerset House. A bootmaker by trade, Mr. Joseph Tyson was a policeman some 38 years ago, serving first in Leeds, and then in London. Later he became bootmaker in Kirkdale Gaol, Liverpool. In 1882 he was appointed assistant executioner. Of that role he preserves several grim relics, having assisted both Berry and Binna.