

During the year 1892, a steam schooner-yacht was built for James R. Fairfax, who, at fifty-eight years of age, preferred this more comfortable form of pleasure cruising. She was named *Isis*, and had a prettily-designed extreme clipper bow and counter stern, with two masts carrying gaff-sails perhaps more for ornament than for good use, and a well-proportioned smokestack abaft the bridge amidships. For many years thereafter S.Y. *Isis* was to be prominent on Squadron occasions, following sailing races inside and outside the harbour.

At the Squadron's annual meeting, held in September 1892, at the Exchange Building, a firm resolution was carried that the time had arrived, and was long overdue, for a move of the Squadron's headquarters to more suitable premises. The sub-committee appointed for that purpose three years previously was now stirred to action, with the result that, thirty years after the Squadron's formation, a clubroom was acquired which was something better than merely a business office and committee meeting room.

The new clubroom was in Post Office Chambers, Pitt Street, opposite the G.P.O., on the site where the Commonwealth Bank Building was erected twenty-five years later (in 1917). This clubroom, for which a rental of £32 per annum was paid, was opened to members in November 1892, and thereafter the Squadron's monthly meetings were held there. But clearly enough the new premises were still inadequate and were regarded as temporary. Their chief advantage lay in providing members with an informal meeting place in the city.

A humorous comment on this clubroom was made in 1953 by a veteran yachtsman, Edward Hungerford, who had joined the Squadron as a young man in the 1890s: "The Squadron met in a little upstairs room in the Post Office Chambers, where about twenty people could assemble. The members used to go up there, and occasionally the honorary secretary was present. It had as a bar a small locker in which were a bottle of whisky and a couple of bottles of beer, some glasses and a money-box. The Squadron stayed