

G.R.B.C

Which means the Grand River Boat Club
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Its history since organization — Record of Races — Personnel of Its Presidents — Its New Club Rooms and Flourishing Financial Condition.

In the year 1872, quite a number of the gentlemen of the city thinking there was a deficiency in the athletic sports and also the athletic organized the Grand River Boat Club purely for athletic sports. The first meeting was held on June 25th, 1872, and the following officers were elected: President, P.H. Berry; Vice President, W.H. Barnard. And L.C. Butler, Sec'y and Treasurer. The charter members were B.H. Berry, Alex Blair, Lester Hudson, S.S. Olds, Edward Sparrow, E.C. Chapin, W.H. Barnard, Charles Kerr, Parks, D.K. Fuller, M.J. Buck, L.C. Butler and T.W. Wescott. Nothing of any importance was done in that year except to complete their organization. In 1873 Edward Sparrow was elected President, the barges were purchased and the members began training and during the year won their first race — that with the Goguacs of Battle Creek. In 1874 Rush J. Shank was president. In this year the crew of the ten oared barge competed in the regatta at Toledo. In 1876 E.F. Cooley was elected President, and the crews began to train. It was in this year that

ONE OF THE GREATEST RACES

that was ever rowed on Michigan waters occurred. The crew of the eight-oared barge won the race at Detroit over ten competitors. In 1877 E.F. Cooley was again president. Only local races took place. L.H. Briggs was president until 1879, when the interest in boating seemed to lag and the club was discontinued. On July 5th, 1882,

IT WAS REORGANIZED



with 24 members. M.J. Buck was installed as President. Two gigs were purchased during this year, and the club began to flourish. The members seeing that something was lacking to make the club the local favorite, wisely combined social affairs with aquatic sports. Mr. Buck was again president in 1883. The club attended regattas at Michigan Center and Grand Ledge. In 1884 Edward Roe was President, new shells were purchased and a crew entered in the Pine Lake race. During this year the big crew

WON SECOND PLACE

at the Pullman regatta with nine crews starting. Charles Towne was elected President in 1885. Two crews attended the regatta in Harbor Springs. Will Appleyard was President in 1886, and during this year the pair oared shell won the race at Grand Rapids. James J Baird was President in 1887, and J. Just Eroas is at the present time.

THE CLUB AT PRESENT

is in a very flourishing condition, having 65 members. It is also flourishing in a financial way, having five valuable boats, a commodious boat house, and it has lately expended nearly \$1,000 in fitting up new club rooms in the old Capitol building.

At an early date crews will be chosen and practicing preparatory to the summer regattas will begin.