

# Rowing Club to host Scandinavian team

MOMBASA Rowing Club was started in 1932 in Port Tudor, the north of Mombasa Island and then moved to Port Kilindini on the south side in 1935.

It is at this stage there remains the minutes of the Club to record some of its history. It is from these minutes that the following resumee is made of the Club events.

We recently said farewell to a founder member Leo Beck, but in Mombasa, there still remains Edward Rodwell famed for his

## Special report from ANDREW COBB

weekly article, full of humour about local events in the national press and Pat Quiggin who is still teaching and enjoys yachting.

The first statement of liabilities on December 31, 1935, showed wages for the month to be Shs. 46/- and uniforms Shs. 12/-.

The early boats used were ships whalers and competitions were against the Nyanza Rowing Club from Lake Victoria.

The Club received one new pair called *Jill* and a four oar called *Hope* in 1935. The Club land was leased from the Kenya Uganda Railway and was affiliated to the Amateur Rowing Association in 1939.

The visiting royal naval ships that visited Mombasa and challenged the Rowing Club are *HMS Norfolk*, *Inveraild*, *Manchester*, *Glooucester*, *Bulward*, *Cylon*, *Chindwara*, *Ark Royal* and probably many more but only the above were recorded visits in the Minute Book.

A Mr A. Schultz was Boat Captain in 1939 and as the Second World War started, he was interned with a subsequent rule change as follows: "That enemy subjects who can no longer, owing to the war, able to use the Club be regarded as absent members for the duration of the war or until such time they return to Mombasa."

## MACHINE GUN POST

In 1941, Leo Beck became President of the Club and the Boatman's wages were Shs. 20/- a month. In 1940 the Boat-house at Ras Liwatoni was occupied and turned into a light machine gun post.

In 1942 the H.M. Navy took over the Club and in 1943, rowing was again in evidence with Edward Rodwell being noted for his famous neck action. In 1948 the Boatman's wages were Shs. 48/- and in 1949 the Boat-house was blown away by a tornado but the H.M. Navy who had reconstructed the Boat-house extended it for a new boat, and at that time F. Rodwell and L. Beck were made

### Honorary Members.

The Public Works Department using convicts rebuilt the changing rooms in 1953, and the ladies section was added in 1954.

In 1958, Kashuru — the boatman who retired in 1978 after 37 years of service and hired by Leo Beck, was noted for the responsibility of collecting Club Subscriptions from Members. Also one of the members noted that there was a new product for building and repairing boats, "New fibre glass sheeting in Holland glued to the hull and pressed into the clinker formation of the planking with a hot iron".

The Mombasa Rowing Club paid two guineas in 1959 to remain with the Amateur Rowing Association and the Club boasted four boats on the water at the same time.

A short history of the Club was sent to the 'Rowing Magazine' in 1960. In 1963 Leo Beck was made an Honorary Life President.

The Rowing Club was a very social club and the annual dinner was also well attended and in the same year the President B. L. Watkins requested Mrs Hammond to delete the sherry from the set menu and thereby effecting a saving of Shs. 2/50 per head.

In 1963, we had a visit from the Italian Navy Cadets on Raimondo Montecuccoli at which the Club won the race.

## KASHURU'S TWO WIVES

During the following years, the Club has had mixed fortunes but the last two years the Club has been regenerated and has one outrigger clinker four, two offset fours and one skull.

The Club facilities have been renovated and the boats repaired with regular rowing. Last year we had three challenge races with the Mombasa Yacht Club in which we lost two races and won one.

We also said farewell to our Boatman Kashuru Mwimbi after 37 1/2 years of service with the Rowing Club and Leo Beck was able to present on Kashuru's retirement.

Kashuru has two wives. He has been married to the first wife for 67 years and the second one for 60 years and his family of 22 children help him to run two farms at Mariakoni which is 22 miles inland from the Coast.

In 1979 we re-established our membership to the Amateur Rowing Association and it is recorded that the London Rowing Club is affiliated to Mombasa Rowing Club.

We hope to have some challenge races from Zambia as they are the nearest rowing nation to Kenya and through the A.R.A., hope to have some challenges from holidaying club groups.

Towards the end of the year, we hope some Scandinavian Clubs come as they have long distance holiday rowing and their intention is to row from Mombasa to Malindi in special plastic pairs.

