



Cecil Arthur Pearce

1913-2002

Australian Olympic Sculler
1936 Berlin Summer Olympic Games



The Olympic Journey of Balmain Rowing Club's Boy in the Boat

OLYMPIC SCULLER

Cecil Pearce Qualifies Very Fittingly

CECIL PEARCE, the Balmain sculler, by his treble defeat of H. Turner, so many times amateur champion sculler of this country, will go to the Olympic Games fitly accredited as the champion of Australia.

He has shown steady improvement in his recent races, has good style, is increasing in weight, and has the youth, vigor, and spirit that mean much in a struggle against champions of other countries on foreign water.


When he starts serious racing at the Games he should keep up the reputation as a sculler created by his cousin Bobbie against international rivals.



Cecil Pearce

FOR OLYMPIC SCULLS

Make Big Effort to Keep It In Family



Cecil Pearce

IN sport one never knows when a champion will be dethroned by one who shoots into prominence like a rocket.

The experience of H. Turner, the many times champion amateur sculler of Australia, supports this. He seemed to be sailing along a placid sea towards Berlin and the Olympic Games only a little while back, when he suddenly encountered Cecil Pearce in a race. Beaten then, he tried again with the same result.

Now Pearce is to travel to Germany in his stead. The new champion is a worthy one for the task. It will need a very good sculler to defeat him; but if beaten he will know how to accept the verdict.

FOR BERLIN - AUSTRALIA'S CHAMPION

CECIL PEARCE

A member of the Australian Olympic team in whom great expectations are placed is **Cecil Pearce**, from the Balmain Rowing Club. The 23 year old sculler who sudden rise to fame provides one of the most interesting features of Australian sport of recent years. Having caused surprise by defeating the reigning champion, he had to confirm that form before his selection to go to the Games at Berlin was assured. He has great family sporting traditions to uphold.

Pearce, who weighs 13st 4lbs, is a fine type of young Australian, He belongs to one of the best-known sculling and sporting families in Australia. He is son of the late Sid "Sand" Pearce, famous international footballer, and brother of "Joe" Pearce, one of the best Rugby League players of to-day. He is a cousin of H R "Bob" Pearce, the present professional champion sculler of the world, and twice Olympic champion.

TWO SKIFFS

For Cecil Pearce IN BERLIN

THE new racing skiff, King George IV., which was presented to the Olympic rower, Cecil Pearce, yesterday by Mr. Gordon Fuller, on behalf of Distillers' Agency Ltd., has never yet been in the water.

It will not be given a trial spin until Cecil unpacks the skiff in Germany.

The skiff, which is already on board the Mongolia, is sprung on leather from the sides of a special case.

Gus Green supervised the packing yesterday, and the skiff was then taken on board the liner and will be carried as deck cargo.

With this new boat is Pearce's three-year-old racing skiff, the "Sandy Pearce," which he is also taking to Berlin.

He came into prominence in December last when he defeated H Turner, then State and Australian Champion, in a 2000 meters scratch race. Turner capsized in this race, when avoiding a boat on the course, but Pearce was leading by a big margin at the time. Pearce proved he was a champion when he defeated Turner decisively in the three miles champion sculls on the Nepean early in February. The Australian selectors ordered a test race between Pearce and Turner over the Olympic distance of 2000 meters, and Pearce won. He proved the better waterman in the test, which was rowed against a head wind on rough water. The time under the conditions compared more than favourably with the Olympic times.

Rowing stroke with H J Turner as bow in a double scull practice boat, the pair put up the splendid time of 7m 10s for 2000 meters, which was 7s faster than the time for the double sculls at the last games. Although the pair were nominated for the double sculls, the Olympic selectors considered that the fact that heats and finals of single and double sculls would be rowed on the same days, might jeopardise the chance of Pearce winning the single sculls.

At the Olympic Games Pearce will defend the single sculls title for Australia, which his cousin "Bob" Pearce won at the 1928 and 1932 Olympics,

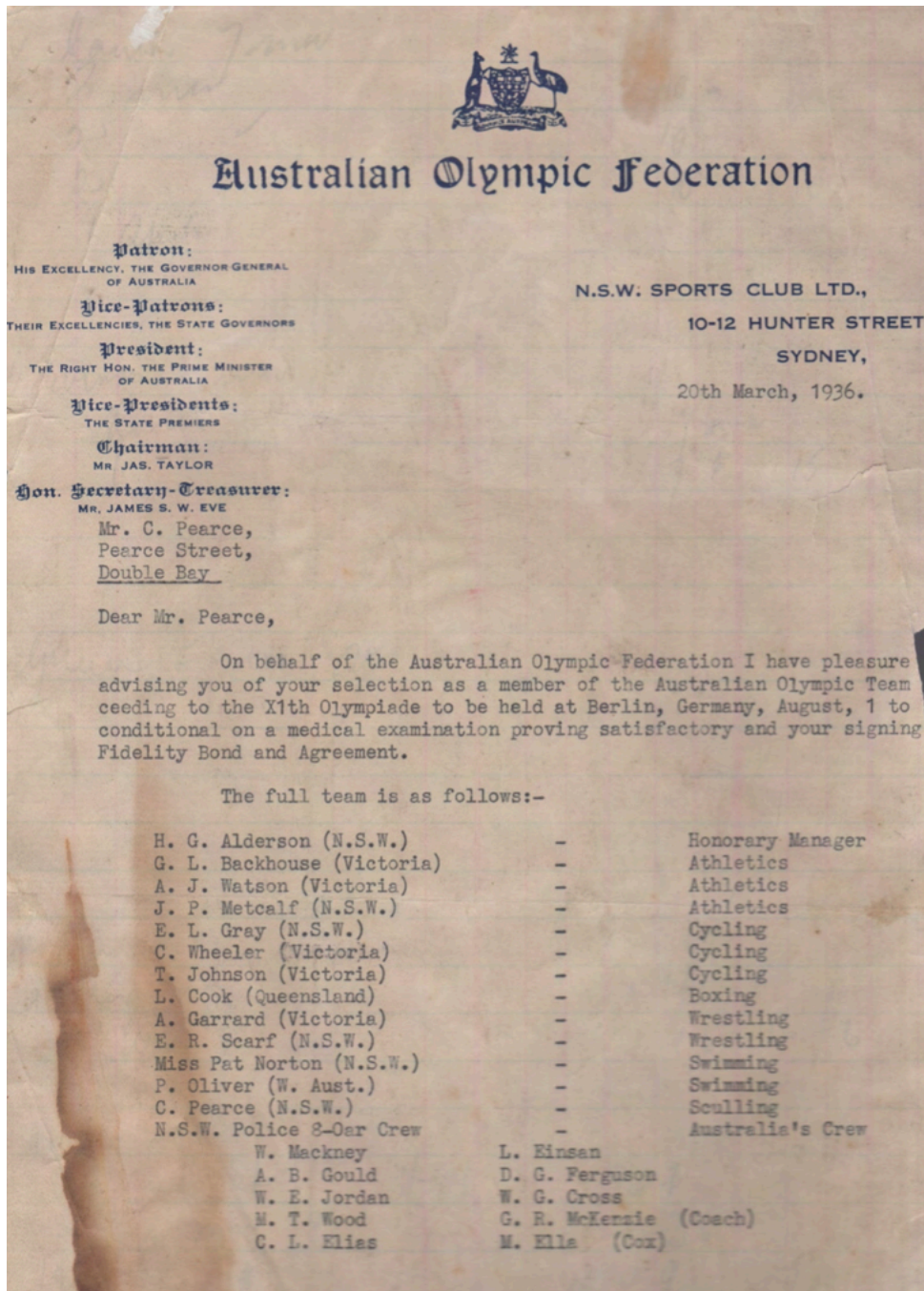
Sydney Morning Herald 24 March, 1936



Gus Green (boat builder), Harry Pearce (uncle) & Cecil Pearce
Finishing touches to the new skiff King George IV



Christening of the King George IV at the Police Rowing Club



Copy of original letter from the Australian Olympic Federations confirming Cecils' selection in the Olympic team



The Olympic sculler, Cecil Pearce, and his fiancée, Miss Beryl Andreoli, just before the Mongolia sailed.

When Cecil Pearce approached Joe Andreoli of the Balmain Rowing club for permission to court his daughter Beryl, he was told he could on the condition that he joined the Balmain Rowing Club. Thus began a life time union of both loves.

Joe Andreoli was Cecil's coach at the time.



The Australian sculler, Cecil Pearce, lifting his shell out of the water after a training row on the Olympic course at Grunau, near Berlin. Pearce is favoured for the Olympic sculls event.

Australia's Interest in Games Now Practically Confined to Rowers.

PEARCE STILL HAS A CHANCE

Both Boxers Beaten

BERLIN, Tuesday.

IT was another black day for Australia in the Olympic Games to-day, the only rays of sunshine being the fact that sculler Pearce still has a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals, while Miss Pat Norton qualified in her heat of the backstroke.

PEARCE'S COLD

Blamed For Bad Showing In Sculling

STILL HAS A CHANCE

BERLIN, Tuesday.

A SEVERE cold largely accounted for Cecil Pearce's poor showing in his heat of the sculls to-day, but it cannot entirely explain his defeat, which was a harder blow to Australia than anything so far in the Games.

The traditional invincibility of the Pearce was rudely shocked as he struggled home ten seconds behind the winner.

Pearce's reputation has been built up as a battler against unfavorable conditions, and to-day's following wind essentially suited a fast man.

Pearce's long stroke, at about 26, contrasted with Schaeffer's faster rating and quick recovery, as seen over the last few hundred metres.

Nothing could prevent the German from winning, and the Australians found that the respectful opinion they had formed of Schaeffer was more completely borne out than they would have wished.

modation altogether provided for 40,000.

Barrow (U.S.A.) drew the first station, Schaeffer the second, Pearce the third, Hasenohrl (Austria) the fourth, and Campbell (Canada) the fifth. The course was thus not overcrowded.

A brisk wind behind the scullers made the water choppy.

The heavier men, such as Pearce (14st. 11lb.) and Barrow (12st. 10lb.) suffered by comparison with Schaeffer, who is more lightly built.

Schaeffer soon went ahead, led from Pearce at 800 metres, and was still ahead at 1000 metres, with the four others close together.

May Enter Semi-Final

Pearce still has a chance to enter the finals, as those beaten to-day row again for the right to compete in the semi-final.

Though indifferent, Pearce's time to-day was nevertheless 4.2 seconds better than one of the heat winners.

It is therefore too early to speak of his elimination.

It will be, however, necessary tomorrow to hope for both a physical recovery and an adjustment of his methods to the conditions, if a following wind still prevails, for only the first place in the losers' row-off will enable him to qualify for the semi-final.

He showed a tendency to allow the

Brilliant Rowing

Pearce thereafter lost ground, while Schaeffer increased his lead, and, sculling brilliantly, won without trouble.

There were three lengths between second and third, and a length between third and fourth. Barrow was two lengths behind Pearce.

Pearce finished lifelessly, being half-choked by a severe cold. He was extremely disappointed by his performance.

The winner sculled with great freedom and polish, but comparable times have been recorded by Pearce during training.

PEARCE ELIMINATED.

Sculler Weakens at the Finish.

BERLIN, Aug. 12.—The Australian sculler, Cecil Pearce, who was fourth in his heat of the single sculls yesterday, appeared in another heat today to decide which of the losers would have the right to enter the semi-finals. Pearce was beaten again, being second to Campbell (Canada). Campbell's time was 7min. 31sec., and that of Pearce 7min. 42 2-10sec. Pearce is therefore eliminated from the competition.

The Race.

Pearce led from Juanico, Campbell and de Palma just after the start. The Australian was still leading at the 500 metres, where Campbell had moved up. Pearce, at the 1,000 metres, led by a length from Campbell, and continued ahead until the 1,500 metres, where the Canadian spurted. Campbell raced level with the Australian for the next 100 metres; then Pearce began to crack up, and could not find a finishing spurt. Campbell beat him by a length.

Pearce put up a better fight than yesterday against the handicap of a chill. He threw everything into the first 1,000 metres in the hope of establishing a commanding lead before his breathing was affected, but he could not withstand Campbell's challenge. Pearce began striking at 40 to the minute, but the rate fell badly over the last few hundred metres. Pearce clearly has not the class of his cousin, Bobby Pearce.

HERALD, THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1936.

OLYMPIC GAMES.

Cecil Pearce Eliminated.

ROWERS FAIL IN HEATS.

Miss Norton Out of Backstroke.

(AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS SPECIAL.)

BERLIN, Aug. 12.

Australia had another disappointing day at the Olympic Games to-day.

Cecil Pearce was eliminated from the sculls. The police eight (Australian representatives) and the Australian pair in the double sculls (W. Dixon and H. Turner) were placed only fourth in their respective events. Both will have to win losers' heats to qualify for the final.



"SMOKO" TO CECIL PEARCE

A NUMBER of the Olympic representatives are returning on October 6 by the Mooltan. Among them being the manager, Mr. H. G. Alderson, and Cecil Pearce, sculler. Mr. J. B. Sharp, president of the Balmain Rowing Club, of which Pearce is a member, is tendering him a "smoko" on October 6, in the Balmain Town Hall.



C. Pearce, Australian Olympic sculler, photographed on the Mooltan to-day. The straw hat he is wearing was given him by the winner of the sculls at the Games, Schaefer, of Germany.

LESSON LEARNED AT BERLIN

At a welcome home tendered by Balmain Club president, J. B. Sharp, to Olympic sculler, Cecil Pearce, at Balmain Town Hall on Tuesday evening—attended by some 120 rowing men—Olympic team manager, Harry Alderson, gave some interesting sidelights on the rowing at the Games.

"The final of the Olympic eights was one of the greatest rowing tests I have seen," said Mr. Alderson. "U.S.A., Italy and Germany crossed the line within the flash of a split second." "The rowing of these three crews was distinctly orthodox—what we might term early Victorian."

"The fact that they stood out against the rest of the world was simply the old, old story—the best possible coaching, lengthy training, bringing wonderful combination and condition."

"The U.S.A. crew was together for three years, and Germany for two."

Mr. Alderson described the Japanese as a freak crew with a freak boat.

Cecil Pearce held the opinion that Australian-built outriggers were equal to anything he had seen abroad, but thought we could learn something from the ideas built into some of the racing eights used by other nations.

Acknowledgements - Garry Pearce for sharing his father's scrapbook & photos along with wonderful family stories.

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