PENDEEN PILOT GIG CLUB

NEWSLETTER

"THE GIG-GLE"

Issue 78 - March 2013

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The race season has begun - with our first outing at '3 Rivers' on March 3rd. There were moments when we thought we would never make it there with two teams, but even the weather was kind, and having overcome our crew and vehicle problems, we got out there and proved that Pendeen still has staying power. (*see report)* Sadly there were not enough rowers available to enter Helford's 'Mini-Scillies' but the Penryn River Race on Good Friday will allow rowers who have not raced yet to have their turn, before we host the 3rd GRP Gig Championships event at Sandy Cove on April 6th. With more clubs than ever before intending to join us, this is our opportunity to prove our strength as a club.

Turning from rowing to the work behind the scenes. With the 'Open information Policy' that was adopted at last year's AGM, we all now have access to the Committee Meeting minutes, but with busy lives to lead I'm sure that many of us don't have time to read every detail. Many of the items in the Gig-gle are inevitably from these minutes, and presented in a general way, just to remind us all of the big picture, but please refer to the Committee minutes if you would like any more in-depth information about any item. The Committee is working hard to create a strong, positive and safe Club for everyone to enjoy, this month's Committee minutes are a particularly good example of this, check them out and enjoy helping where you can.

Finally, in the hope that summer is on its way, 'yes', we restart evening rowing on Tuesday 2nd April at 5pm, followed by a General Meeting at 7.30 at the Lugger in Penzance. This is a new, easy to access, venue for us. Please try to come along, get to know what is going on and pass the new constitution.

Pendeen Gig Club 'Pig Gig' Championship Event Saturday April 6th (Sunday if weather dictates), at Sandy Cove, Newlyn:

Invented to give people a chance to race in their 'Pigs' (otherwise known as Glass Reinforced Plastic Training Gigs), once all the traditional wooden gigs have gone off to Scillies for the Championships, this event is promising to be bigger and better than ever before. We have about 10 clubs intending to join us for this event so it will need 'all hands on deck' to make it run smoothly. This is a great opportunity for us to add to our '*new gig'* fund and prove to people that Pendeen is a capable and fun club to belong to.

The men are *organising* the boats and course and the ladies are *organising* the catering, but please feel free to contribute to any of the activities of the day. We have had some great cakes from the men in the past and I look forward to receiving their contributions this time, and I know there are ladies quite happy to help with the practical activities. We just need to work as a big '***team***' for the day and we will have a great time. Work will begin early that morning to prepare the parking area, erect the gazebo, set up the catering department, mark the course and finishing line and launch all the boats, so whichever bit of the day you can help with, we will be pleased to see you, whether you are a rower, parent, friend or just a supporter of the club. Please remember the clearing up at the end is just as important as the preparation.

Set-up start time:	We will need people available from 10am
Cox's meeting:	12.45
Racing start time:	13.00

Cancellation or alteration of times by Friday 18.00

Membership 2013:

This year's membership fees from regular rowers have come in well. There are, however, a few people who still need to complete their forms and pay their subscriptions by March 31st. I would also like to see more payments from the non-rowers and social rowers, particularly those going to Scillies, as, to be entitled to the reduced rate on the Scillonian or Skybus, you must be a member of a club. Can I make a plea to all those of you who have not paid for 2013 as yet, to make an effort this month, as it would be lovely not to have to do personal reminders. Thank you. *Jill Hoather*

Junior Rowing: **Fridays 4.15 prepare boats 4.30 pm rowing 5.30pm finish**

Friday afternoon rowing has now begun to establish itself again, apart from one day with particularly bad weather, when we decided to cancel, and we look forward to more of last year's juniors returning. A number of juniors have rowed through the winter on Sundays, which has given them time to strengthen their stroke, so we will be looking out for a good result at our race meeting. As Sunday rowing has been well attended, we would like to invite any juniors who have already rowed on Friday to come along for more practice at these social rowing sessions if they wish. It is important to remember that during the summer Friday 4.30 is the '*Training'* session and should therefore be given priority, but if for any reason this time is difficult please talk to Shirley Pitts.

New Gig

The cheque for the first instalment for our 'new build' is going to Andrew Nancarrow, this week, meaning that he will now start work and our project becomes real. The work will take until about September. Andrew has invited us to visit the project along the way, giving us the opportunity to understand what work goes into a new Gig. Visits will be organised giving us the chance to take some special pictures, with a thought towards the *Photograph Competition*.

Fundraising:

A good number of us enjoyed the curry night at the North, with good food and good company. It is a while since we have been to one of John's curry evenings as a club, and it was good to support the pub, and take the opportunity to empty their collecting bottle which yielded just under £100. We thank their customers for those odd penny donations which soon add up. Shirley has booked the next clothes collection and has just received a £98 cheque for the last collection, so keep those old rags coming and fill Shirley's garage again. Below is a fundraising calendar that Shirley has produced, with one or two extras awaiting date confirmation. We are hoping to appear at more local events than we have done recently, taking the gig where appropriate and also renting stalls for PR and fundraising where possible. Some of these events, inevitably clash with rowing events, but we are hoping to have people available for both activities by organising the events we attend and making good use of our non-rowers as far as possible.

Sat 6th April:	***Our own event at Sandy Cove (or Sunday 7th if weather dictates)***
Sun 21st April:	***Bag Packing at Morrisons for Juniors (Adults required to supervise)***
Sun 5th May:	***Pendeen Rally at Geevor Mine (for those not going to Scillies)***
31st May to 2nd June:	***Weekend Beer Festival at Trewellard Pub -'Club beer for sale' etc***
Sat 20th July:	***Lafrowda Day, St Just***
Tues 6th August:	***Morvah Pasty Day***
Mon 26th August:	***Fish Festival Newlyn (fund raising for those not Rowing)***
Fri 13th December:	***Newlyn Harbour Lights switch on.***

Plus another 'Pig Race' evening, a Casino Evening at the Trewellard Inn, Car Boot to be held in Trewellard Inn car park and a Junior Race Event

We are still collecting Clothes and household linens, in any condition, even your old painting rags. Mobile phones which do not need to be working and Ink Cartridges. Everything is sorted and distributed to be recycled in whatever is the most appropriate way. We made £300 from these collections last year, and although this may not seem huge, it is literally 'money for old rubbish'. Shirley Pitts organises the collection from her garage, so she is the best person to give your items to, but I can always pass them on if necessary. Calendars: As Calendars have previously been successful ,we are planning on preparing one for 2014. In order to make this effective we want to complete it for selling by September. There is going to be a Photo Competition in order to create this. Pictures can be anything connected to the 'Gig World' and taken from January 2012 until the closing date of 30th June 2013. There will be a professional judge to select the final 12 and a final vote on the winner. Start planning your pictures now ready to enter them in June.

Indoor Rowing and Training:

Most of you will know that the men have spent quite some time at the gym this winter, and I know that some of the ladies have been involved in various winter training. There has been much talk about how many strokes can be achieved, and lots of competitive challenges thrown at certain of the men. Anyone who checks 'Facebook' will know how many thousand strokes David eventually achieved. Not to be outdone, Jess went off to Plymouth the day after she had rowed with the ladies in a 6-mile race at Saltash, and competed in the South West Schools Indoor Rowing Competition. Despite already having a beauty of a blister from Sunday, Jess put her heart into it, as always, and came 7th in the Individual Competition. Congratulations Jess, you are an asset to our Club.

The benefits of Ergo Rowing Machines are many, particularly in the winter when there is not so much chance to be outdoors rowing. Shirley Pitts and Mike Ellis recently met with Bolitho School who are keen to encourage us to part fund the purchase of an Ergo. Close links with Bolitho are extremely useful to us, particularly when applying for the Sportivate Grants, which we have again been approved for. Buying an Ergo will allow us access to their gym, out of school time, giving us good training facilities, particularly in winter, or extreme weather conditions, and running 6-week training sessions for 12 of their pupils will allow us to access an £800 grant. This particular grant can be applied for as many times as we can find young people to fill courses and gives us the chance to give our services to the community in order to get funding. There are further groups that we would like to encourage to use these 6-week sessions, which will also, hopefully, encourage more young people to join the club.

Equipment:

Oars: Following the accident which broke the paddle of an oar in the autumn, it was decided that oars should not be stacked vertically outside the shed whilst waiting to be taken in - please lay oars carefully on the ground when they are brought up from the pontoons. There has also been some discussion about oar handles being damaged when stacked by the boats, making the end of the handles rough. Again the best solution is to lay the oars down gently, remembering to keep all walkways clear.

Seats: Many of you, without your own seats, will be pleased to hear that Phil has located some new foam, at a good price to refill the seat cushions. Once the boat fund is achieved, we will be able to look at improving and extending much of our smaller equipment, but until then I'm sure our bums will be very grateful to Phil.

Towing: Due to various changes of personnel in the Club, we now find ourselves short of towing vehicles and towers. We do still have a couple of options, but the Committee are asking if there is anyone else in the club that can already tow or would like to have a go, (with a bit of training, if required). Shirley Pitts and Dan are currently the only people known to have tow bars and appropriate cars, and there is another possibility in the pipeline, but again, if anyone else could help out here then please let us know.

Shirley Rees, our kit organiser, has taken a break from rowing during the first part of this year in order to train for a charity walk that she is involved in. Not just any charity walk, but 33k in 10 to 13 hours over rugged terrain. Below is the e-mail that she sent out to her colleagues for information and also her link to 'MyDonate', in case anyone would like to sponsor her, or see her on the Club "Facebook" Page. I'm sure that, although we are all missing Shirley at rowing, we would like to wish her the best of luck with this challenge. Enjoy it Shirley, getting back in the boat will be child's play after that!!

In a moment of madness whilst clearing my Inbox after a week's leave, I clicked on a link in the Loop saying "register your interest here" and the very next day, before even having chance to think about what I had registered for, I received an email saying that I had a place on the inaugural Cumbrian Challenge.

The Challenge is a 33km race across the stunning scenery of the Lake District, gaining 7643ft in altitude and scaling 10 peaks all within a timescale of 10 – 13 hours – oh and competing against the inspirational wounded servicemen from The North Pole and Everest expeditions. I will be in a team of four people all from within Openreach and we will be raising funds for Walking with the Wounded who are a UK based charity which fund both the retraining and re-education of wounded servicemen and women. My training is well underway with structured gym sessions, cycling and miles of all-weather cliff walking, but to complete this I am going to need some help and here is where you guys come in. I am asking you if you would be willing to support me with my challenge by making a donation to this worthy cause. I have set up a "MyDonate" page where you can make a donation - the size isn't important as everything helps. I understand that a lot of you will already support causes close to your heart and that there are only finite resources but if anybody is able to make a contribution it

would be greatly appreciated. Thanks in anticipation. Shirley
https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/shirleyscumbrianchallenge

Race Reports:

Three Rivers' Race, Caradon Gig Club, Saltash, Sunday 3rd March

With the usual early start to drive up the A30 and a reasonably mild and not too windy day, one could have been fooled into thinking this 'Gig Racing' lark was easy, but not quite so! The week had been fraught with texts and discussions as to how we would get a ladies' crew together at all, and how we could organise 5 bow rowers and one stroke rower into a crew, and just when we had solved all that, the clutch on Dan's car went and left us short of a tow vehicle. Undeterred, and with Shirley Pitts being kind enough to lend her car for the day, we were there, did our best and enjoyed ourselves.

Geoff coxed the ladies, with Jill in 6 (yes true!! - but please don't ask again), Jess in 5 and at 12 years old probably the youngest rowing at all that day, Sue Warburton and Liz applying their experience to the middle of the boat, Charlotte, with only a few months winter training behind her, bravely making her virgin race debut in 2 and Lucy keeping an eye on us all in 1. Our only target was to finish the course, and even then, there was always the '*get out clause'* as we passed the pontoons just over half way through, but with Raleigh's '*Jupiter'* fighting us all the way there was plenty of incentive to finish. We had a good start and stayed fairly well up with other boats for the first leg, though as the tail boat. As we went round the first marker buoys it was noticed that some gigs were not staying outside the buoys and with a shouted warning to '*Jupiter'* , we nipped past them while they were getting back on course and this is where we firmly stayed. As a younger and potentially fitter crew than us they applied pressure now and then, particularly with a great spurt down the home straight, but this crew wasn't for budging and we held them off, leaving them to take that final position propping up the results board, and us well pleased. Thank you ladies, that was '*team work'* at its best and thank you Geoff for your great encouragement all the way round.

The men found themselves in the 3rd of 4 heats and with a great start, Phil, Geoff, Dan, Mike, David and Tristan worked well together over the 6-mile course, with only a couple of upsets. Having kept Clevedon's *'Watch and Pray'* at bay up the first leg, we had water over them into the turns at the top of the river and headed for a great, tight turn. Sadly they seemed to think it was fine to turn into us, jam us into the buoy and stall us, leaving us way behind the boats we had been about to overhaul. With protective thoughts about Avarack's paintwork pushed to the back of my mind, the boys picked up Avarack and gave me everything I asked for, only to be passed fairly convincingly by Flushing and Mylor's *'Penarrow',* just after the bridges!!! This turned out to be not quite the upset we felt, as starting from the 4th heat (oddly) they finished 18th overall! However, we never quite got back to being able to threaten the group we had been with, leaving us the lonely job of tussling with Clevedon and finishing 31 of 52. Watch and Pray were initially listed 51 so we did wonder about a time penalty for their misdemeanour at the turns but a modified list put them at 31 and us at 32, the initial result seemed fairer!!

Club Open Day - Sunday 24th March at Newlyn Pontoons

There was a good turn out to help our Open Day go with a flow, following a bit of general training. A great atmosphere on the pontoons, made it easy for the guest rowers to come along and feel welcome, and it was good to have a few 'old friends' back around. Despite the awkward wind, the new rowers tackled the job well, showing a lot of promise and mostly being keen to come again. Thank you to everyone for their help, particularly Anna for the cake, and Lucy for the hot drinks, very welcome.

Events :

Scillies World Championships May 4th - 6th

The entries are all in and Avarack will be taking part in the Men's Vet Race, and the Men's and Ladies' Championship races. Sadly, there are too few ladies going for us to enter a team in the Ladies' Vet race, but Debbie and Jill will be joining four Mounts Bay ladies in a super vet crew, coxed by Tracy Tonkin. Training is currently at Marazion on Sunday mornings for this race. Lucy, Anna and Emma will be joined by three Mounts Bay ladies to row Avarack in the main races. They will be training on Monday and Wednesday evenings in our GRP's, and I hear that the first session went extremely well, with much encouragement from one of Mounts Bay's male cox's. Our men have a strong crew group for the main races but are still finalising there crew for the vets. However, I am looking forward to some excellent rowing from them, despite the reduced numbers, and Avarack will appear in both men's result lists.

Future Event Dates:

Friday March 29th	***Penryn River Race - mid afternoon start***
Saturday April 6th	***Our Pig Gig Event at Sandy Cove; help needed all day***
May 4th to 6th 2013	***Scillies***

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Rowing Times:

All the kit is now back in the 'Newlyn Lights Shed' for the summer, making start and finish work much easier. Please remember to store all kit safely, both on the pontoon and at the shed.

Junior Rowing; Friday 4.15 for 4.30 start, finishing around 5.30 for collection.
Tuesday and Thursday Evening: 5pm start, for rowing as soon as there is enough crew available.
Sunday Rowing; Social, mixed rowing from 10am

Contacts:

The club has its own e-mail address: pendeengigclub@hotmail.co.uk or contact Geoff Hoather on 01736 786006 or 07837277891 or GEOFFGOATHERD@aol.com
For more news and views see Pendeen Pilot Gig Club on Facebook
Our new website **www.pendeengigclub.co.uk** is now up and running online. *Check us out for info*
The CPGA now has a revamped website at www.cpga.co.uk
Any contributions for or comments on the Gig-gle can also be sent to jillhoather@googlemail.com
Welfare Officers: David Clough 01736364384 or 07518858432, email dpclough@msn.com, and Jan Barton 07964912139 or e-mail battybarton@btinternet.com

Meetings:

Next General Meeting: Tuesday 2nd April 7.30 (after rowing) at The Lugger, Penzance. This will start with a Special Meeting to formally adopt the new Constitution which has previously been circulated.