PENDEEN PILOT GIG CLUB

NEWSLETTER

"THE GIG-GLE"

Issue 83 - August 2013

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How quickly a rowing season comes to an end, with some people still promising themselves that they will 'make it to rowing next week!' This has been a difficult season for many of us with other demands on our time, but we have all done our best to get down to Newlyn when we can do and there has been a good atmosphere on the pontoons, with people making an appearance when they can. Let's hope that life slows down a little bit so we can all find enough time to enjoy our training and begin to build crews to fill both gigs for the World Championships at Scillies next year.
With only the Newquay Championships and our own Junior Fun Day left on the events Calendar, The Trewellard has offered to organise an end of season social and hopefully fundraiser. Gill will give us some suggestions and dates to discuss at the September meeting so that we can finalise this event.

Club Website:

Sue Nankervis has provided the following information about the members' page on the website.
Basically most members have visited our website, some have signed in as a member. Once signed in there is a member's forum where people can chat to other members who are signed in at the same time, place ideas or suggestions and generally have a say.
It's there to help bring members together and discuss what's important to us - that is Pendeen Gig Club. So if a member wishes to communicate via the website they can chat or post messages to other members. No-one else can see the forum, its heavily policed by me! So anyone trying to become a member & post a message, who is not recognised as someone attached to the club, will be banned & their messages deleted. Most clubs have a members' forum available, it's just another way to keep all lines of communication open and visible to all.

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

Well done to Joe, Jess, Josh, Steven, Courtney and Sam for an outstanding effort at the Under 14's Championships, and thank you to Lucas and Nathan for coming along to support them. This is the first time our club has had a crew to enter this race and they did us proud. (*Report further on*). With the experience of this event we are sure that by next year we will be able to put a crew into the Under 16's and 2 crews into the Under 14's, so keep on practicing and hopefully it will be your turn next year.
Our Junior Fun Day will be on Saturday September 7th, at Sandy Cove, Newlyn. The idea of this event is that all the juniors, however experienced, can come and have a go at racing. This year we have organised an 'Arts Tent' which is being provided by the Newlyn 'Ebb and Flow' project, where anyone can get involved in creating a piece of art that reflects the day. We have six other Clubs who have accepted our invitation to attend. There will be one competitive 'Club' race for Under 14's and for Under 16's, but all other races will be open to any rowers, so that even clubs without 6 juniors will be able to get their juniors involved. There will of course be a refreshment tent, so anyone that can help with either the boats, the racing or the refreshments will be very welcome or just donate a raffle prize or a cake to sell. Offers to Jill Hoather please

Fundraising:

It is nice to report that Ben has attended a car boot sale and donated his £28 profit to the New Gig fund, thank you Ben.

We are still working on the last bit of fundraising before the new boat is completed in what seems to be going to be October. One of the best ways you can support the new gig is by buying a part of her. Anything from £5 worth of rivets to a seat for £250. There is also the opportunity, for anyone with their own business to display an advertising board on the gig trailer for £50 (plus board cost). Anyone interested in helping in this way should contact Shirley Pitts or Neil Milbourne. Can people who have already promised money for the gig please pass it to Neil, in order for him to confirm our position.

The collections of clothes and household linens, in any condition, even your old painting rags, mobile phones which do not need to be working and ink cartridges are all doing well. A recent collection from Shirley's garage is hoped to be close to £200 in value. Thanks to everyone, especially those 'house movers', who may not have had time to row, but have certainly been making money from their 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/Photo Competition I am told by Charlotte that the Photograph Competition will be judged this weekend. Shirley and Charlotte are happy that they have a good price for producing the calendars and will be organising them for sale as soon as possible.

Club Kit: All enquiries and orders for kit should be directed to Shirley Rees at srees171@googlemail.com or 07824446543.

Race Reports:

Coverack

After the thunder and lightning and downpours of last year's Coverack event, we were hoping that the weather gods would be kinder this year and apart from a light shower this proved to be the case.

Porthoustock is not the prettiest of coves with its grey beach and industrial quays but the Coverack event is always a fun, friendly one and one where we have done reasonably well in the past. This year's set of results for Pendeen proved we are well on our way as a club, as not one crew posted a disappointing result, indeed we may have exceeded expectations.

With 15 gigs on the beach and with no more than 12 in any one race, starts should have been straightforward, but with the wind blowing the gigs up against the start buoy and a starter with a shortage of patience (so we were reliably informed) the language over the radio was "entertaining".

First to race was the Men's A with our crew rowing a fantastic race to finish 6th (after Coverack disqualified their own crew who had crossed the line first) The Men's B, after being goaded by Dave Roberts of Mount's Bay that his C crew in Taran would "kick some ****" rowed another brilliant race to finish 8th out of 12, four places ahead of Taran!

The under 14s were unable to put out their usual crew due to holidays, but with a race novice and borrowing a girl from Porthleven, put in another really strong performance to finish a brilliant 3rd (of 6) behind only Fowey and the home club.

The Ladies crew (with some still in Sweden) decided to row in the B race. From the start we had a good rhythm and started to pull away from a group of gigs (including Zennor's Senara) At the first mark we moved ahead of Hayle (after a slight coming together) and pulled away. Every time they tried to move up on us Geoff would call a ten and we pulled away again, finishing in 7th out of 12 and beating some good crews.

As defending champions of the veterans race our crew had a lot to live up to. Unlike last year when the awful weather had led to most clubs having gone by now, there was a good line up and the eventual winners were Mount's Bay in Kensa fielding a very experienced and strong crew. Our crew upheld our good record by coming in 3rd behind Falmouth, beating 4 other gigs by a good distance.

Overall it was a great day, with a consistent set of results that demonstrate our progress as a club

Emma

Cadgwith

Calm seas but largely overcast weather met us at the lovely fishing cove of Cadgwith. An incredible number of gigs had been squeezed on to the little beach next to the fishing boats (and accompanying dead fish, crabs etc) This made launching and changing over crews "interesting" as when the tide was out there was only room for about three gigs to come in at a time, with the inevitable pile up behind them!

With holidays, illness disasters and numerous other reasons the ladies crew which had been 7 or 8 strong on Friday ended up as myself, Jill and Shirley P, while the men although missing a few key rowers fared better.

Unusually the first race was the Under 14s and like the rest of the club, our crew were missing a couple of regulars. However, this enabled Lucas to row his first race and with the help of a seemingly very young lad Joe from Cadgwith they rowed well in a field of 9 to finish 5th.

Second race was the vets and it was decided to field a mixed crew. The opposition was tough with many all men crews from clubs such as eventual winners Falmouth and Caradon. However we beat a good few gigs to finish 10th. The race was eventful with the Penryn cox cutting inside us at the first mark, us managing to overtake them again and then see them clash on the next mark behind us then get stuck on the buoys rope as it tangled with their rudder. It doesn't only happen to Pendeen then.

The Mens A was full of incident for our crew. A good start was unfortunately undone by a coming together with another gig which resulted in our yoke being broken - and therefore no steering! A spare is always in the gig but anyone who coxes or helps put the kit away will know that the ropes are neatly tied around the yoke and "take a while to undo" Once this was sorted our crew, who had been soldiering on while Jill sorted the yoke, were able to resume the race properly, and from about twenty lengths behind found an extra gear to catch up and overtake a couple of gigs to finish 17th. The lesson, well learnt was to undo the ropes on the spare yoke!!

With only three ladies we did not enter either the Ladies A or B races, however we lent Avarack to Mount's Bay's C crew who were mostly the ladies who rowed with us on Scillies. They finished 13th of 18.

The Mens B rowed a strong steady race to finish 13th with three gigs behind them. The next and last race was the mixed with Ben rowing the two races back to back. We did not have the best of starts (the cox did not see the flag drop!) and soon trailed at the back of the field. Despite this we did not lose hope (as it is all too easy to do) and Neil, our cox, was determined we were going to catch and take Hayle, who were a good few lengths ahead of us. From somewhere we found an extra gear and slowly we reeled them in, passing them on the final leg, to finish a couple of boat lengths ahead of them. Our local rivals seemed impressed and both clubs helped each other get the gigs off the beach at the end of the day.

As with all Buller Day's at Cadgwith there was a great atmosphere on the beach, but there was one last typically 'Pendeen' incident. Dan had forgotten to turn the lights off Shirley P's car, so the battery had run down, requiring jump leads. There were therefore two lessons from the day - untie the yoke and turn off the lights! - Emma

Porthleven Across the Bay - Sadly we had to withdraw from the Across the Bay race as nobody was available to tow the gig, so we looked forward to joining Porthleven for their event on the following weekend. As fate would have it, the Saturday dawned wet and windy proving how right they had been to cancel it. Those of us who bumped into each other at Porthleven that Saturday were witness to some great waves at the harbour entrance - you would not have wanted to row that day!!

Under 14's Championships - Sunday 25th August

Our most experienced juniors represented Pendeen at Hayle, in perfect weather, creating another first for the Club. With a brief explanation of the different angled stretchers in different gigs, Joe, Jess, Josh, Steven, Courtney and Sam, coxed by Debs, quickly settled into rowing in unfamiliar gigs, as they rowed Zeus down to the start line at Copperhouse Pool, looking good from the start. With Bude and Helford A in their heat, we knew that their biggest opposition was going to be Helford, but with the four fastest losers also going through to the main races, they had everything to race for and with an amazing finish they stormed across the line 1 second behind Helford, with a finish time of 3 minutes 24 secs. This made them the fastest gig of the none winners and gave them a sure place in the next round.

Having declared that they quite liked Zeus, despite her very angled stretchers, they then had the challenge of Rose of Cadgwith for the second round, with Cadgwith in Azook and Helford A again in our own Avarack (the first time she has been loaned for Championship racing). Their heat was the fastest of the second round but we all know how many outside variations can change a race, and this time we produced a slower time of 3 minutes 37 seconds, which meant that we disappointingly missed out on the 7 gig semi-final by 5 seconds. This crew should be very proud of themselves, bringing in some excellent times, finishing 9th out of 24 and collecting a medal each for taking part. We look forward to seeing them in both the Under 16's and the Under 14's next year as all but Steven will be young enough for both and hopefully we will be able to field two crews by then.

Well done crew. Jill

Fish Festival - Monday 26th August -

With Avarack leading the Parade of Gigs with our annual *'first place'* moment, this year's Fish Festival Race was introduced across the harbour, as Avarack, Brisons, Cormoran, Kensa, Lark, Melusine, Messack, Morvoren and Senara. As we left the harbour into a flat calm sea, we knew how hard this race was going to be. Geoff got us exactly where he had planned on the start line and using our now tried, tested and very successful start we were up with the front of the pack for a fair way heading to Low Lee buoy. We stayed on Kensa's tail right up to the buoy and as she slightly 'over' turned, we clipped her rudder as Geoff had expected her to have picked up and moved on. Soon back on course we chased her toward Gear Pole, with the incident having allowed Lark to escape us both. With the heat now getting to all crews, as it felt like we were rowing in a sauna, there was no further change in the order as we concentrated on getting back into the harbour for that final bit of effort in front of the crowd. An important but good

hearted race, which we all enjoy doing was won, as expected, by Mounts Bay, with us nicely in the middle in 5th and two Zennor boats, Truro and Cape behind us.

Following the race, Shirley organised us to take out people wishing to experience rowing a gig. This was very rewarding. Everyone who took part really enjoyed their rowing and we made contact with 2 or 3 people who hope to join us for more sessions. All good P.R. - great idea Shirley. Jill

Events :

Race Dates:

W/e 31/8 and 1/9	Newquay Ladies' Championships	Coxes 8.45
Saturday 7th Sept	Pendeen Junior Fun Day - Help needed all day	Cox Meeting 1pm
W/e 14/15th Sept	Newquay Men's Championships	Coxes 8.45

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.

REGULAR TIMES:

Junior Rowing; Friday 4.15 for 4.30 start, finishing around 5.30 for collection.

Tuesday and Thursday Evening: 5.45pm 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 10th September 2013 The Radjel, Pendeen (To include 'Guess and Count' the cash in their bottle)