PENDEEN PILOT GIG CLUB

NEWSLETTER

"THE GIG-GLE"

Issue 77 - February 2013

Editor: ***Jill Hoather*** **Race Reports:** ***Emma Gage***



Please e-mail comments or editorial to Jill at jillhoather@googlemail.com

Avarack is now beautifully painted on the outside, the oars varnished ready for a new season, and the sun has even made an appearance to encourage us out to train. We have a new gig ordered, a new Constitution drafted ready for approval, a new website, the cleanest GRPs on circuit, a good group of youngsters ready to take our junior section into this year's regattas, a *Club Open Day* on Sunday 24th March, a plan for a six week workshop, the Pig Gig Championships on April 6th, and a whole summer of rowing to look forward to. With our support, this should be a year of growth and consolidation with lots of fun along the way.

Huge thanks should go to Phil and his regular three helpers Geoff, David and Ben who have dedicated their winter Saturdays to maintenance, with only a few others of us managing to help now and then. She still needs her inside cleaned and touched up, but sensibly this will be done following her season debut at the *Three Rivers Race* at Saltash on Sunday March 3rd.

Help Needed: At the Gig Shed, Geevor Mine, this Saturday 23rd February 9.45

Having completed the external work on Avarack we need to turn her over and back onto the trailer ready for 3 Rivers race on March 3rd. Can as many members as possible, and any friends that you may have available, please come to the Gig Shed for 9.45 am this Saturday.

Website: www.pendeengigclub.co.uk

Congratulations to Sue Nankervis and all other contributors for creating our amazing website. It is now up and running and looking superb. Take a look for yourself, see if you are there and maybe find out something new. (More information about the Members access section next month).

Membership 2013:

Despite the changes, this year's subscriptions have been paid up really quickly. There are of course a few to be completed, but this has made my job so much easier, thank you. The Committee has now approved an annual Social Membership at £10 and also created a new option of Guest Rower at £2 per row. We were very aware that there are people who simply want to support us as a Club and receive the Newsletter, and also a good number of people who have been involved with Pendeen in the past, but are only in the County occasionally, so whose rowing opportunities are few, as well as rowers' friends and family who may be visiting, would love to have the occasional row, and are quite prepared to pay for that pleasure. We hope these new options will help us maintain the 'inclusivity' that Pendeen has always been so proud of. If anyone has any questions about their membership, then please contact me for a chat. *Jill Hoather*

Junior Rowing: **Sunday 24th Feb 11.15 for 11.30 am, then from Friday 1st March 4.15 for 4.30 pm**

Junior Rowing will return to Friday afternoon as soon as school starts after half term. It has been great to have been able to continue with enough juniors to run our Sunday sessions, but we are really looking forward to welcoming back the juniors who have not been able to make this slot. It looks like our general plan will be to have Friday rowing from February half term through to October half term, and then maintain our training by using a Sunday slot during the winter. Now would be a great time to bring along any friends, who would like to see what rowing is all about, so that they are involved right from the beginning of the season and we can start preparing for the first races.

Club Open Day - Sunday 24th March at Newlyn Pontoons at 11.o clock

Following the success of previous Open Days we will be running one on Sunday March 24th, to try to encourage new members of all ages. We also have a special interest in attracting the 14 to 25 year old age group, both to improve our rowing numbers in this area and also because there is a grant which we are eligible to access if we run workshops for this group. This in no way means that we will only be focussing on this group. We would welcome interested people of any age and create workable training patterns for new rowers. With less crews training for Scillies this year, it is an ideal time for us to help new rowers develop their skills right from the beginning of the season, so if you have any friends who are interested, please encourage them to join us on the 24th.

These will be advertised in Gyms, Sports and Social Clubs, Schools, Doctors Surgeries and the Cornishman. Anyone who can place posters for us, please see Shirley Pitts or Jill Hoather and anyone with friends who would like to try rowing, please encourage them to come along.

Shirley, Debbie, Geoff and Jill will be primarily responsible for running this session, but we will need volunteers to row in 5 and 6 and assist with training. Please let us know if you can help.

The Open Day will begin with introductions, safety information and some basic 'onshore' guidance and continue with harbour training, and probably last 2 hours.

Fundraising:

Printer Cartridges, Phones and Old Clothes:

We are still collecting all these items, in any condition. Clothes can be your old painting rags, phones do not need to be working, 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.

Saturday March 9th - Curry Night at the North Inn, Pendeen, from 7.30pm

The North Inn, Pendeen, is one of the establishments that has an ongoing collection bottle for our fundraising, and we plan to have a count up of its current contents at one of their popular Curry Nights on March 9th. Jill has booked 12 places for the Club for this night and we propose to run a 'Guess the amount in the bottle' competition in the pub during the evening, and then count the bottle contents, in order to award the prize. The North Inn has a seriously good reputation for its Curry Nights and we have always had an excellent time at these in the past, so please come along and enjoy the evening. Cost is around £10 for a buffet usually consisting of 4 curries with accompaniments, and is excellent value with return visits to the buffet being perfectly acceptable! Names to Jill please.

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.

6 Week workshops: As mentioned earlier, there is Grant funding available if we set up and run 6 week workshops for 14 to 25 year olds. We need 12 young people to make this viable and as well as hoping to set up our own club one following our open day, (dates to be decided with interested parties), we are also in discussion with the Sea Scouts, who are interested in having a connection with Gig Rowing, and have other lines to follow up. These will obviously be of multiple benefit to the club.

Gig News: - Emma Gage

Stories from the Old Gigs

The Cetewayo
As well as being used for getting pilots out to ships, rescues and delivering cargo, gigs were raced - often for generous cash prizes. One gig that was said to be so fast that she was banned from entering such races was the Cetewayo. Built by Peters of St Mawes, her exact date of construction is unknown but was probably around 1870-1880. Originally built for the St Ives pilots she was later bought by St Agnes in the Scillies where she worked alongside one of the last pilot cutters. Named after a famous Zulu chief who had visited Britain and been received by Queen Victoria, her lines were said to be the most beautiful of any gig and she was said to be the fastest on the Islands.
As with many gigs in those days once they were not being used they were simply dragged onto shore to rot away and with a race ban Cetewayo was almost forgotten, so much so that a race notice eventually was printed without the usual "Cetewayo banned" This proved to be too much of a challenge for the St Agnes men to ignore and they decided to get the old gig out and race her. Dragged from the bushes where ferns had been growing through her open seams, the poor old gig was patched with soap (which hardens in salt water), brown paper, rags and tar. Somehow she stayed together for the race, which she duly won as her crew had expected, but she was taking in water and once dragged back onto the beach she simply fell apart. - Emma

Gigs new to the circuit in 2013

Keen gig spotters may notice some newcomers on the circuit this year, some new, some renamed. Look out for:-
Vilt - Flushing and Mylor
Pulpit Rock and Chesil - Portland
Tempest - Lyme Regis
Wolf (a new one) - Salcombe, the old Wolf has been sold to Bridport in Dorset and will be renamed.
Invermore - Arklow in Ireland
Heart of Hayling and Spirit of Langstone - Langstone Cutters

There is also another new gig for the Dutch being built on the Scillies and, of course, the gig we are all waiting to see is ours! She will be the 14th gig built by Andrew Nancarrow - the others being (in order of age):
Circe; Majestic; Wolf; Falcon; Avarack; Pinnacle; Richard Lander; Penarrow; Bolster; Endurance; Lannvorek; Messack; Serafina *Emma*

Club Rowing Kit - Shirley Rees 07824446543:

The Club logo can be added to any kit. Shirley has a catalogue from our supplier showing all the kit that is currently in circulation, but you may also choose other items from this catalogue or arrange for the logo to be added to kit bought elsewhere. For further information and prices, please call Shirley as she is currently training for a big Charity walk in May and will not be around at rowing until after her walk.

Events -

Pendeen Pig Gig Event Saturday April 6th Sandy Cove

Our now established GRP race event will be on Saturday April 6th, all being well. Of course we are hoping for the weather to be kind to us, but having arranged it for a Saturday, we are also suggesting to Clubs that if the weather causes us a problem we will move to the Sunday as a reserve. A general 'save the date' has gone out and we already have a good number of clubs interested, so put the date in your diary as we will of course need as much help as we can get.

Scillies World Championships May 4th - 6th

Though we have a smaller contingency going to the Championships this year, Avarack will be there, and we will be represented in each race. Unfortunately, when we enquired about camping places, at the usual time of year, we were informed that they had all been sold. (The selling protocol of these is quite erratic). There are about 6 people needing camping and currently Barry Stone and David Clough are watching the Gigrower website for places on offer. Anyone not sure about this system should contact Barry or David. It should also be remembered that to access the reduced prices on the Scillonian and Skybus, people must be Club members and quote Pendeen Gig Club when booking.

Future Event Dates:

Sunday Feb 3rd	***Three Rivers Race, Saltash - Gig by 8.15 Coxes 8.45***
Saturday March 9th	***Curry Night, North Inn, from 7.30***
Sunday March 24th	***Club Open Day 11am***
Friday March 29th	***Penryn River Race (no details yet)***
Saturday April 6th	***Our Pig Gig Event at Sandy Cove; help needed all day***
May 4th to 6th 2013	***Scillies***
July 29th 3days +	***Swedish Trip - see below***

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Rowing Times:

Following our winter storage of kit in the Inshore Lifeboat Shed, we will be moving it back to the 'Newlyn Lights Shed' for the summer on Sunday February 24th. We are very grateful to the Newlyn RNLI for their help with our winter storage, while the lights shed was being used for its true purpose, and hope that we will be able to access a similar arrangement next year.

Junior Rowing; Sunday 11.15 for 11.30am this Sunday 24th February and then move to **Friday 4.15 for 4.30 from Friday March 1st**

Sunday Rowing; Social, mixed rowing from 10am

Contacts:

Apologies to David Clough, for printing his old number last month. He can be contacted on 07518858432
The club has its own e-mail address: pendeengigclub@hotmail.co.uk
For more news and views see Pendeen Pilot Gig Club on Facebook or contact Geoff Hoather on 01736 786006 or 07837277891 or GEOFFGOATHERD@aol.com
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:

Committee Officers' Meeting: Monday 11th March 7.30pm Lugger, Penzance
Next General Meeting: Tuesday 2nd April details to be announced