PENDEEN PILOT GIG CLUB

NEWSLETTER

"THE GIG-GLE"

Issue 76 - JANUARY 2013

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



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

A new year, a new committee, some new rowers to welcome to our club and a new boat ordered, all is looking pretty rosy. The atmosphere on the pontoons is warm in spirit, if a little icy in temperature, and all we have to do is build a better club. That is not to say that Pendeen hasn't always had lots of strengths, but rowing has changed over the years that we have existed, and maintaining the planning, organising and recording side now requires as much strength as training to row and race. With very few changes, the new committee will soon settle into completing the accreditation work for Club Mark, and finish updating the new constitution, putting us in a strong position to attract more new rowers and develop strong racing and social rowing. Last year's best development was probably our Junior Section, which we have managed to continue over the winter, ready to grow again as soon as we can return to our Friday afternoon slot, probably after half term. This year we really need to work on developing the 18 to 40's section of the club. This age group, particularly the younger end, contains the people with big life commitments and is always harder to recruit from, but we really need to be bringing some younger adults in to continue the Club's development and maintain an age balance. It is also the Governments 'Target Group' for sporting activity and, as such, is useful when accessing grant funding. We are planning to target sports clubs and winter sport activities, before their season ends, and try to set up a specific training plan for new rowers, so if you know of anyone that is interested in starting (whatever age), please refer them to myself (as above) or Shirley Pitts (shirleypitts@travelcounsellors.com).

Committee elected for 2013:

Chairman - Jan Barton	01736 364192	07964912139

It was the unanimous opinion of the members present that the outgoing Chairman, Pete Cass, be elected as the club's first President in recognition of his services to the club since its foundation. Pete accepted.

Secretary - Geoff Hoather	01736 786006	07837277891
Treasurer - Neil Milbourne	01736 787790	07765824959
Men's Captain - Mike Ellis	01736 738766	07866691533
Ladies' Captain - Debs Sedgeman	01736 796996	07739753327
Men's Vice Captain - Phil Sedgeman	01736 796996	07425012377
Ladies' Vice Captain - Sue Nankervis	01736 794269	07922448956
Welfare Officer - David Clough	01736 364384	07526988568

Membership 2013:

Subscriptions for Club Membership for 2013 are now due. The AGM made the decision that we would scrap the old '*pay as you row'* system and continue with a lower rate for annual subscriptions. This will bring us in line with other clubs and make the administration simpler, but it is realised that it may be a sudden and difficult change for some people. Nobody should be precluded from rowing, so please complete your new Membership form as soon as possible and pass it to me, Jill Hoather, with at least a 'first instalment' so that we can comply with Club insurance requirements. Forms for 2013 have changed slightly, there is one attached to this mailing, and they will also be available on the pontoon from Sue Nankervis on the 27th Jan.

(Apologies but I will not be at rowing until 10th Feb but forms can be given to Geoff on the 3rd or posted to me). Thank you.

Junior Rowing: **Sunday 11.15 for 11.30**

Well done to the junior rowers who are still braving the cold and rowing on Sunday mornings. It is good to see you all developing, and apart from strengthening your own rowing you will be very helpful when we return to Friday after school, as you will be able to help us develop some good stroke work generally.
The AGM made a decision that your fees for the year would increase to £25. This increase reflects the costs of rowing more realistically than the introduction price, and is still very reasonable for a year's rowing activity. You will all be given a new '*Junior Rower's Pack'* containing information and a new Membership Form for 2013. Please fill these in as soon as possible and return them at rowing or by post with your subscription. Should anyone need to pay in instalments then please speak to Shirley Pitts or myself Jill Hoather. We can make suitable arrangements if needed, but we must have your form and the first contribution towards your subs to comply with our insurance requirements.
We will assess the daylight changes and revert to our Friday time as soon as it is safe to do so. We are hoping that this will be after half term, but we will make sure that you are all informed directly.

Christmas Dinner:

A big thank you to Margaret and Trevor Richards for providing a lovely meal and relaxed atmosphere for this year's Christmas Dinner held at the Old Quay House. It was nice to experience a new venue and not to difficult to persuade enough people to drive. An excellent moment to make the Christmas Draw happen, and nice to have some of the winners there to take their prizes home. The final profit from the Draw was £ . Thank you all for working so hard on selling tickets.

Fundraising:

Having raised £3,000 from our own efforts last year as well as tracking down Grants, we are still left with a £5,000 deficit for the new wooden gig, to be paid for by August, so fundraising is still paramount. There is a new committee of six people, who have had a meeting this week and come up with some new ideas for the year. Obviously we will be running our two 'events' again this year, and hopefully we can make them a little bigger and so more profitable, but there is always the possibility of weather cancellation, so we will have other plans to work with. As always, none of our plans will work without your support, so please help where and however you can.

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.
Other ideas in the pipeline are:-
The Trewellard Arms are hoping to get a cask of ale donated to their beer festival on the weekend of 31st May to 2nd June, which they plan to sell with an appropriate name in aid of the Gig Club. The Trewellard have also offered to host a Casino Night, which sounds great fun.
The Collection box and bottles in the pubs are still ongoing, but we plan to create social events at the pubs where we can empty the bottles, fundraising with a 'Guess the amount' on the night.
We are planning on creating a better PR board for the club and using this along with Club Merchandise and games to various events, in order to raise our profile.
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. More information about who to send your entries to in the next Gig-gle.
We are looking at ways we can incorporate the junior section in their own active fundraising session.
As we can apply for further *Sportivate* grants, we are planning to set up an organised training session for 14 to 25 year olds, starting in spring. This will also strengthen a needy part of the club.
We are also hoping to repeat our famous Pig Racing.

Gig News: - Emma Gage

Old Gigs

With 2012 now behind us, the year of the Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics, one significant anniversary may have escaped your notice. In 2012 the pilot gig *Newquay*, based at (you've guessed it) Newquay, reached the grand old age of 200. She was built by William Peters of St Mawes in the year Napoleon invaded Russia and is still going strong. To put this into context, to equal this, *Avarack* will have to be still being rowed and raced in 2200. Newquay Rowing Club also own two other veteran gigs *Dove* and *Treffry*, like *Newquay* all regularly raced in their home port most notably for that club's annual silver gig trophy. *Dove* was also built by William Peters in 1820, while he built *Treffry* in 1838. This last gig is very important in the gig rowing world as her dimensions at 32' long 4' 10" beam were deemed perfection, and have been adopted by the CPGA as the template that all new gigs must follow. Many of the old gigs were shorter and or wider than *Treffry*, built for particular purposes and conditions. Examples of this can be found with two old Scillies gigs. *Slippen* (built 1830) is the shortest gig at only 28' with a beam of 5' 4", while the widest (beamiest) gig is the *Campernell*, (built 1895) kept at St Agnes, at 30' long and a beam of 6' 8". Not surprisingly you will not find the *Campernell* being raced, she was built more for carrying goods and has a removable stern seat so that coffins could be carried. Another surviving gig you will never see in a race is the *Klondike* (built 1877), instead she forms the centrepiece of the displays in the St Mary's Museum. Recently returned to Scilly is the *Sussex* (built 1886). She was owned by the late esteemed gig builder Ralph Bird and returned to her home islands after his death.

Another veteran gig well known to many of our rowers is the *Golden Eagle* (built 1870), which was kindly lent to us for the use of our B crews in 2010 and 2011. The other surviving old gigs are, *Bonnet* (1830), *Shah* (1873) and *Czar* (1879).

The twentieth century and the increased use of the motor boat brought with it the decline of the gigs. So many gigs were lost, many just rotted away on the beach or were used for firewood. Two, *Zelda* and *Gypsy* were bought, and taken to Padstow in 1955. *Zelda* sadly was damaged beyond repair, when a lorry reversed into her (part of her now adorns the wall of a St Mary's restaurant), and *Gypsy*, made it to 1964 but was then burned, as she was found to be too badly damaged. We are so lucky that at least some of these beautiful gigs were saved, and that in 1967, the first new gig of the twentieth century was built - the *Serica*, before the gig revival really took off in the late 1980s.

Gig Nerd News

New clubs have been formed at Langstone in Hampshire (see Gigrower website for article), Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland and also a club is being set up in Cardiff.

New gigs are currently being built for Salcombe (*Wolf* - the old *Wolf* has been sold) and Portland (*Pulpit Rock*) with many others ordered. Gigs have been bought and sold and also renamed. *Porthminster* has gone to Langstone and is now *Heart of Hayling*, *Waterwitch* also to Langstone is now *Spirit of Langstone*. This club is very keen and has already booked its Scillies accommodation. *Volante* of Dart has moved to Portland and is now *Chesil*.

Falmouth have finally got themselves a GRP training gig named *Greenbank.* (Do we have to invite them to our plastic pig event this year now?), and are also fundraising for another new wooden gig.

Thanks Emma, it's great to have a contribution that adds so much intereest.

Club Rowing Kit - Shirley Rees 07824446543:

Future Events:

May 4th to 6th 2013	***Scillies***
July 29th 3days +	***Swedish Trip - see below***

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Rowing Times:

For the next few months we are storing the kit in the Inshore Lifeboat Shed. The access to this will be controlled by the RNLI so rowing times will need to be well organised and kit brought over to the pontoons and returned at the end.

Junior Rowing;	Sunday 11.15 for 11.30am for the winter period
Saturday	Maintenance 11am at the Gig shed top of Geevor Mine
Sunday Rowing;	Social, mixed rowing from 10am

Contacts:

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 or our website www.pendeengigclub.co.uk which will be online soon.
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 Officer is Jan Barton 07964912139 or e-mail battybarton@btinternet.com

Meetings:

Committee Officers' Meeting: Tuesday 5th February 7.30pm Radjel
Next General Meeting: Tuesday 2nd April details to be announced