

Up for ten

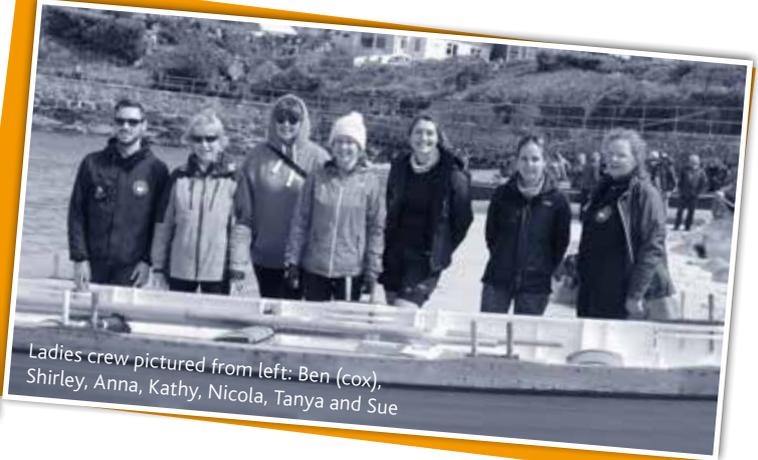
Exmouth Gig Rowing
Club Newsletter

Issue 7 - May 2016

Men's crew pictured from left: Greg, Matt, David, Bob, Max, Phil, Ben, Adrian and Keith



Ladies crew pictured from left: Ben (cox), Shirley, Anna, Kathy, Nicola, Tanya and Sue



Chairman's Isles of Scilly World Championships report

The 2016 World Pilot Gig Championships saw the largest Gig fleet in history descend on the Isles of Scilly for the 3 days of racing. Lively conditions met the Veteran category rowers as they rowed out to the start line on Friday night. A long line of spectator boats followed the racing between the islands of St Agnes and St Mary's, giving a chance for fellow team mates to scream their support as our Exmouth Men's vets crew rowed hard to the finish line with a number of other Gigs behind them as they crossed it. It was a proud moment for myself and Carrie to see our Gig emerge fighting as we strained to spot it amongst the sea of boats. A good start to the weekend with a solid performance from our boys! Not the easiest conditions to row in either. Many of the crews attending the vets races now are practically 'A' crews, as Gig rowers push harder every year proving that they are not slowing down at the age of 40+.

The winners of the Ladies Vet's Race were Newquay. The ladies super-vets (50+age) winners were Helford. The men's Veterans victory went to Caradon of Saltash and the men's super-vets trophy went to Falmouth.

Saturday morning brought with it a new wind direction and blue skies as the beach came to life with Gigs and rowers filling every spare bit of sand! Our Ladies crew hit the water first to join 150 other Gigs on the longest start line ever seen on the St Agnes to St Mary's race. Being out there coxing amongst that many Gig's has got to be one of the best experiences ever, if not a little daunting at times; but what put me at ease in the end was the way our ladies crew handled the pressure and committed themselves with fantastic focus and determination. Their finish position in this race put them in Group L going into the next 3 rounds of competition.



Men's crew racing back from St Agnes to St Marys



www.exmouthgigclub.com



The men were up next and their performance put them in Group K for the group races as we rowed against some of their regional rivals such as Sidmouth and Teignmouth, at times almost touching oars with both as we fought for clean water. No time for hanging around, the Ladies were straight back out on the water to compete on the second race course that is laid between the Island of Tresco and St Mary's quay giving the cheering crowd a great view of the action as the boats cross the line metres from the harbour wall. In this round, the Exmouth Ladies crew put in their best performance of the weekend gaining 7th place out of 12 Gigs in group L, with more experienced clubs behind them.

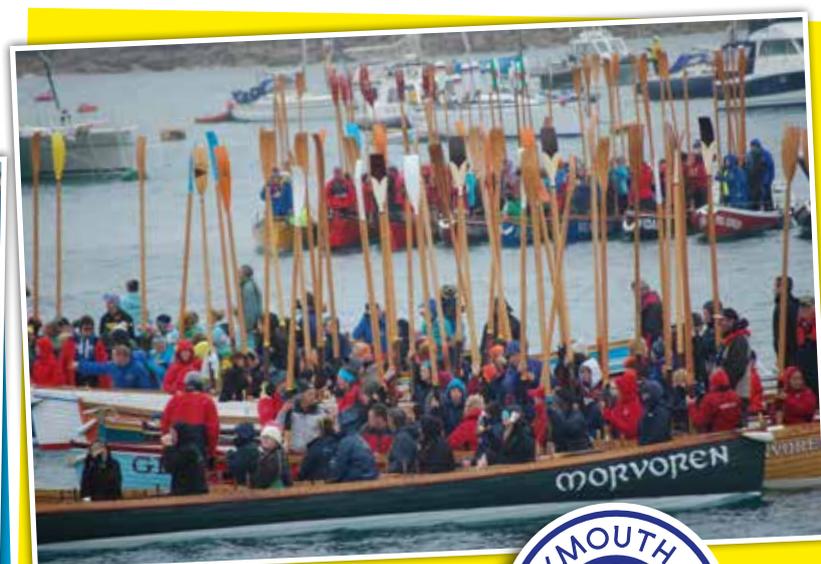


Sunday morning dished up more favourable sea conditions for round 3 and as the racing got underway, with the girls holding themselves in group L ready for the final with a solid performance leaving 5 gigs trailing them. The Exmouth Men had their best round yet in Group K, coming in 3rd behind Barnstaple and Hayle, pushing them all the way and keeping Exmouth in group K for the final.

The swell and wind were steadily increasing as the crews stroked out to the finals. Nerves steeled, the girls were well in the swing of things now and an excited crew rowed their first ever world championships final! The girls wrestled some choppy conditions to bag a 10th place out of 12 gigs, before celebrating their weekend's hard work in the renowned 'post race raft' where all the Gig's moor up in the harbour alongside each other, crack open the fizz and toast their epic weekend! Nestled between a Dutch and a West Cornwall crew the songs and the banter began as the winning Gigs crossed the line in group A, Caradon Gig Club taking the top honours in the Ladies category.



Last up were the Men to compete in the finals and repeat the same process as the Ladies. The Exmouth Men's crew were competing in group K which was a group higher than last year. They rowed hard to finish 7th out of 15 Gigs. During a celebratory drink, Exmouth Gig Club rowers toasted a great year at the event which gave all of our crews a real taste of competition and an appetite to make this a season to remember!



Rafting up, waiting to cheer on the ladies final race



Get to know your club member



Name:

Greg Price – Committee member

Who is the most famous person you have met?

I used to be into my cricket as a boy and once attended a “coaching masterclass” from England cricketer Mike Gatting. Can’t remember learning much to be honest, think he was better and drinking beer from the look of him. I also met Manchester United legend Roy Keane while shopping in Manchester. I was with Nicola and she is a massive fan so we got a picture with him. Considering his reputation as a “tuff guy” he was very small. Maybe a case of “little man syndrome”!

What first attracted you to gig rowing?

Since quitting football 6-7 years ago I’d been looking for something to keep me active so when Mark (you all know him as Max) mentioned someone was starting a new gig club I thought this sounds ideal. Learning about the boats and history of the sport has been great and it’s given me a focus to train towards which I have missed.

What is your favourite film?

It’s hard to narrow it down to 1 film as I love watching movies. I am a big fan of the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit trilogies. Also love Star Wars and all the Marvel and DC Comics films. Anything sci-fi, action adventure, superhero genre really. I’ll go with the 1986 classic, Aliens as it’s always been one of my faves.

What is your favourite TV programme?

This one’s a bit easier and most of the stuff on TV these days is rubbish. Game of Thrones is pretty much the only thing I just have to watch every week. Great TV!!

Do you have any other hobbies apart from gig rowing?

Well I am officially an AFOL (adult fan of Lego). Yes I know it’s a bit sad but I love it. I focus on Star Wars Lego and have a significant collection (much to Nicolas dismay) which is growing. I have also just started to get involved in Lego investment. Do you know that Lego has been a better investment than gold in the last 4-5 years!!

If a movie was made about your life, who would play you?

I’d go with Tom Hiddleston I think. He’s a top British actor and about the same age. He’d need to go on a strict training programme before filming started mind you. Cake and Gig Rowing would need to be incorporated daily.

More funding!

It cannot be overstated that for us to grow and prosper as a club we need to attract funding from local and national sponsors as well as local and central grant providers, however what we have to offer the sponsor, over other clubs, is that, unlike them, we are very much a Community Club, as seen with the link in with the RNLI, the Carnival etc..

You can help by suggesting a company, or companies, that you believe might sponsor us, together with a contact name/s (if you have them) and whether you would like to make the initial introduction. This is by far our favoured approach, you can use your position/contacts and we can then back you up with the “financials”. If, however, you feel that any potential sponsor might respond better to you “going alone” that’s fine and we can furnish you with any facts/figures and information that you might need.

Before any approach is made, however, please contact us first. We are keeping a register of names of potential sponsors so that we do not duplicate effort or embarrass ourselves by approaching the same contact twice – or more!

We have sponsorship packages to target all sizes of business and budgets with an option for a bespoke package, where a company may want to purchase anything from an oar to a Gig! Please feel free to discuss with any of the committee members, we’re open to all suggestions!

Email any ideas to info@exmouthgigclub.com and include business name/type, name of contact, whether you can help with the “introduction”.



Baby Atkinson sweep stake!

So, with the exciting news that there will be a new gig rower coming into the world shortly we thought that as a club we could celebrate by having some fun and in the process do some good for Ben, Carrie and Baby Atkinson AND the club at the same time!

With the agreement of Ben and Carrie we will be holding a sweep stake.

There will be two parts to this... Firstly you can bet on the date/ time of the arrival and you can and have a go at guessing the weight.

Each attempt will cost you a £1. From the proceeds 1/3 will go to the winner, 1/3 to Ben and Carrie and 1/3 to the Club. (any remainder £1's to go to the Atkinson's.)

If you would like to have a go then please speak to Sophie who is running the book. You can also contact her at sophs6767@yahoo.com or 07460618818

Good luck!



Wot's goin' on 'ere then?!

You will no doubt have noticed that the weather has started to improve and the regatta season is well underway. With that in mind, and taking on board some of the suggestions and comments from the AGM the committee have looked at how we plan, communicate and organise rowing including regatta and extra sessions.

You will have already received emails about how the message board is being set up this year for regatta planning.

We have gone through the fixture list and have picked out the events that we will attend. These are events that we know we will have someone to tow the gig, organise/oversee the event and where there are coxswains available. These are all on the events page. There are a few exceptions, most notably Sidmouth as we go to press, this is because we're still waiting for a confirmed date. We do not want for members to plan to go to any event to find that actually the date has changed!

For each event there will be a designated message board thread. Each thread is planned to go live 6 weeks ahead of the event (with the exception of the first two as we were a bit pre-occupied with the Scillies!). This is to give people a chance to put their names down and to see who else is going. It will also mean that we can start planning which races we'll enter. We are not putting all the events on at once simply to avoid over-congesting/confusing the message board.

Each thread will be actively managed and updated periodically. To save you scrolling through the whole thread the top post will be edited and initially show a list of names. As we progress towards the event (and from 3 onwards the updates (and within 3 weeks of the event)) the updates will show more info like the specific races we'll enter and those who MIGHT be in a crew or race. Please bear in mind that there will always be potential for last minute changes with any crews that are listed, so if you're not down but suddenly become available don't be put off!

By managing the thread we will also be able to motivate people to organise and/or attend extra sessions better, encouraging those attending a regatta to maybe row together whilst still ensuring these sessions are open to all and meet the guidelines (see rowers handbook).

With all that forward planning however, it may be possible to attend a regatta not on the list if at short notice there are enough people and interest, for example decide on a Thursday evening to attend something on that weekend, please come and speak to us!



You may have noticed that there is no thread for "May extra sessions". This is intentional and we have changed this for a number of reasons. As we get busier and hopefully more people organise sessions it was recognised that a single thread for many sessions could cause confusion as to which session replies related to. Also the threads were getting rather long towards the end of the month. It was easy for members to miss the fact that a new session had been put on, especially if they had not subscribed, maybe at the start of the month. Conversely, those who had subscribed were getting notifications for sessions that did not involve them. Now you will get a single email to tell you there is a new session planned ensuring the process is transparent and open to all, you can simply ignore this if you can't attend. If you want to attend then log-in and subscribe to that session.

If you would like to organise a session then you consult a senior committee member, as per guidelines, and they will add the session to the message board, which will then generate a notification to other members. You do not need to be a coxswain to organise a session although obviously you'll need one to sign up at some point!

Just a couple of house-keeping bits to finish. The system relies on having your correct email address listed in your profile (when you registered on the site), please update this if necessary! Also keep an eye on your junk/spam folders as it's not unheard of for emails to end up there! Finally, please do not put extra sessions on other threads, they will be deleted.

Here's to the summer!

The Committee.

Exmouth Festival is fast approaching us and we are once again in need of volunteers to help man a stall.

The slots are Sat, Sun and Mon 28th - 30th May either 10am - 1.30 or 1.30 - 5pm.

There will be a thread on the message board to sign up and please put your mobile on so that you are contactable re any changes.

We are using our spot in the Imperial playing grounds to promote the club and also try and raise a bit of money by offering a couple of games for people to play.

It's a good fun way to talk to people about gig rowing and the club so please get involved the more people there are the better.

Exmouth Festival

Meet the committee

Chairman – Ben

Vice Chair – Max

Secretary – Phil

Health & Safety – Tanya

Treasurer – Greg

Other members, Sophie, Keith and Matt



Last word

A big thank-you to our sponsors/supporters for helping us to make this club a reality!

Websites and more

Sport England

Norman Family Trust

