

Up for ten

Exmouth Gig Rowing
Club Newsletter

Issue 11 - 2017



Welcome to this edition of "Up for Ten!" the first under the new committee, and, as such it's quite a long winded intro from me, there's a lot to update you on!

As you will be aware there were some changes to the committee following the AGM and there are now 7 of us who will be working furiously behind the scenes to move your Gig Club forward. The 2017 committee members are George Ford, Alison Bissett, Sophie Cook, Greg Price, Tanya Netherway, Gary Cook and myself, Mark Champion. The specific roles within the committee break down as Alison overseeing health, safety and welfare, Sophie becoming membership secretary and Tanya as General secretary. George will be taking an active role in session and regatta planning, Greg remains as treasurer with Gary as Vice-Chair. I will be doing my best to fill Ben's shoes as Chair. I must take the chance to thank Ben for all the work he has done within the committee and congratulate him on the club that has been built up with him at the helm. Thanks also go to Phil Gater, Matt Netherway and Keith Cornish who have all stepped down. It was certainly a pleasure working with you in the past and we will continue to build on the foundations you all helped lay.

With that in mind and looking to the future there is much to be excited about. Not least our shiny new Gig, Shelly Maid, who we officially named and blessed on the 25th March in glorious sunshine, the details of which you can read about later in the newsletter. Not only will this asset help us in competition but "Shelly" will also help us "at home" with our session and event planning. This has already been borne out with some changes to the way "extra sessions" are planned. (see the rowers handbook for details).

With the busy summer season fast approaching we've started to look at regatta planning and how we'll manage home rowing, training and regatta attendance, keep a close eye on the booking system and events page for changes and additional regular club rowing.

There are a number of other projects that we are working on, some have been ongoing for some time, an example would be how to get juniors on to the water. The tide in Exmouth is a particular issue for us in general and especially for junior crews. We are hoping to be able to exploit the "Duck Pond" area of the estuary to help us here however there is a movement to restrict water users at times. This will effect many groups and could cause a significant safety issue if we are forced into the main channel at times of fast moving tide, especially as other "duck pond" users will be there too increasing congestion.

Believe it or not we are already looking at funding a new Gig! (Yes even though we've just got one!). If you have any ideas to raise money please contact one of us. You can all help though by registering at www.easyfundraising.com and nominating us, then any online purchases you make generate a small donation-even for take-aways! (at no extra cost to you).

Finally, communication. Our role as the committee is to move the club forward. We would like to know if there are things that you'd like changed. Equally, let us know about the stuff you particularly like! We can't promise to be able to do it all but it will at least get discussed and considered. We have a good feedback channel on the website, and you can choose to remain anonymous should you wish, please use it to the max! With communication in mind, we'll also be endeavouring, as a committee, to publish an overview of what we've been doing/discussing at our meetings. Here's to the season ahead!
Max.



www.exmouthgigclub.com



Shelly Maid it!



Well what a day Saturday 25th March 2017 was for Exmouth Gig Club!

A proud, proud moment for all the current and outgoing committee members and their friends and family, plus all of the clubs members on coming together to bless and name our new Wooden gig 'Shelly Maid' !!

We were also joined by the Mayor of Exmouth Brian Cole, who spoke about what a delight it was for Exmouth's community to have such a legacy available for all to use in the future.



The Vicar, David Arnold, blessed our boat and is a member of The Exmouth Shanty Men who also attended and made it a real poignant moment as they sung us off when we launched all 3 boats, Rodney Bey, Avocet and Shelly Maid from Shelly Beach !

It was a real pleasure to take Louis Hunkin, who built "Shelly Maid" with his father Maurices' help, the Vicar David Arnold and Adam Walker from The OneFamily foundation - more about how awesome they are in a bit, out in the pilot seats of each of the Gig's and show them the joys of gig rowing on the Exe Estuary and along Exmouth sea front !

I think I am right in saying that Carrie and Ben didn't realise that in just under 3 years after buying the wooden Gig "Helford" and blessing and renaming it in 2014 as 'Rodney Bey' thus providing the local community of Exmouth and surrounding areas its first Pilot gig rowing club, that in March 2017 the club would have had a Brand spanking new wooden Gig commissioned and built for them by the highly experienced boat builders from Fowey -Louis and Maurice Hunkin.



So how did a such a young, new club raise the £25000 required to commission and build a brand new gig boat, to CPGA standard and supply it with all the essentials to get it on the water such as oars, seats and a trailer to transport it?

Well, the story goes, Mr Mark/Max/Champs Champion who was brought on board when Carrie and Ben started the club popped over to the Price household one day in the summer of 2014 and chatted about this great new rowing club that we should go and have a try of ! First 3 sessions free - you get the picture!

Greg went along to his first session and loved it whilst I watched on from the beach, trying to control the children but feeling a little envious of Greg but a tad too scared to go in a boat on the water!!

Fast forward to the summer of 2015 when both Greg and I now have what's known as "gig rowing addiction"! The club is growing and regattas are an awesome experience in Rodney Bey!

We had just blessed and named our new GRP training gig 'Avocet' and were thinking about how to raise funding for another boat.

I had received a leaflet in the latest statement of our child Trust Fund account. This leaflet explained that the organisation - 'The OneFamily' - that managed the trust fund had set up a foundation in 2014 with a pledge to help as many of the OneFamily customers, their families and the communities in which they live and work in by providing personal grants and community awards. One family customers could nominate a project and if the project was approved it would go to a public vote to decide which projects would win.



So Mark/Max/Champs and I put together an nomination for Exmouth Pilot Gig Club to win a community award of £25000!!! The nomination was approved and we were then entered among 100s of other projects into the public vote. We needed to rally together friends and family and other gig clubs and get them to register on the OneFamily website and vote for us. If we were in the top 5 projects for votes then we would win the funding!

After a valiant effort but a vast underestimation of the support we would need to come top 5, we were gutted, to say the least, that we didn't win.

Other gig clubs had been supportive in voting for us and in doing this word spread amongst the gig rowing community as to what was on offer if you were a customer of One Family! Newquay gig rowing club went on to gain a successful nomination in the September after our bid in the spring and actually win £25000 of funding !!

We were really pleased for them but it made our loss feel even worse!

But we all know that to be a gig rower you need determination and perseverance and I wasn't prepared to give up. So after chatting with the committee and several club members we decided to apply



again and this time put together a highly organised plan of attack! We contacted Newquay as well as other project winners to glean information about what they did and how they did it. We put Ben on the radio, we had Matt and Tanya of "crew creative" produce flyers and several members post them out ! We pestered other gig clubs at regattas and via Facebook! Matt got gig rower to share our story, Bob and Shirley got their pals at the dragon boat club to vote for us, Adrian Colston shared how to vote for us with all of his Dartmoor National Trust chums and that's to name but a few - for all of the rest of you who did such a fabulous job, and I could list you all but it would be a very long read, Thank you so much to all of you. BECAUSE WE WON!!!

What I mean to say is that it wouldn't have happened without the help and support from all of our members at the time and their friends and family. It was with all of your help that we managed to secure top spot in our category with over 1200 votes !

Now that was outstanding!

But not as outstanding as seeing "Shelly Maid" in all of her glory on Shelly Beach on Saturday.

So we really have to thank the OneFamily Foundation for their generosity. They aspire to have made £5 million available to their customers by 2019.



It all seemed like a dream and not quite real when we had our celebration at the beachcomber back in August of last year and Ben and I were presented with our community award winners plaque by David Herd from OneFamily!

It still didn't seem quite real on Saturday listening to the Vicars lovely words and blessing for our new boat and us launching the boats whilst the shanty men sang us off.

But I tell you what did feel real - when we drove those new oars through the water and "Shelly Maid" flew back to the quay! What a feeling!!

Here's to the season ahead starting with Dart regatta where everyone who's attending will get to feel how fantastic our new boat is!!

Nicola Price.

"One Family" customer.

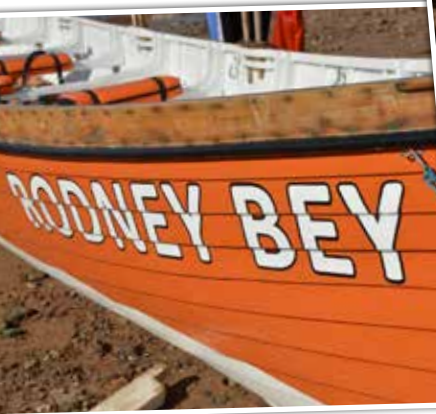


Photo Credits: Richard Craig and One Family Foundation

Meet a club member

Name: Gaarrrry Cook

Who is the most famous person you have met?

I've avoided meeting people since being mentally scarred when I was about ten years old. I'd just been given an autograph book (these were the best things we had, before iPads). At a charity football match where the great Rodney Marsh was playing. Afterwards, I saw him talking to a gang of football supporters, thinking this was a chance to get a real Star's signature. I steeled myself, pushed through the crowd and asked for an autograph. The gang of men laughed, and jeered, the star politely smiled, looked around and quietly signed my book. I backed out quickly and ran back to my father, who said 'arrh there you are. Shall we go to the changing rooms and see if we can see Rodney Marsh...' I looked at my autograph book the the signature was just some random bloke called Dave Something....

What first attracted you to gig rowing?

About 10 years ago, someone I worked with joined a gig club. It sounded hard work and dangerous but somehow appealing. (I think because they were used as life saving boats).

Then in 2014 we moved to Exmouth where we found a new Gig club had just started. To be honest, I was feeling lazy and it was just the nearest club to our house. I've since heard there's a Crochet Knitting Club even closer.

What is your favourite film?

I'm not one for putting on an old favourite film. I like to sing along to Jungle Book, Grease and MamaMia. I get sick watching full screen action movies like Marvel (Spiderman) and even the Lego Movie. I do like a good romantic comedy (but always have to pretend I've got something stuck in my eye when 'the couple' finally get back together and live happily ever after).

What is your favourite TV programme?

I can get bored with telly quite quickly. Having said that we have recently started binging on long series like Vikings, Game of Thrones, Sons of Anarchy, The Client List, but we rarely get to the last episodes. The only one I have seen all of, is Orange is the New Black, about a ladies prison, what is clever about that is characters come and go (except the ones that are in for life).



Do you have any other hobbies apart from gig rowing?

I have a vivid imagination so enjoy my life pretending to be other people. I like to think I cycle like Wiggins, cartoon like Searle, DIY like Knowles and play the ukulele like Jimmy,

In the past I was an archer like Robin, swam like Jaws, I surfed like a Dude and caravaned like your Uncle Gordon.

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

At the moment I'm following the diet and training regime of Hugh Jackman - but thats only because I'm hoping to be asked to make a film about his life. As for a film about me, I'd like to think they would ask Daniel Craig to play me, but in reality it'll more like be the short one from the Chuckle Brothers.

Exe Estuary Spring Clean - This year's Spring Clean-Up of the estuary will take place at 2pm on Saturday 13th May at the Imperial Recreation Ground slipway in Exmouth.

Some gloves and necessary equipment are provided but it is important that volunteers wear sensible (generally warm!) clothing and footwear such as wellies or old trainers.

Also, bring a bucket if you have one, to safely carry sharp pieces of glass to the skip. Families are welcome (including friendly dogs on leads), but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please check the events page for more details and how to book your interest with the Exe Estuary Partnership or visit www.exe-estuary.org/clean_up_events

Full Scoops



Over the last few months it's been fantastic to see so many of you throwing everything you have at our preparation for the World Pilot Gig Championships on Scilly. Whether it's race training at the crack of dawn, meeting up at the gym or getting that drinking arm warmed up, it's enthusiasm like this which will help the club continue to thrive.

The committee are keen for this to continue throughout the regatta season so we have set up a regatta sub-committee that will keep the momentum up right through until September. I'll be working with former chairman Ben, and our very able cox'n Polly to thrash out the best way to organise you all, and give everyone who's keen an opportunity to row competitively with adequate preparation. If anyone has any thoughts on this feel free to get in touch. For information on regattas we are planning to attend this year, please see the events page on the website, although this may be subject to change.

My hope is that many of you will now be asking 'how do I get involved in this?' Answer: Just ask.

If you're already strong and fit, we're always looking for fresh blood to get the boat moving even faster and also give current crew members the motivation to work hard to keep or gain a seat – we anticipate many changes over the course of a season.

If you're relatively new to gig rowing, or you don't feel you're quite there yet but you still have an ambition to get involved in regattas, we're just as keen to hear from you. Enthusiasm is the most important thing, technique and fitness can come later. There are a lot of crews to field at a gig regatta and I think we'd all like to see as many different faces as possible pulling on the black and orange of Exmouth Gig Club in 2017.

Full scoops!

George
Regatta sub-committee

Meet the committee

Chairman – Max
Vice Chair – Gary
Secretary – Tanya
Health & Safety – Alison
Treasurer – Greg
Membership Secretary – Sophie
Other members, George



Last word

A big thank-you to our sponsors/supporters for helping us to make this club a reality!
Green Valley Cyder
Websites and more
Sport England
Norman Family Trust
One Family Foundation