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Subject: EGC Newsletter August 2019
Date: 23 August 2019 at 08:27
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Committee Meeting August 2019

A less frantic meeting than usual, with the Shantymen having a meeting on the next table. However, I'm trying to write this in 15 minutes before I have to rush off. Many items were discussed, including;

The opportunity for two new Committee members to join, We need someone to take on the role of Vice-Chairman. Sarah Boys has volunteered to be a New Members Secretary and is being guided through the role. (Thank you, Sarah).

Lyme/Master/Poole Regattas we agreed to go to but since the meeting, they have either been canceled/postponed or not showing enough interest from the club.

We have two long-distance rows possible, to Budleigh and Teignmouth to Torquay for our fitter rowers.

We need to thank our Regatta Sponsors and remember we were given money for two junior oars.

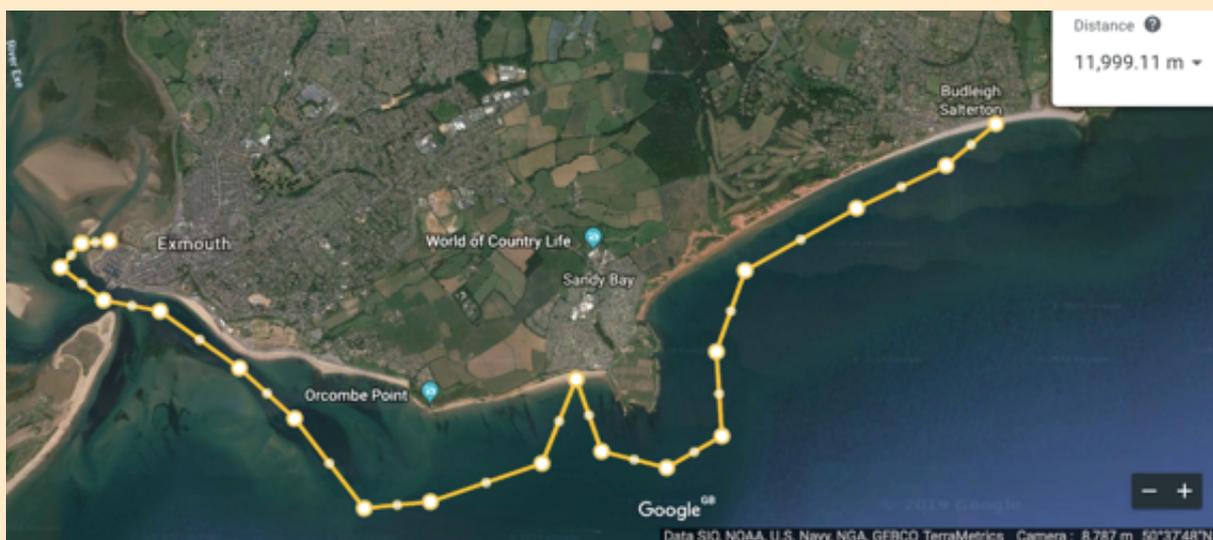
Good news the Town Council have approved my application for £1000 grant which will go in the pot for a new boat. We have two more possible funds to come our way this year from the Coop and Clinton Trust.

Were planning our end of season social. Rodney is still with Sam the Boat Repairer in Bridport and has gone through her with a fine-tooth comb. His will fix a number of bits and prime the bare wood ready to paint later.

We want to start refurbishing the oars, we are going to give a couple to the Men's Shed and see if they can help for a donation.

Kit Storage - We have a lot of gazebos, seats, mugs and other kit going mouldy in the yard and looking messy - we need a home for these. There's a possibility of hiring a garage or we have asked the Sea Cadets for a Blue Container but nothing yet. If anyone has any ideas....?

Question - Would a WhatsAppgroup be a good idea for the whole club - Answer NO. We have some sense to the email problem - Its hard to check who doesn't get emails as they don't know they haven't got them. But we think there is a problem if you are Live./Outlook./Hotmail. These are all from Microsoft and we think they have a stricter firewall. - We need to talk to our website people to see if we can do anything. The idea of Yard days was discussed to try and get us all looking after kit better. Phew....14.5 minutes!



Meet in the Middle

On the 1st Sept Sidmouth Gig Club will be rowing to Budleigh for a BBQ and we are invited to join them, by boat. Its something with have been discussing for over a year and Jay has managed to plan and arrange it. It is a long haul but we have broken it into two, with a change of crews at Sandy Bay.

With the Lyme and Bridport cancelled this year, its a chance for the racing crews to make use of their fitness.

We need to know numbers ASAP by this Sat 25th.

End of Season Social

After a year of hard work, getting fit, training, coordinating, organising, planning,

After a year of hard work, getting fit, training, coordinating, organising, planning, fixing, oh and rowing its time to let your hair down and enjoy and evening celebrating with your fellow giggers.

The date is the Friday 19th October. The place the Police Club on Rolle Street. Invite your partners and friends.

More details to follow.

Reporting Accidents, Incidents or Unsafe Conditions (aka 'near miss').

You may have noticed a new little button appear at the bottom of our website stating "Report an Accident or Unsafe Condition". It's small but important.

Clicking on it will take you to our online reporting form that replaces the water logged hard copy that sat in box in the yard gathering dust.

DONE SOMETHING STUPID? OWN IT!

Slipping on a discarded pin, pulling the splits (which normally isn't possible for you) and ripping a large hole in the crotch of your shorts is hugely embarrassing. Your crew mates will bring it up at every occasion forever more - including (but not limited to) the Christmas Party, your Facebook wall on your birthday, character references for potential jobs and your wedding day.

But it could have been worse. At least you haven't injured yourself and you can still make this weekends regatta. Shame it's Langstone and you have to drive all that in your drafty shorts.

Perhaps we should have a bin in the yard for broken pins? No dead pins on the floor = no dead rowers on the floor? You could let us know your thoughts by reporting it.

Coxes, have you just beached yourself on the sand bank for the second time this week?

Perhaps it wasn't your fault as the banks have shifted yet again.

But don't worry! You haven't actually made a balls up: you've actually

But don't worry. You haven't actually made a mess up, you've actually generated a very valuable learning point.

Tell us about it!

ANYONE CAN REPORT & EVERYONE SHOULD

Been involved in an accident that wasn't your fault?

Or one that was?

Or one that wasn't an accident. But could have been. Lucky you have the reactions of a character from the matrix with that swinging oar missing you by millimetres as you backflip down the beach...

You don't need to be a committee member, a cox or in the "A Crew" to make a report. We would rather a dozen reports of the same incident, from a dozen different people than not know at all.

Do not assume someone else is doing it. They are assuming you are...

ITS CONFIDENTIAL

The reports are only seen by the Health & Safety Officer (in this case me) and not shared with anyone else.

So if you have "treated" a jellyfish sting then only you, me and the person you peed on, will ever know...

What we will do at the next committee meeting is discuss what actions should be taken to prevent accidents happening in the future. These conversations will be generic. The incident you recorded may need to be considered but specifics and, vitally, names will not be given to the committee.

WHATS THE POINT?

First of all we have a legal obligation to collect information on accidents and resulting injuries at the club.

But, secondly, there is no point having a wet, blank, paper book sitting in box. There's also little point having an online version filled with fantastic stories of

krakens smashing holes in gig boats (or was it a submerged bouy? hard to tell) if we don't DO something with this information.

Your reports will allow the committee to make simple changes to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment on and off the water.

This could be through the supply of equipment (eg lifting straps), WhatsApp'ing the coxes (eg don't use the black oars or sandbanks have shifted) or emailing the whole membership (eg keeping the yard tidy).

UNSAFE CONDITION? WHAT ON EARTH DOES THIS MEAN?

Well, some people like to use the phrase "near miss" but I feel that if two of our gig boats "nearly miss" then I'm expecting a report and a lot of splinters.

An "unsafe condition" doesn't just mean bad weather (although it could include it) but could also mean that Rodney has a bad leak, a rower has a dizzy spell on a hot day or a dog has dug a series of large holes where we usually drag Avocet down to the water.

So an unsafe condition is basically it's something that could cause harm or injury but hasn't yet.

LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF, YOUR CREW & YOUR CLUB.

Ollie



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