

Clevedon Pilot Gig Club Newsletter – October 2015



Welcome to the end of season newsletter! You may have noticed that there hasn't been an edition for a while, this is because we have decided to make it a quarterly publication in order to ensure there's always lots to write about and also to reduce the strain on your inboxes ☺

This month we take a look back at the whole season, from the mixed and vets regatta in June all the way through to the Great River Race in September.

June

Once again Clevedon had a significant presence at the Caradon Mixed and Veterans regatta. This has become one of the most important dates on the CPGC calendar thanks to the high volume of top Cornish clubs in attendance, allowing us to race teams usually only encountered at the Scillies and Newquay. In the Mixed event on day one, Clevedon fielded crews in multiple categories including Super Vets (over 50s), Vet (over 40s) and Open (no age restriction). The two junior mixed crews did the club proud, rowing the full adult course, with the A crew finishing 6th overall.

Day two is dedicated to the over 40s and 50s. The Ladies Veterans finished 5th overall and the Men's Veterans did brilliantly, finishing in 3rd place. The Ladies Super Veterans posted their best ever results, coming in 5th in the final. The

Men's Super Veterans were the heroes of the day winning the Plate for the fourth time in a row. Well done, gentlemen!

July

First up in July was Ilfracombe complete with sunshine and the usual rough sea conditions. Clevedon achieved some great results with four crews, Men's Super Vets, Ladies Super Vets, the juniors and Men's A, all coming in 3rd. The best result of the day went to Men's Vets who finished 2nd in their race proving that we are getting to grips with racing in lumpy water.



Riding the waves at Ilfracombe

Next was Teignmouth where the conditions were cold, wet and bordering on hazardous. The Men's and Ladies races took place in extremely challenging conditions, however, the Veterans races had to be cancelled for safety reasons. A disappointing day for Clevedon but, on the plus side, another opportunity to get some practise in difficult waters.

The month finished off with the ever-popular Rame regatta. The hosts were on form as always, providing excellent refreshments from their much-envied gig shed, and putting on a great party at the end of the day. In between all the fun some racing took place ☺ However, Clevedon struggled to finish in the top half in most of the races. The Mixed crew put in a fine

Clevedon Pilot Gig Club Newsletter – October 2015

performance in their event, taking a number of boats in the last leg of the race.

August

The month kicked off with the Hayle Under-14 regatta. Clevedon fielded two crews: the A crew, our regular band of under-14s, and the B crew, a composite crew which included our youngest rower and a willing under-16 rower. The As won all three of their qualifying rounds to gain a place in the semi-final, narrowly missing out on the final and finishing 4th out of 28. A fantastic achievement! The B crew also did brilliantly, winning the plate semi-final, just seven seconds slower than the As. Well done to all of the rowers and coxes. A very proud day for Clevedon.



The U-14s with proud coxes Sarah and Gary

Next up was Appledore, always a popular regatta due to the high quality of the competition, not to mention the cake. Clevedon had high hopes of winning this year having come second by just one point in 2014 and set about the challenge with great gusto. The conditions were excellent as we tested our mettle against some of the usual suspects, including Bristol and Ilfracombe. The under-14s put on an amazing show winning their race, and bringing home yet more silverware. Men's B also had a storming race, coming in second and the Mixed crew rowed their hearts out to keep us in the running. The addition of a novice race this year allowed

some of our newer members to get a taste of racing whilst affording us some extra points. Unfortunately we were pipped to the post once again, coming in second to Ilfracombe. Maybe third time lucky in 2016?

September

This has been a very busy month for the club including the Newquay County Championships, the inaugural Clevedon Regatta and the Great River Race, not to mention some fantastic personal achievements by some of our members.

The first event of the month was the Newquay Ladies County Championships. The Clevedon crew were faced with extremely challenging conditions as is often the case at Newquay but put in a fantastic performance. For the second year running they got through to the second round, and finished 45th out of 93 clubs, taking a number of scalps including Lyme Regis A and Bristol A. Well done, ladies!



The Newquay Ladies crew

This year the Super Veterans flew the flag for Clevedon at the Newquay Men's County Championships. The conditions were calm for once allowing the crew to row their usual race. They had a great row, and finished in 57th place, missing out on the second round by just 12 seconds. Well done, chaps, next stop the Scillies!

Clevedon Pilot Gig Club Newsletter – October 2015

Once again Clevedon took part in the epic Great River Race, held on September 12th. The race starts at London Docklands and finishes at Ham, near Richmond, Surrey. The course is 21.6 miles long and the river is filled with all kinds of craft including Hawaiian long boats, skiffs, dragon boats and whalers. Spectators line the roads and bridges to cheer the rowers on, making this a very colourful and enjoyable event. By the look of some of the blisters on display in the following days, it appears to be a lot of hard work too!



The Clevedon crew

On the 19th September Clevedon hosted its first regatta as part of the Marlens Festival. Barbarian crews made up of Clevedon and Bristol rowers raced down to the Marine Lake and back to the beach to the delight of the many spectators watching in the sunshine. Everyone agreed it was a great success and certainly one to be repeated next year.

In addition to the scheduled events, a special mention must go to Steve Cox and Tim Down who braved the cold water, early start and “jellyfish soup” to swim the English Channel. They were part of a team swimming for the Motivation charity which supports people with mobility disabilities. A fantastic achievement. Well done, gentlemen!

Also embarking on an Anglo French journey were Cath Thomas, Lloyd Fricker, Tracey McCrum and Sarah Shopland who, as part of a larger group, recently cycled to Paris. The journey of approximately 310 miles was undertaken in support of three charities, the MS Society, Parkinson’s UK and Springboard Opportunity Group, which is a local charity helping children and parents with very special needs. Well done to everyone who took part!

Clearly it has been a busy year for the club with many successes and fun times along the way. Clevedon continues to go from strength to strength, with increasing prowess on the water, a youth crew with enormous potential and lots of promising new members. It is great to see so many of our group doing so much for charity too, strengthening our links with the local community and beyond.

Coming Up

The attention will now turn to the World Championships 2016. There will be plenty of rowing opportunities for those hoping to attend as well as those who won’t be going, so keep an eye on the calendar and start planning your winter training. There should be opportunities for sea rowing out of Portishead when it’s too dangerous to launch from Clevedon, and we are also linking up with Burnham-on-Sea to help them with their new gig club, so look out for opportunities there too.

Thanks for an awesome season everyone, see you at the Annual Dinner if not before!

Emma