



TYNE NEWSLETTER

4th May 2010

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**University Boat
Races**
9th May

**Durham City
Regatta**
8/9th May

Tees Regatta
15th May

Tyne Regatta
29th May

Hexham Regatta
5th June

Durham Regatta
12th/13th June

Annual Dinner
16th October

Wansbeck Regatta report - 1 May

For the first time in many years Cambois ARC hosted the Wansbeck Regatta. Whilst most entries were in junior categories, with some vets and novices tagging along, the organisers had offered a huge prize of £750 for a challenge open eights sprint over 500m, second prize £250 - more later. Our current competitive juniors attended again in slightly different configurations from Chester-le-Street, with Rachel joining Mina, Ellie and Laura in the WJ14 4x+ (along with our new cox Lois) and Rosie trying the J13 2x with Emma instead. Rachel tried the WJ14 1x again. The quad and WJ14 doubles had good races but didn't win. Rosie and Emma 'won' their race but were made to rerow because of a clash and just failed in the second try. Robbie won again in the J141x, with Haakon second; their J14 2x had a good race but lost again in a very competitive race. Colin rowed valiantly in the Masters E/F 1x, but lost to George Doody from Hexham

Turning back to the men, as a condition of entering the challenge eights, each crew member had to race in at least one other event and we chose the Elite 4x-. Our first quad turned in to a triple when Si dropped out due to an injury (that was OK in an eight), and they only just lost to a Cambois boat in the first round. The second Tyne quad, met the same Cambois crew in the final and were beaten also (by a larger margin). However in the eights event right at the end of the day (in the sun), our men came into their own. There were only three entries but all strong as it turned out. Each boat raced the other two to see if that produced a winner. Durham School beat a young Cambois crew in a well fought race. Tyne then rowed strongly and beat Durham. Finally Tyne outpaced the Cambois boat, but it was not a walkover by any means. The crew of Alex, Si, Dave, Kevin, Dan, Andy, Tim and Julian with Jen (c) were rightly jubilant, having met their fund raising target for the year in four minutes! They are now considering turning professional.

Lots of photos at www.cambois-rowing.org/Gallery.aspx?y=2010&g=wansbeck.



Websites

Tyne Rowing Club



British Rowing



Port of Tyne Authority



North East Rowing



Squad Reports

Junior squad – Colin Percy

Even before we get the schools really involved on the water, we now have a very active and lively junior squad - about 20 plus two or three who row with senior squads. A good few are from Ponteland High and most of the rest from Newcastle. The more experienced are already racing, with good representation at Chester-le- Street Regatta on 17 April. We had one win from Robbie Miller in the J14 1x and close seconds from WJ14 crews in the coxed quad and double races. The trees as always for Tyne played a part in the day's events. At the time of writing, the same rowers are preparing for Wansbeck Regatta on 1 May and planning ahead, possibly for Tees and certainly for Tyne, Hexham and Durham Regattas. We are now running or intend running junior sessions over the spring and summer on Tuesday and Thursday nights, Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, to spread the load. Coaching is being led by David Robinson assisted by Amy Ward, John Mulholland and Colin Percy. Thanks to parents, who have been helping around the club in an number of ways.

Novice Squad – Kevin Dobson

The novice squad has come a long way since the distant past of the Learn to Row course last summer; we lost a few members who moved away from the area or due to poor health, but we have also gained new members who've had some basic rowing experience, and have also incorporated a number of experienced Tyne members who wish to train less intensely than the senior squads. This has been a fantastic help as we've been able to get some good standard crews out for training and racing. All in all, a 20-person strong squad means we are getting a lot of boats on the river each Wednesday and Sunday.

After their taste of racing at Tyne Head earlier in the year, we looked towards the regatta season, with Strathclyde Park providing a quick taster of a multi-lane regatta. Two Men's Fours and a Women's Quad travelled up to give it a go with mixed successes, but certainly a lot of experience gained and some definite potential which will allow us to look towards doing well at the local regattas in May and June.

Currently the novice squad are taking a Mens Eight and a Women's Quad to Tees Regatta, and will be looking to compete at Tyne Regatta, Hexham Regatta, and Durham Regatta.

Help is always appreciated when it comes to the novice squad training sessions - we are absolutely desperate for coxes (no experience necessary), so if you fancy giving it a go then please get in touch with me (kevin-dobson@hotmail.co.uk). We train Wednesday evenings 6pm-8pm and Sunday afternoons 1pm-3.30pm.

Women's Squad – Laura Clack

Results from Strathclyde Park. The senior women travelled to bonny Scotland to take part in the first regatta of the season. The forecasters promised sunshine, never so lucky. During the torrential and slightly less torrential down pour some successful racing happened.

After both R2 doubles qualified in their heats for the final of Women's R2 2x, lightweight combo of Jen Woodhouse and Natalie Hardy stood their ground against much larger competition to come a respectable 3rd overall with Vanessa Gray and Catherine Larcombe finishing 6th overall.

Natalie Hardy went on to a very strong performance in the WJ16 1x finishing 2nd in a tough final, other results included a 6th place in WOpen 1x, and 3rd in WOpen 4x-. The final race of the day for the senior women come from a R1 coxed four of, Ailsa Hall, Vanessa Gray, Catherine Larcombe and Liz Bray, coxed by Jen Woodhouse, racing Durham ARC and taking home the only medal of the event for Tyne RC.

Help needed

Are you doing your bit? - Liz Bray - Acting Volunteer Coordinator

(This is a slightly shortened version of Liz's report to Committee on 4 May 2010)

Existing helpers: Lots of members do a huge amount in all sorts of different ways for the club, often unasked and unacknowledged, sometimes unseen. For this many, many, many thanks. There would pretty much be no Tyne Rowing Club without your efforts. There are no paid staff other than the Community Sports Coach and her role is to work principally with the community, as required by the external funding providers.

New helpers: The club needs more people doing jobs around the place on a more regular basis. In general people volunteer to coach because they like coaching. People don't volunteer to clean the kitchen because they don't like cleaning kitchens. So we have a problem because we need both. Perhaps a start point might be for the club to define what sort of club it wants to be, because this determines the role and need for volunteers.

- (i) If all we want is a location on the River Tyne with storage space for boats then there is no great demand for volunteers. In effect the club is a large dirty old lock-up shed.
- (ii) Move up to the second level with changing rooms, toilets, showers, a kitchen, gym equipment and bar and you need to keep these facilities up and running, reasonably clean and fit for purpose. With no significant growth there is not too much need to worry if things get a little worse for wear, but without growth the club will become moribund.
- (iii) The third level is perhaps what most people might define as a proper club: one with a diverse range of members new and established, young and old, all abilities and a strong sense of identity and community of interest. With well regarded regional events and facilities that are fit for purpose, and repaired and renewed regularly there will be enough attraction for new members to join and get involved. Yes it costs money for new stuff but a lot of how the club looks, presents itself and performs is down to volunteers.

Of course there is a fourth level which is where you will find the private gyms, top wealthy rowing clubs, David Lloyd Centres, Falcons, Northumberland Squash and Tennis Club etc, run by paid employees, costing a small fortune in membership fees and without the need for volunteers.

Think about it. What sort of club do you want and what can you do to help? Are you leaving all the work for somebody else?

There are three priority areas at present where we are failing – and when prospective new members and others visit the club it shows. (We have to apologise for the state of them) Every member will no doubt have more they could add to this list.

- 1 Cleaning the premises and in particular the kitchen
- 2 Cleaning, checking and maintaining the weights room
- 3 Refurbishing the changing rooms, in particular the showers and the male toilets, and cleaning them.

Please consider volunteering to tackle something on this list: it does not need to be just one person, a whole crew or small group could sort out a rota between them. Please contact me if you can help or if you want to share your opinions– email me at liz.bray@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 0191 284 3781.

A paid caretaker, concierge or cleaner could cost us from about £8,000 per year. (That is £47 per member!) Is that a better option?

Further to Liz's report on the need to encourage more help, the Committee on 1 May agreed to try out a rota system for basic cleaning and tidying up around the club. Every squad will be given a task most weeks and coordinators asked to make sure that this gets done. If the trial does not work then the Committee will have to consider employing paid help.

Tyne Regatta – Chris Parsons – Captain Tyne RC

29th May sees the annual Tyne Regatta. From this year we have merged Tyne Regatta and Tyne at Home Regatta under the name of Tyne Regatta. The Port of Tyne have generously agreed to sponsor the Regatta again this year. You can have a look at the photos from last year at the Regatta website www.tyneregatta.org

We will, as ever, be looking for plenty of help on the day and there are lots of jobs to do, so please make yourself available whenever you can. This is the club's premier event of the year and several of the organisations we work with and receive funding from will be in attendance. It's important that we make a good impression on these people for the continued good relations with their organisations.

Community rowing progress - help needed - Amy Ward

Amy Ward, our new Community Sports Coach, is developing work on a number of fronts. Starting on 11 May, the club will be starting day time rowing for adults, targeted at the local community (though anyone welcome). This runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, the latter for women only. We aim to start small and work up, much as Tees RC has done over the last couple of years. Details are at www.tynerowingclub.org/pages/newspage_75178.cfm.

Tuesday to Friday afternoons Amy aims to go out to schools in curriculum time and then bring the keen ones down for after school rowing clubs on the water. Current schools are Walbottle Campus, Kenton and (starting soon) Ponteland High. One more will be added shortly. On Saturday afternoons from 12 June we will be running, in effect, junior learn to row sessions under the Sport Unlimited banner, again aimed at local residents. There will be taster sessions on 8 and 22 May.

Any help in coaching or generally helping out (getting the boats out, sitting in crews, showing that age doesn't matter, making tea, etc) welcome for all of these - contact Amy on 07584 246486 or at csc@tynerowingclub.org.

Learn to Row - help also needed - Colin Percy

Details are being finalised, but it is likely we will run the main course during July and August, so we keep away from the main regatta season. We will again run two groups of 8-10 people. Some prospective L2R-ers may not be able to come in those months, so we might fit in a smaller group

sooner. As in previous years, a little help would go a long way - having a couple of experienced rowers per sessions transforms our ability to teach by having a stable and safe platform. Contact Colin.

Other Reports

Incident Reporting – Chris Parsons – Captain Tyne RC

If anyone has an incident whilst down at the club or on the water, no matter how minor, could you please fill in an online incident report at the British Rowing website <http://incidentreporting.britishrowing.org>. You don't have to actually be involved in the incident, even if you only observe it then it's important that you fill in the form. This will allow us to find out what's causing incidents and why and hopefully we can then do something about stopping the incidents happening.

University Boat Races and ergo competition

The club is not sending crews to Durham City Regatta on 8/9 May for a number of reasons (mainly as there are just too many events to go to them all), so why not go down to Newcastle or Gateshead quayside and watch the four university boat races, plus the preceding Tyne vs Wear junior race (with two of our members likely to be in it). Entertainment starts at 12 noon and the races run from 1.00 to about 3.00 pm. See www.ncl.ac.uk/sport/events/dates/item/th-university-boat-race2 for more info.

Amy Ward (our CSC) and her counterpart in Gateshead, Gavin Coates, are running an outdoor ergo event for anyone passing - a bit of coaching and a 500m timed piece. We'll also be running on two machines a charity challenge - 50km (or some such) in two hours - which club members, especially juniors are welcome to help with. Please note that the organisers have asked that the event is run as a general plug for rowing and not for our club (or any that there might be in Gateshead) and that anyone helping or doing the charity race does not wear kit with the club name on.

Event to celebrate the lives of Geoff and Vicky Wilkinson

On 23 May 2010 there will be a get together from 11.30 at the Highland Cattle Centre, Dean Street Farm, Stocksfield to commemorate Geoff and Vicky, both of whom rowed at the club. Please see the poster at www.tynerowingclub.org/direct/file_download.cfm?fileId=1777. Geoff's brother-in-law is also raising money for the Great North Air Ambulance Service in their memory - see www.justgiving.com/Nick-Menage.

New launch and launch driving training (and new launch bags)

After much debate about options, the club has ordered a new launch - a slightly longer (12ft) 'tin fish'. This will generally be used with the 15hp Mercury outboard, leaving the 15hp Yamaha (now back in full action) for the old tin fish and the 9.9hp Yamaha (plus new engine trolley) for the RIB. New launch safety bags are also ready for commissioning and the long promised launch driving training is at last on the near horizon (if interested, let Colin Percy know). The committee has also considered simple assessment to go with the training (in accordance with new British rowing scheme), so that we are confident all launch drivers are competent in both equipment care and safety matters.

Umpiring and coaching training

We have been promised umpire training at the club and it nearly got off the ground on Friday nights in April. However, we seemed to suffer a communication breakdown somewhere and it hasn't quite happened yet. So it's still not too late to volunteer. Names to Chris Parson/Colin Percy. And Rob Cree of British Rowing will be organising further Level 2 coaching courses in the summer and

autumn. He can subsidise the cost and the club would normally pay the balance. Have a think about it - you don't need to be a brilliant rower to be a great coach.

Development group (long term) and building repairs (short term)

John Goddard has agreed to lead a group to look at long term physical development options for the club and then report back to a general meeting in due course. His group met for the first time on 6 May - get in touch if you think you can help him. The club house needs urgent repairs now, however, and some have been put in hand by the committee. We are looking at new shutters in the old boathouse and generally upgrading doors and some locks. The boiler has been serviced and further work to get it and the central heating system working properly will follow. The electrics have been checked and some DIY plumbing repairs are planned.

New neighbours

The Boathouse pub has been bought by a firm of surveyors, Johnson Tucker, who are about to move in to the upper floors. The pub remains open. They have expressed an interest in talking to us and maybe helping us out in some way. First on the agenda might be the road up the hill to our car park, which apparently neither they nor us own, but which they might pay for repairing.

Lifejackets

We have recently had a few of the club's lifejackets 'disappear' from the club. These cost a fair amount of money and are obviously vital in allowing crews and coaches to get out on the river. If you have one sitting in the bottom of your kit bag or in the back of the car could you please return it to Colin as soon as possible.

Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers - Laura Clack

If you have any Tesco and Sainsbury vouchers for schools and clubs could you please bring them to the club asap. There is a collection box in the erg room next to the bar. This scheme is about to finish and we need to send in the vouchers.

Social Events

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will be taking place on Saturday 16th October 2010 at the Mansion House.

Thank you to Liz Bray, Laura Clack, Kevin Dobson, Lindsay Miller, Chris Parsons and Colin Percy for their contributions.

Future Content

If you have anything you would like in the Newsletter please send me the info to nickydexter@googlemail.com and I will endeavour to include it out in the following newsletter.