

## **Tyne ARC Captain's report to the AGM 2018**

The club has grown and changed again over the past 12 months, we have said farewell to Baz our bar manager, Jess, our head junior coach both off to pastures new and goodbye to Tony Follows, a beloved member and number one Tyne ARC supporter.

We have recently welcomed John Peacock as our new Club Manager and Dean Gooch as our new Bar Manager. We have also welcomed Northumbria University Boat Club to come under the TARC umbrella and integrating with our senior squads. As part of this deal we have increased the size of our rowing fleet by an eight, four, two doubles and single.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have volunteered on the management committee, events group and trustees over the past 12 months. Plus also thank all those members who give up their own time to help out, coach, cook, sweep, tidy, fix and volunteer in many other ways, many behind the scenes, without these people we would not have a successful club.

Rowing membership numbers have increased over the past 12 months, perhaps most promisingly in our development squad, this is one of the key areas that makes our membership sustainable and developmental. The Development squad coaches are working closely with senior and masters' coaches to ensure a clear and consistent approach to progression through the squads. The success of our squads has also attracted members from around the region, increasing uptake in all senior, junior and masters squads with experienced rowers who can offer a lot to our club, the performance arm of the club is getting us recognised nationally as the high performing open club in the Northern region.

Over the past 12 months we have consolidated the purchases we have made in the past seasons, over the next 12 months I am hoping to increase the size and quality of the fleet to ensure all squads have access to equipment that will allow them to compete at their desired level.

Senior Squad:

The squad sent two Women's Quads to fours head kicking off our season with a strong performance by both crews.

76<sup>th</sup> at WeHorr in a strong field, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Medium club pennant. 23<sup>rd</sup> at HERR, 2 seconds off the Jackson Trophy winners and the best result the club has had in over 30 years, plus a very respectable results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> eight. Wins in Band 1 8+ for both squads and band 2 for the men at Tyne Head.

Regatta season – the senior squad descended en masse to Strathclyde Park Regatta picking up a win in WMas A 1x, WMasB 2-. Second place in R2 4x- and Third in WELite 4x-. We had

the strongest Tyne squad ever race at Met Regatta this year with over 28 athletes taking part.

Durham regatta is always a favourite for our squads, we fell foul to the entries closing early so didn't get the full entry we wanted but achieved second place finishes for the Open Elite 8, 4x and Women eight.

This year saw the biggest entry at Henley Women's and Royal regattas that we have ever had as a club. 15 women competing with the 8+ and 4- gaining a place in the qualifying races, unfortunately the 2x did not qualify. At HRR the first eight pre-qualified based on their performances over the season, the second eight put up a good fight but failed to qualify for the main regatta.

Following the summer break we have returned and grown in number, the senior squads are currently boasting around 70 members. We competed at the Tyne Scullers head in September with Alex Bain coming home as fastest sculler of the day, also collecting wins in Band C1x, WMasA1x and WBandD 1x.

The seniors are very happy to have returned the weekend breakfast service to the club and welcome any feedback on our morning offer.

We would like to thank our coaches for their continued support.

Masters:

An excellent year for the Masters men, with one of the highlight's being a win for the F Eight at Hexham regatta, beating both DARC & TURC!

Following a good showing in last year's LDS season, the Mas D/E group went unbeaten in Tyne eights head races, winning Rutherford, TURC New Year Head & Tyne Head. Further afield a 2nd at Trent head was followed up by an excellent 30th overall in Masters Eights at the Veterans Head of the river.

Moving onto the Summer Season, the F eight raced at local regattas, and as mentioned a great win at Hexham, and a close second at Talkin Tarn, with a heated debate on handicap timing. The whole of the E/D group had a winning Summer, winning every race entered at Strathclyde Park Regatta, Masters 8+, Masters 4+ & Mas 2x. British Masters regatta was again a great hunting ground. Following up on 2017's successes Tyne again won gold in non-championship eights and coxed fours. The 1st eight were 3rd in the final of Championship eights, this following on from a win in Championship coxless fours at Nottingham City Regatta.

The Mas D first eight then set its sights on Henley Masters, warming up by winning Masters Eights on the Saturday of Durham Regatta and entering Open eights on the Sunday, losing to

the eventual winners, Collingwood College by half a length, certainly giving the young students a fright. The exploits in open racing were continued at Talkin Tarn when the eight won their heat but lost out to a young "composite super crew" in the final.

At Henley Masters Spike & Brian opened up proceedings in their Mas D 2x, winning the heat, but losing narrowly in the semi-final. The Mas D8+ was beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winners, and fastest eight of the whole event Moseley by just under a length. The Moseley crew congratulated the Tyne crew after the race, and commented that our race would have been better fitted as the final.

Following a short summer break the squad were back in sculling boats, with wins in the LDS, for Craig (Spike), Brian & Andrew.

A special mention for Andrew Soward, Andrew won his section at the Boston Marathon, in a borrowed boat! And at South Hylton LDS he fell in going to the start, but got back in his boat and raced. He is an inspiration to us all!

Our winter training is now well underway and GW has us working harder than ever, it is his goal to push on the F group to continue on from last year's win and top performances. For the D group it is hoped they can kick on and break into the top 3 masters crews in the country, no mean feat racing against ex Olympians and World Champions.

Finally we must thank Graeme for his continued support and leadership of the Masters squad, without his input we would not be where we are.

#### Masters Women:

The Women's Masters squad has grown in strength, numbers and experience over the year under the dedicated coaching of Diane Wheeler who herself has shown dedication and commitment to the club and squad by undergoing and passing her Level 2 coaching course. Well done Diane.

Always keen to compete, we have raced at Tyne, Durham, Talkin Tarn and Strathclyde. For the second year we went down to British National Masters Championships and the 8+ came a very close second, literally by 1 second! Our aim is to bring home gold next year. Over the summer we refurbished Jen Swan, with special thanks to John Ord for all his help and hard work. The 4x- have entered the LDS/SBH series, racing at TURC, Wansbeck, South Hylton. The 8+ are looking forward to the new Head season with races planned at Rutherford, TURC New Year Head, Tyne Head, Yorkshire and Chester Head

#### Juniors:

The junior squad has had a very successful year, we have seen a significant increase of membership to 68 junior members including those incoming from the summer learn to row

course and land members gained throughout the year. We have ran successful training camps on our home river, at both Christmas and Easter and plan to do the same again this coming season. We also took to Derwent water, based at Lakeland RC for our week long summer training camp which proved invaluable to all, and we look to partner with Lakeland again in summer 2019.

Fundraising across the year has totalled to approx. £3000 which has been spent on various social activities and equipment, as well as fundraising for external charities such as The Stroke Association and Team Tyne Innovation.

Though both the head season and regatta season the squad had a number of successes at local and national competitions. Overall, the squad has had 67 wins over the past year in every single boat class. Notable achievements include a bronze medal at JIRR, 9th and 20th at National Schools Regatta and 12 fantastic entries to Junior National Championships, with 6 top 10 finishes. Not to forget those who competed at the British Indoors bringing home several gold medals. All of these performances down to the extremely hard work and training being put in by the athletes all year round. This year we have started off stronger than last year with the aims returning to national regattas in the summer as well as ending the season at HRR.

We would like to thank Thomas Jackson and Jess Harris for transforming the squad over the past few years and wish them the best in their futures away from the Tyne. We would also like to thank Freya Williams, Beth Laidlaw and Owen Stratford for joining our squad over the past year and for the time they give to the club. And last but not least, we thank Connor Foxall and John Mulholland for their selfless time and work over yet another season with Tyne Juniors

Development:

The development squad has grown in number over the past year and due to the time and support Mick and John have shown the squad picked up a win in the recently concluded Sunday League.

They are looking forward to racing in fine boats in the coming head season, hoping to compete at Tyne United New Year head and Tyne Head.