



Prepare For Action!

Now is the time to redouble our energy and prepare for this year's rowing season. I wanted to take this opportunity and give you a 'heads up' on the course we have set for the year ahead. I also want to invite you to be an active part of Lyme Regis Gig Club and work with us to achieve our objectives, both in competing and further developing Lyme Regis Gig Club.

The Club's Annual General Meeting is taking place at The Powerboat Club on Monmouth Beach at 7.30 on Friday March 27th. The AGM will see the annual reports, presentation of accounts, amendments to Constitution and election of officers and Committee. The naming of the new Gig by the members will also take place at the AGM (please see below for shortlisted names), so please do come along and have your say.

The success of Lyme Regis Gig Club has been largely down to the effectiveness of the Committee and we are now looking for two new members to cover off the Health & Safety Brief and Communications. Over the last years these roles have been undertaken by Giles & Hannah Frampton, who have done a great job. Please contact me if you'd be interested in joining The Committee.

Later this month Lyme Regis Gig Club is kicking off the rowing season on Saturday 21st March at Uplyme Village Hall with **Port Out Starboard Home**, so its all aboard for a night of 20's/30's Glamour. Dinner 7 for 7.30 followed by dancing to Ayvin and his gramophone. Fabulous frocks and dapper dickies. Tickets a snip at £12.50 from The Boat House, The Talbot Arms or Diana at Lyme Regis Development Trust.

Carpe diem!

Marcus Dixon - Chair

Rowing News

Despite the weather, we have managed to get Rebel out fairly regularly this winter, which is an achievement when you bear in mind most clubs put their Gigs to bed over the winter months. Thoughts are now turning to the forthcoming season. Evening rowing will commence after Easter, and our first competition will be in Swanage on the 23rd of May. We hope to compete at least once a month, to include the Regattas at Weymouth, Teignmouth, Salcombe, and culminating in the Newquay championships in September. For those who don't wish to compete, there will be plenty of social rowing as well.

A dozen of us are in the middle of a Coxes training course, and once completed we will be able to offer this to any members wishing to Cox the gig. The more coxes we have the better, so please contact Henry if you're interested.

There are also plans to stage a local competitive event as part of Lyme Regis Regatta & Carnival and if tides allow support the Bermuda Twinning Event that's taking place on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. Thanks to everyone who has helped through the winter, and here's to a long, hot summer!

Lyme Regis Gig Club – March 2009
St Michael's Business Centre
Church Street
Lyme Regis Dorset DT7 3DB
Tel: 01297 445021 e-mail: marcus@lrtd.co.uk

Gigs & Safety Boat News

Meanwhile down on Monmouth Beach and in the Club's 'Boathouse' work continues apace on our new gig, whose planking is nearly complete and is almost ready to receive her delicate ribs. Needless to say the brilliant boatbuilder, Gail McGarva is doing a fantastic job in both creating the gig and enabling people to visit her at work and take pleasure in experiencing the magic of it all. Like her sister, the new gig has a terrific rope bow fender thanks to Roy Gollop, which will too make her the envy of other Clubs. *Note for your diary - The new gig will be completed in early July for a proposed launch date of 19th July 09.*

Further ahead its clear that Lyme Regis Gig Club needs to be looking at securing a third gig and the Committee are considering purchasing a fibreglass gig, which are less likely to be damaged than their more beautiful wooden sisters and are good for the hurly burly that may come with the running of the future youth section. *More news on this in the coming months....*

A Safety Boat is a must if Lyme Regis Gig Club is to host future competitive events and establish a Youth Section later in the year. The Lyme Club is fortunate to have on its Committee Michael Rushforth, a former cadet at Merchant Navy Training establishment HMS Conway (1859-1974) and active member of the Conway Association. The Association is made up of a global network of mariners who have and are still serving at sea and who trained to qualify as Merchant Navy/ RNR Officers. The Association has all but adopted Lyme Regis Gig Club to the extent that one of their other members Capt MS Rowe has kindly offered to gift a very smart launch to the Lyme Club. This tremendous generosity gives the Club the wherewithal to secure a safety boat later in the year, is being made by a very kind individual on behalf of The Conway Association and I feel very proud that those who have served professionally at sea are honouring Lyme Regis Gig Club in this way. To mark our seafaring bond the new safety boat will be called *The Conway*.

Lyme Regis Gig Boathouse

With the growing membership it's also clear that Lyme Regis Gig Club would benefit from a Clubhouse, to provide a warm and safe environment and hospitality to crews when not rowing, to young people and guests and to provide a enclosed look-out post from which to monitor the gigs when at sea. This is why discussions have been taking place with West Dorset District Council about the possibility of leasing the first floor offices of the building on the Cobb and formally used by their Engineering Team. Both Lyme Regis Town Council, Cornish Pilot Gig Association and The Amateur Rowing Association have supported the Gig Club in this proposal and we are currently waiting for the District Council to indicate how they wish to proceed. *More news on this in coming months...*

Names for New Gig

Lyme Regis Gig Club invited members to submit suggested names for the new gig and received forty two, which after careful deliberation and voting have been shortlisted to eight, these are:

- Black Ven – The cliff to the East of Lyme Regis famous for being the place where Mary Anning found many of the remarkable fossils.
- Resolute – firmly resolved or determined; set in purpose
- Revenge – Ship from Lyme Regis which fought the Spanish Amada in 1588
- Tempest – Play by William Shakespeare the story of which is based on the adventures of Sir George Somers, who in 1609 (this year is the 400th anniversary) raised the English Flag on Bermuda and claimed it for the Crown. Lyme is twinned with St George, Bermuda.

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- Respect - to hold in esteem or honour, to show regard or consideration
- Rogue a bad tempered elephant or other animal of similar disposition.
- Deliverance The name of one of the vessels Sir George Somers and his crew built from salvage in order to return to England from Bermuda in 1609 following the wreck of their first. and larger ship Sea Venture
- Cobb The second name of the owner and proprietor of The Town Mill Bakery.

Please come along to the AGM to have your vote on which of these names will be selected for our new Gig. The Committee has decided that the new Gig will be painted in the same scheme as her sister, *Rebel*, however the interior of the vessel beneath the boards will be painted.

Rowing Fees

Lyme Regis Gig Club aims to give people the chance to take part in rowing the gigs and the rowing fees have been kept to a level which we hope is affordable but also covers the costs of running the day to day operations.

To join the club a £15.00 signing on payment is required per membership. After that the yearly membership prices are as follows:

Family(2 Adults, 2 Children):	£ 100.00
Adult Rower:	£ 50.00
Student(16-20):	£ 30.00
Child(Under 16):	£ 15.00
	£ 5.00+ £10
Social Member:	(or more) Gift Aid Donation.

Members are asked also to pay £1 each time they row, which pays for the kit and some of the maintenance on the gigs.

To help fund its development Lyme Regis Gig Club is now registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) which means it can apply for Gift Aid from donations that are made to the Club. This means Her Majesty's Customs and Excise will give the Club an additional 28p for every £1 raised - for example, a single gig oar will cost the club £305 which would be covered by donations of only £239 and we will very soon need a minimum of 6 new oars!

The Club is hoping that Gift Aid will provide us with a significant boost to our funds. However, we have to receive the donations first and the fees for Social Membership have been structured in a way that we hope will encourage each member to pay an annual fee of £5 and make a donation of around £10.00.

Only one form needs to be completed that will cover any donations/contributions you may already have made or may wish to make in the future. Obviously, we should be delighted if you would also like to make a donation immediately. In any event, I'm sure that you see the benefit in completing and returning a form now. So, if you feel that any donation you may make will be eligible for Gift Aid please do complete the form below and return it to Diana Dixon at St Michaels Business Centre.

Fundraising

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Inevitably the growth of Lyme Regis Gig Club comes down to our ability to raise funds to buy the kit we need and ensure we are generating revenue throughout the year to meet operating costs, The Club Committee's has formed a Fundraising Team to continue to generate the monies needed to ensure financial viability and development plans. Please contact Kerry Maguire at maguirekerry@googlemail.com if you'd like to join the fundraising team.

The building of the gig shed and the second boat are the two main current capital projects and funds for these are being raised primarily through grant funding.

The on-going running costs will have to be met through a mixture of membership and rowing fees, sponsorship, fundraising events, merchandising and what ever entrepreneurial activities we can think of.

Lyme Regis Gig Club is fortunate to be sponsored by Otter Brewery who have provided both direct support and beer to enliven social events. The Club continues also to supported by a Lyme Regis Boat Building Academy, The Power Boat Club, Lyme Regis Town Council and others. This includes Nigel Clarke Publishing who have kindly offered Lyme Regis Gig Club a page on their forthcoming local Tide Times, of which 12,000 are printed and circulated each year.

Shirts, Caps and Cards

Lyme Regis Gig Club has a range of polo shirts, complete with logo, that retail at £15.00 each and stylish 'Rebel' Caps that sell for £10.00 each. These items are priced for each to raise a small amount of money for the Club and are available from Tony Short tony@short50.orangehome.co.uk. The Gig Club is now also able to offer a stunning pack of four atmospheric cards showing Rebel to her best advantage. The Cards retail at £3.50 for a pack of four and are good for Christmas, Birthdays and other occasions. Contact me if you'd like to buy a pack.

Blog / Website /E-mail

Lyme Regis Gig Club relies heavily on its Website (www.lymeregisgigclub.com) and the Blog and e-mail as a cost effective way of keeping in touch with members and the world at large. Please look at the website and Blog on a regular basis for news updates. Please also send any photographs of the gig or Club to Ken Whetlor at ken.whetlor@talk21.com, which can be added to our archive and published on the Blog. Please also call the Rowing Hotline on 07531191547 for information on whether rowing is taking place on the following day. Thank you to Ken Whetlor and Henry Barlow for the hard work in updating the Blog and Website.

Hot Off The Press

Great news that Lyme boatbuilder Gail McGarva has just been awarded a grant by Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust to build a wooden rowing boat called a Lerret this autumn at the Boat Building Academy. The Lerret is a traditional rowing boat with four or six oars and around 20ft in length originating from 1682 and used along the coast of Dorset, particularly around Chessil Beach. Gail will be building the Lerrit 'by eye' (without formal drawings) under the guidance of Lyme's Roy Gollop, an experienced boatbuilder and one of the few craftsmen who can build a boat in this traditional way. Gail is keen to stress that the building of the Lerret is a community project and that the vessel may form the basis for a local history project...*more news to follow*