

Eskmuthe Captains Report – 9th April 2017 – GLB

March and early April has been a busy time for the club and with more new members joining we have been able to fill six rowing sessions some weekends which is superb.

By the end of March both boats were back in action after receiving some winter TLC. A big “Thank You” to everyone who put work in to the winter maintenance of the boats and the oars and especially to Norman for leading it. We made immediate use of the two boats by holding our rescheduled Audacious Women event and some club regatta training at the lagoons on Sunday 2nd April. Blessed with some lovely sunny weather, the Audacious Women event was a real success. 16 women attended, ably catered for, chatted to and instructed by the Eskmuthe team. Again, thanks to all of our members who came along to help at this event. We received some really good feedback on the day and also by email afterwards. Some women are going to come along to row with us again and two other women are going to contact the coastal rowing clubs close to where they live.

The regatta training was also useful and could have occupied a whole afternoon on its own. The lagoons provide a good environment in which to try out racing starts and turns and we’ll probably make more use of them in the future. It would be a good place to do some coxes training over the coming months as well as trying out different techniques for buoy turns etc. Some racing between our two boats could also be fun.

Sat 8th April saw us attending Boatie Blest’s regatta, the first of 2017, with a team of 15 rowers including five people for whom it was their first regatta outing. The harbour setting and grandstand style seating make it a great venue for watching other clubs’ techniques and the hot sunshine did make it feel a bit like Monaco, as advertised, with added seal and cakes. There was lots of superb rowing from the team in Honesty and to put things in perspective for anyone who thinks we should have done better than we did, four of the six teams in attendance at Port Seton came in the top 11 (of 41 teams) at last year’s Skiffie World Championships. I think the message would be watch and learn (and then go and do lots and lots of training). Interestingly, quite a few of the local clubs didn’t attend making us wonder whether some clubs are beginning to put more of a focus on relaxed social rowing adventures rather than racing.

A priority for me in the near future has to be to get more people in the club to take on coxing duties. A small number of people are covering a very large percentage of the coxing shifts and, if for some reason those people are unable to cox then the boats may not be able to go out. I will organise some more of the training evenings and also some on water training. There are some people who are potentially really good coxes out there, hiding behind their oars, please volunteer!

Thanks

George

Next events:

Friday 21st April & Friday 28th April - Taster sessions for Musselburgh Grammar Kids, Lagoons

Sunday 23rd April - Taster sessions- Back Sands - 11am- 3pm