

We woke to good news early on Saturday morning to see that the row hadn't been called off and the weather was perfect for our long distance adventure.

After bailing out the rainwater from the two boats, going through the plan, sorting out the seating arrangements we headed out of the harbour at Fisherrow around 7:30am.

A large flock of Eider ducks got out of our way as we headed across the bay to the Esk muthe and round the wall of the lagoons.

A quick wave to Prestongrange, the birthplace of the two boats, as we passed and a great view of Prestonpans and surrounding hills, we were soon into our stride and at the pier at Cockenzie (does anyone know if that will be staying?).

Honesty made it to Port Seton harbour first and was greeted by Sealy McSealface and his much larger dad who was a bit shocked to see us. Boaty Blest were there on the shore to greet us and consult on the weather. Stuart confirmed that the weather was pretty perfect and we would make it fine. After almost losing Freya, who got locked in the Co-op toilets, the crews reassembled at Port Seton Harbour.

With a quick swap of seats we ventured further into unknown territory otherwise known as Longniddry and Aberlady Bay with the fabulous long sandy beach that is Gullane Links. The route took us away from the shore as we nipped across both bays to reach Gullane Point. The sea got choppy passing Craigiellaw and other side of Aberlady bay.

After more than 2 hours rowing we made a stop just off shore from Gullane Beach and attempted to raft up and sample the rhubarb and white chocolate muffins Sandra had made (and very nice they were too). However it was a fairly choppy section of the route so we agreed to move away from each other just as Freya lost her oar. It was that or the muffin. Steddie came to the rescue though using man over board techniques to catch it again.

Singing Steddie headed off first to check if it was possible to nip between Eyebroughty rocks and the coast which it was. Interesting feeling the different currents underneath the boat.

Fidra lighthouse was next on the trip and Steddie took a slight detour to have a look at the birds and check out just how smelly the island was. The island was full of seabirds floating above the lighthouse catching the breeze then off to find fish. Archerfield and Yellowcraigs beach were next on the route and contained some amazing big rolling long waves. Honesty did her bit for the environment and picked up what Pete first hoped was a Polar Bear which turned out to be a plastic bag.

We reached The Lamb and looked over our shoulders at the wonderful view of Berwick Law and the Toon! Our course took us over to Craigleith and then a turn right in to the harbour area. Freya's pin broke on the approach so she became chief navigator and photographer.

Steedie decided against the harbour due to low tide and radioed to say to head over to the beach. We headed toward the centre of the beach and somehow managed to navigate through ok. (Next time head over right over to the right side of the beach where the putting green is rather than in front of the houses). We landed at around 12 noon.

We were met by NB rowing members who took snaps and checked we could still stand. Sandra, Fox, Sarah, Katie Pete and Pauline stayed with the boats and Steampunk coffee and ice cream, while George, Freya, Sharon and Stewart headed back for the cars and trailers.



Wildlife seen - Puffins (with and without sand eels), Gannets diving for fish, 2 divers flying over, 100's of Eider Ducks & Common Scoters, Little auks, Sandwich terns, Grey seals, a reindeer (aka a log with branches) and a polar bear (aka a plastic bag).

Crews

Honesty (with Steddie oars)

Freya

Sandra

Pete

Pauline

Sarah

Coxing by Freya, Sandra, Pete

Steedie (with formerly blue oars)

George

Stewart

Fox

Sharon MacF

Katie

Coxing by Stewart, Fox, George

Technical details - GLB

Boats left Fisherrow harbour at 7.36am

High Tide - 9am +5.0m

Overcast

Wind at 7.30am - 8mph from the WSW

Rowing from Fisherrow to Port Seton we had the wind with us and the tide against us. Making it slightly hard going. Approx 1 hour and 15 mins to get to Port Seton Harbour

Left Port Seton at approx. 9.20am, 20 mins after official High Tide although according to Stuart Mack, the tide begins to turn in the bay (Longniddry/Gosford bay) before the official High Tide. He had also advised us to use the "best of the tide", around 2 hours after High Tide, to get us round Eyebroughy.

By 9.25am the wind had increased to about 11mph and the sun had come out. We headed NW for Craigiellaw Point, joining the great rush of water that goes around that corner. We crossed the entrance to Aberlady Bay and after a brief stop off Gullane Point, headed NW again to pass between Eyebroughy and the mainland. This area is shown as being a sandy beach at low tide and the shallow water produced some quite turbulent conditions.

From Eyebroughy the route is pretty much due east, past South Dog, Fidra, Lamb Island and Law Rocks. Quite a large swell was apparent when we passed Fidra, with the horizon disappearing when we were in the troughs of the waves. The swell had abated by the time we arrived at North Berwick and must have been partly due to the shallow seas when passing the islands.

We arrived at North Berwick at 12.27pm, 3 hours 27 mins after High Tide and just in time to get over the rocks off North Berwick beach. 4 hours and 7 mins of rowing time. 28.51km. One shore stop at Port Seton, one "on water" stop off Gullane and a few very brief stops for a pee and a broken pin. The wind had increased to around 13-14mph by the time we arrived at North Berwick. Superb conditions and equally superb rowing from everyone



