

Convener's report for 2015

Welcome to everyone here, new members and experienced alike. We look forward to a new season but first let's think about the season past. We took Ulla to Coigach where the weather was reasonable for once. Later on school S1 pupils camping on Tanera got to row Cul Mor and Lily Rose in really atrocious weather, but our skiffs never let us down and they rowed like heros.

Our regular trip to Portsoy regatta met with big waves, but we got some rowing in in the new harbour, and on Sunday we went out to play in the harbour entrance. A picture was taken with the boat up in the bows and down at the stern, published in the Ullapool News as a hint that I should go on a diet.

Our regatta in July was very successful, with 20 skiffs and a gig all the way from Falmouth. We had 144 entries and for the first time anywhere started 16 skiffs at once. By entering all the categories we managed to win the regatta which is only right and proper. Anstruther and Crail were a close second equal which is great that a relatively new club like Crail can do so well, and great that neither of the usual suspects dominated the event. No disrespect intended.

I don't think we went to any other regattas but this February we attended a practice row in brilliant sunshine at Avoch with lots of new clubs, and last Sunday we hosted another such event in slightly less brilliant weather. It was really good to see 6 skiffs and lots of people in informal sprints. The sprints were so informal that we did not have anyone recording the finish, but it did not seem to matter. I do however wish to point out that Coigach's mens team, rowing Cul Mor, were left more than a boat's length behind by our young men.

Mark Irvine of Coigach went up to our Tom Grant afterwards, and not recognising him, asked where Tom was from. When Tom said he lives here Mark looked very thoughtful! Great to have a promising young crew.

Our neighbours Gairloch are taking their skiff to events and Lochinver and Kinlochbervie are in build. Loch Ewe and Sheildaig are on the horizon and the skipper of the new ferry is organising a build on Raasay.

Cul Mor is now painted and has nice new oars from Dan Johnson. She will soon have proper footrests. We will be looking for help with sanding and painting Ulla, starting Friday 4pm.

Looking forwards, we have two crews training hard for the 28km Ocean to City race at Cork in Ireland. This is a major expedition for the club, the first time we have gone foreign! There are other exciting events in France and Venice if we get the taste for it. Coigach is not holding a regatta this year but Gairloch are, and we'd like to think about Portsoy, Sheildaig, Helmsdale and Glenfinnan. Lots to think about. Thanks for all your support for the club this year and let's look for a successful season in 2015.