

# The Dinas Head Challenge Sat Aug 1st 2009

Rowing against the clock, no less than 17 Boats turned out for the annual 8-mile rowing race from Goodwick to Parrog Newport. The event hosted by Newport Boat Club has become a favourite with rowers both local and as far away as North Wales and Tenby in the South.

With a brisk NW wind and challenging sea conditions around Dinas Head it would be difficult to see any team matching the team from Aberdyfi who in 2009 completed the course in a record breaking time of 55:59 mins

The first group away were the double and single yoles from Tenby, Aberystwyth, Aberdyfi and Neyland. These boats being technically more difficult to control due to their sliding seats and not having a coxswain. A team followed them from Aberporth racing for the first time in their Pembrokeshire longboat. With the rest of the field made up of Celtic longboats from across the county and as far away as Aberaeron, and the final group made up of two impressive 6 oared Cornish Gigs from Porthgain.

The Sea conditions had improved slightly by the half way point and having rounded Dinas Head it was clear that the double yole teams Jasmine Sharp & Andy Cox Aberystwyth and Sara Mcloughlin Steve Rich Neyland were pulling ahead from the rest of the field.

Teams pushing up and passing other boats in the Celtic category were the veteran ladies from Newport, Fishguard Men, and notably the Llanion veteran men, along with the Newport Veteran boys being driven on by their cox Gemma Richards. They were followed closely by the Gigs performing beautifully in the choppy seas as they raced closely against each other to see who would come out on top in the open event.

At the Boat Club finishing line a large crowd had gathered to welcome the teams home. The double Yoles lead to the finish followed by the rest of the field over a 10minute period to conclude the race.

## **Category Winners:**

Double Yole & fastest time overall: Neyland Sara Mcloughlin, Steve Rich

Single Yole Aberdyfi Dave Rice

Celtic Ladies: Fishguard Mandy, Andrea, Emma, Jen, Mark Cox

Celtic ladies Vets: Pip Norris, Diane Davies, Lesley Fletcher, Liz Davies, Sian Roberts. Cox

Celtic Men : Fishguard

Celtic Men Vets: Llanion Warriors Richard J., Andy D, Steve Phillips, Daryl Willington, Jeff Collins Cox

Celtic Mixed: Llangwm Broke Backs Jo Brand, Jon Alan, Warren Heaton, Helen Stewart, Mike Miles Cox

Open: Ella Rose Gig Porthgain Dave Ward, Jack Wilkinson, Tom Stowe, Tomos Harris, Gary Locke, John Bennet, Maggie Hemming Cox.

Special Award: Novice Mens UKRS Aberporth Oliver Box, Owen Harries, Andy Mayer, Tim Ogg, Giles Box Cox

On behalf of Newport Boat Club, race organiser Pete Fletcher would like to thank all competitors and helpers who contributed to a successful day and a special thanks to Newport Surf Club who supported the Newport safety Crews during the event.