

Salcombe Estuary Rowing Club Dartmouth Regatta Report – Saturday 2nd April 2011

Salcombe Victorious at Dartmouth Gig Regatta

The afternoon started with the Ladies B race. In perfect conditions Sam Wyatt coxed Salcombe's crew of Pennie Lindeque, Katherine Money, Justine Slade, Carolyn Martin, Fo Flew and Sharon Jarvis. They started strongly and established a solid 2nd position for the 1st mark then before the 2nd they were overtaken, moving into 3rd place where they remained through the finish line. Next came the Ladies A crew race. After a tense start, avoiding any clashes of oars, John Whitelock coxed Kate Holcombe, Jo Gulliford, Phil Howitt-Wotton, Madie Steer, Sophie Clayton and Pennie Lindeque, managing to put their 5 months of winter training, on and off the water, into practice. They settled into a steady smooth pace and edged out to a comfortable lead against Weymouth, Caradon crews and Teignmouth maintaining their strong lead, the girls did well, rowing consistently smoothly to finish 1st, with Swanage 2nd and Teignmouth 3rd.

Third race of the day was Men's B, with Cox Anna Johnstone taking the same line from the start as the previous winning Ladies A Crew. Colin Beck, Jason Edwards, Sam Ball, Chris Spencer-Chapman, Tony Doidge and Alex Slade got off to a strong and steady start approaching the 1st mark in 4th but lost position falling into 5th place. With 'Rebel' closing in and taking the inside line on the 2nd mark, they fell into 6th place but positioned themselves well on the approach to the 3rd mark, re-taking 5th position with a near clash of oars, held them off and rowed a strong finish with the tide in their favour. John Whitelock then coxed Dave Pollard, Harry Mason, Simon Hurrell, Jason Nickels, Geoff Goodier and Martyn Jarvis in the Men's A race. After a clean start the crew settled into 5th place. Two very clean marks meant the crew gained valuable water over Dartmouth and gained on Cattewater to finish 5th.

In the Ladies Vets race Salcombe entered both an A and B crew. The B crew Faith Constantine, Nikki Wadey, Jill Bremer, Gail Allen, Katrina Nickels and Emma Gray coxed by Geoff Goodier, had a superb start and kept a wide line round the marks. Some vicious oar clashing with 'Rebel' knocked the stroke oar out of her pins 3 times. Never the less they kept just in front of them to the last mark, when Salcombe had to concede water so they pipped them for 9th place. The A crew coxed by Chris Spencer Chapman had a crowded start, but the crew of Sue Hutchinson, Anna Johnstone, Julie Holland, Karen Arscott, Jackie Lee and Jenny Ross had a great 1st leg but lost the 1st mark by less than a boat length coming back on the lead boat before the last mark, chasing them to the line and coming 2nd by a mere half a length.

The men entered one crew in the Men's Vets race of Dave Pollard, Chris Spencer-Chapman, Simon Hurrell, Jason Nickels, Geoff Goodier and Martyn Jarvis coxed by John Whitelock. Racing against 11 other gigs they stormed into the lead from the start, battling with Teignmouth to keep the lead at the 1st mark. From then on Salcombe retained the lead, increasing the distance and crossing the line in 1st place. This was followed by the mixed race where Salcombe came 2nd.

After a long wait it was the turn of the Ladies C Crew of Karen Arscott, Kimberley Pollard, Sue Hutchinson, Gill Pollard, Emma McQuitty and Vanessa Longley coxed by John Whitelock. This was their 1st race together as a crew and Emma's 1st race ever, so they had no idea how it would go and were thrilled when they took 2nd place from the start, fighting into 1st place against Dartmouth for a short spell, but finishing in 2nd, a long way ahead of the other crews. Fantastic result. This was followed by the last race of the day, Men's C, with Salcombe coming 1st. However, because they had 2 ladies in the boat they were disqualified, with Dartmouth then taking the trophy. This didn't spoil what was a great day for Salcombe whose excellent results made them overall champions of the day.