

U14 Championships held at Hayle on Sunday 31st July 2011

Salcombe's junior gig rowers were in action on Sunday 31st July, at the under 14 championships, held at Hayle. The team, Mara Roberto, Emily Read, Erin Morris, Lolly Heckstall, Eleanor Wadey and Tilly Felstead, coxed by Sue Hutchinson had a tough draw in the first round. Rowing Shearwater, they battled a constant headwind that had picked up since the early heats, and had to settle for 3rd place. Unfortunately they were not quite fast enough to qualify for the next round, so progressed instead to the plate race.

In the plate race, Salcombe were drawn against Coverack B and Charlestown. In a phenomenal race the three gigs were stem to stem all the way, with the lead alternating between Salcombe and Coverack as they inched ahead of Charlestown. Salcombe's girls, this time rowing in Isis, held their nerves and kept the pressure on all the way to the line, and it was impossible to tell who had won. Both coxes thought that Salcombe had edged it, but the umpires gave it to Coverack, in a time of 4 mins 49.15 secs, Salcombe's time - 4 mins 49.64 secs. As these were the two fastest times from the plate races, both teams qualified for the plate final, where they were joined by Cape Cornwall, who had finished in 4 mins 50 secs. It would be a tight race!

In the final, Salcombe were drawn to row in Rose of Cadgwith, while lucky Coverack again drew the gig Helford, which they had rowed in every race. Despite struggling to get comfortable, Salcombe stayed in contention, just behind the battle between the other two teams, who were clashing oars. This confrontation caused the Cape team to be disqualified and gave 2nd place to Salcombe.

Despite the constant drizzle, the competitors and spectators all had an enjoyable day. Salcombe's team would like to thank Hayle Gig Club for staging the event so efficiently and giving young gig rowers such a superb racing experience.