

# The Isles of Scilly - World Pilot Gig Rowing Championships

The World Gig Rowing Championships, held every year at the beginning of May on the Isles of Scilly, is the Grand Prix of gig rowing. It started 27 years ago as an island race, and initially was given the tongue-in-cheek name of the “World Pilot Gig Championships” as a joke amongst the 15 Cornish crews who first took part in two-mile races from St Agnes to St Mary’s Harbour.



## 1991

Twenty-three boats entered and Port Isaac came twentieth - not bad for a new Club!  
Cox was Trevor Beare with Anita Beare (6), Elaine Brown (5), Juliet Tom (4), Lynsey from Padstow (3), Philly Knight (2) and Nancy Beare (1).



## 1992



Port Isaac came a brilliant 8th out of twenty-seven boats. Cox was Trevor Beare with Anita Beare (6), Elaine Brown (5), Juliet Tom (4), Carol Provis (3), Lesley Dawe (2) and Lesley Grills (1).



# The Scillies - 1993

“... Corsair is once again going to the Isles of Scilly to take part in the world Championships ... a special rate has been arranged on the *Scillonian* of £29 per person return fare ... open to anyone who would like a weekend in the beautiful Scilly Isles and also enjoy the wonderful sight of gigs racing ...”

“... 32 Club member went across to the Isles of Scilly. The crossing there and back could not have been better, with calm seas and warm sunshine. The ladies did a great job again coming in a successful fifth ... The men, well what can you say; they did not have a full crew and they did not come last, but they did have a good time!”

*Trio 1993*



Cox was Geoff Pearce with Anita Beare (6), Elaine Brown (5), Lesley Dawe (4), Carol Provis (3), Sue Richards (2) and Lesley Grills (1).



## 1994

The ladies shone again coming 7th out of thirty-three boats. Cox was Geoff Pearce with Lesley Dawe (6), Elaine Brown (5), Juliet Tom (4), Carol Provis (3), Anita Beare (2) and Lesley Grills (1).

## 1995 - Come on ladies!

Yes! They came 2nd out of thirty-nine boats. Cox was Geoff Pearce with Anita Beare (6), Sheelagh Driscoll (5), Lesley Dawe (4), Carol Provis (3), Juliet Tom (2) and Lesley Grills (1).



Port Isaac Rowing Club has competed in the World Championships at the Scillies every year since the event began – and even secured an overall second place in 1995



2016



2016 saw Port Isaac Rowing Club finding winning form again, with the Ladies A crew coming top of their category and securing a place on the podium. The ladies fought through four heats against 152 other crews to take the winning spot in group F, coming 61st overall, beating 90 other crews from clubs across Cornwall, Devon and around the world.

In addition to the Ladies A crew, Port Isaac entered a Ladies B and a Men's crew, both of whom finished second in their categories. A Ladies' crew also competed in the Supervets race, coming in the top third - 8th out of 24 gigs.

The fact that we achieved such good results in the year that we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Port Isaac's first gig launch made it all the more special.

“... it was a great World Championships for Port Isaac Rowing Club and we're really proud of all our crews ...”



The World Gig Championships are truly a world event, with crews from from USA, Bermuda, France and Holland and 152 gigs on the St Agnes start line in 2016



# a snapshot of the interim years on the Scillies



1997

The Men's team - Cox Juliet Tom with Trevor Grills (6), Colin Carthew (5), Rrichard Boisisik (4), Andrew Driscoll (3), Thomas Hawken (2) and Roy Speakman (1)



2012



2013

2014

