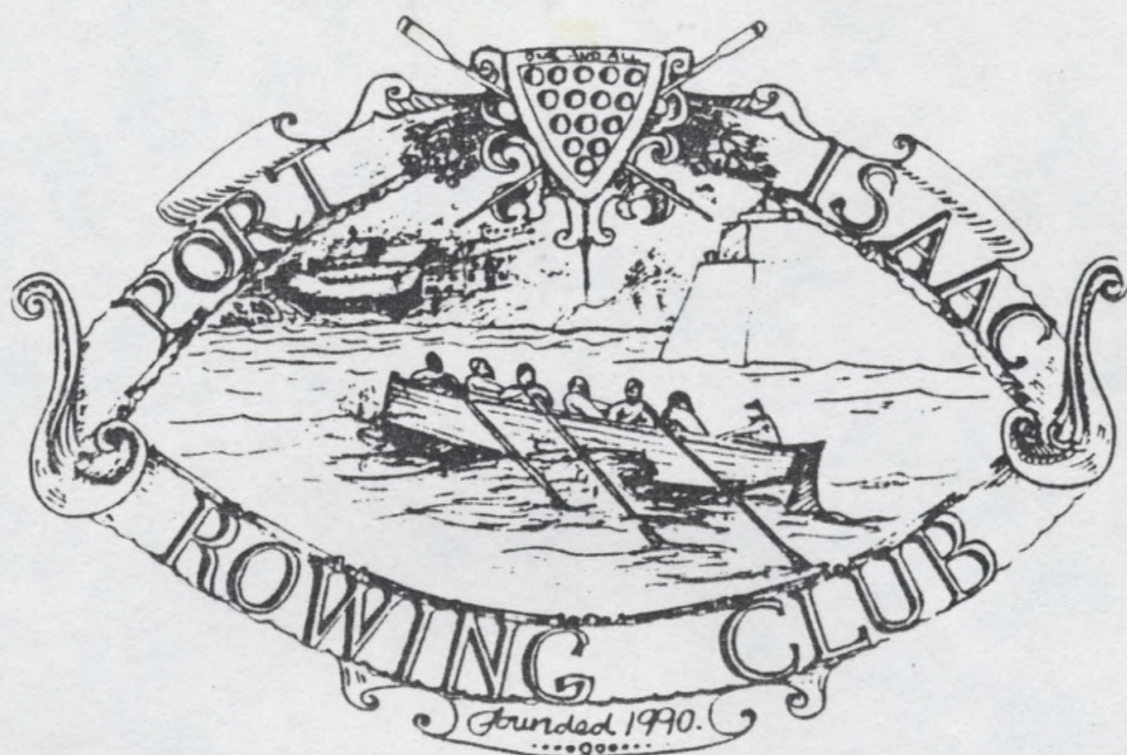


# *“It’s traditional, it’s Cornish and it’s brought the community together”*

The first mention of gig rowing in Port Isaac came about after an RNLI meeting back in 1990. One of the crew spoke about what he’d seen at Padstow and Cadgwith, where there were established rowing clubs. Another crew member knew about Newquay Rowing Club. It was decided to check out this sport. The Newquay and Padstow clubs invited those who were interested to have a go rowing, singing and drinking the odd pint.

This inspired more interest in the village from a diverse selection of people, some who wanted to row from Port Isaac and others who wanted to contribute something towards this new community venture. Before very long a constitution was drawn up and a committee was formed. A grant and interest-free loan were successfully applied for from North Cornwall District Council. This got things started but didn’t cover the cost of a gig, trailer, oars and boat cover, so the club set to work to raise what was needed ... and they did this in just six months as well as paying back their loan in five years.

## **... and the first Annual General Meeting of Port Isaac Rowing Club was held ...**



### PRESS RELEASE

The first Annual General Meeting of Port Isaac Rowing Club was held at The Penhaligon Room, Port Isaac, on Wednesday 12th December.

The meeting heard that fund-raising is moving well, and thanks are due particularly to Jill Gadman of Rogues Retreat, members of Newquay Rowing Club, and model maker Richard Jewitt, who presented the gig model now being raffled. Over £4,200 has already been raised, and promises of more have been received.

A grant and loan have been agreed by The Sports Council, who will announce the amounts on 3rd. January.

The total sum required to buy a gig and the associated equipment will be £13,288 (incl. vat.).

Chairman Trevor Beare said that it is important that more rowing members of all ages are recruited. Training will soon resume, and it is intended to enter a number of events in 1991.

The name of Port Isaac's gig has been chosen by ballot, and by a significant majority vote, the gig will be named 'Corsair'.

The meeting re-elected Chairman Trevor Beare, Treasurer Chris Key, and Secretary Chrissy Coshall. Jan Rowe was elected Press Officer.

The following were elected to the Committee:- Neville Andrews, Anita Beare, Jeremy Brown, Julian Brown, Kevin Burt, John Cleave, Jill Gadman, John Rowe, Robert Sheppard, Juliet Tom, and, representing the younger members, Daniel Brewer.

On the evening of January 26th, at The Golden Lion, Port Isaac, the raffle for the model gig, and other prizes, will be drawn by Tamsin Thomas, of BBC. Radio Cornwall. All are welcome.

Jan Rowe Press Officer

Dec 1990.

Trio Jan 91.

### PORT ISAAC ROWING CLUB

The first A.G.M. of the above club was held at the Penhaligon Room, Port Isaac on Wednesday 12th. December. The meeting heard that fund raising is moving well, and thanks to Jill Gadman of Rogues' Retreat for an excellent supper. So far £4,200 has been raised. Thanks also to Richard Jewitt of Portsmouth for making and donating a model gig, which will be raffled on the evening of 26th. January at the Golden Lion. The draw will be made by Tamsin Mitchell and Ted Gundry of Radio Cornwall. The total sum required to buy a gig and the associated equipment will be £13,288 (including VAT), and the committee should soon be able to announce how much grant will be available from the Sports Council. The name of Port Isaac's gig has been chosen by ballot, and by a significant majority vote, the gig will be named 'CORSAIR'. The meeting re-elected Chairman Trevor Beare, Treasurer Chris Key, Vice Chairman John Brown and Secretary Chrissy Coshall. The following were elected to the committee: Neville Andrews, Anita Beare, Jeremy Brown, Julian Brown, Kevin Burt, John Cleave, Jill Gadman, John Rowe, Robert Sheppard, Juliet Tom, and, representing the younger members, Daniel Brewer. Chairman Trevor Beare said that it is important that more rowing members of all ages are recruited.

Jan Rowe.

### GIG SUPPER - ROGUES RETREAT

I would like to thank everyone for making my Gig Supper such a huge success, specially all those who donated food, drink, raffle prizes, etc., Jan and the ladies who helped, and Sheila whose tremendous support I could not have done without. We raised a total of £656.50 on the night, and £46 more the following week with a raffle for one or two bottles and the unclaimed 'long necked goose', making a grand total of just over £700. Richard and Margaret Jewitt travelled all the way from Hampshire to bring Richard's superb hand-crafted scale model of the Gig and a beautiful painting by David Parsons.

Jill Gadman.

# over £13,000 was needed

There were various ways money was raised. Donations were made by so many people, local to the community and further afield, who believed that having a rowing club would be positive for the village.

*N.C.A.*

## Rowing Club

Port Isaac Rowing Club has been formed in response to revived interest in long dormant gig racing at Port Isaac. Gig racing there ceased around 1900, but prior to that there were three gigs at one time or another, named Tom Sawyer, Jane and Corsair.

Port Isaac Rowing Club already has a growing list of members - for which there are two categories - under 16 years and 16 years and over. Mens' and Ladies' crews have already been formed, and some training has been carried out with the kind help of other clubs.

A number of fund-raising

and social events have been arranged, and a good start has been made towards raising the £13,000 needed to buy and equip a gig.

The Club's first Annual General Meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 12th December at The Penhaligon Room, Fore Street, Port Isaac. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting, at which the result will be announced of the ballot for the name of the proposed new gig.

The Club's Chairman is Trevor Beare, and the Officers are Chris Key, John Brown and Chrissie Coshall.

**John Scott**

Coffee mornings, dinners, table top sales and discos were just some of the events organised to raise money.

Trevor Beare was elected Chairman of the Club, Vice Chairman John Brown, Treasurer Chris Key, Secretary Chrissy Coshall, Junior Rep Daniel Brewer.

*Committee members* Neville Andrews, Anita Beare, Jeremy Brown, Julian Brown, Kevin Burt, Jon Cleave, Jill Gadman, John Rowe, Robert Sheppard and Juliet Tom.

*N.C.A. Feb 91.*

## Port Isaac Rowing Club

**PORT ISAAC ROWING CLUB**

A very successful sing-song was held at St. Kew Inn on the 18th January. The Inn was crowded with Port Isaac Gig enthusiasts plus singers from Wadebridge and surrounding area. Another good evening was had at the Golden Lion on 26th. January for the Model Gig Draw. Tamsin Thomas from Radio Cornwall drew the winner: Peter Richards of Rock, who has donated the model gig to the Port Isaac Lifeboat. 2nd. prize - a painting of a Gig was won by Barry Smith of the Slipway Hotel, and the 3rd. prize - a bottle of Scotch was won by David Leigh of Surrey. There will be a Coffee Morning at the Golden Lion on Wednesday 27th. February at 10am. with a raffle, cake stall, white elephant stall, etc. Everyone welcome. Jan Rowe.

*trio February 91*



Tamsin Thomas, of Radio Cornwall, draws the first prize in the raffle. A model gig. Looking on are Club Chairman Trevor Beare and Jill Gadman of Rogues Retreat.

In October 1990, the villagers of Port Isaac decided to re-introduce gig racing to their harbour and subsequently formed the Rowing Club. The first aim was to build a gig and to do this they engaged the services of one of the best in the business 'Dasher' of Padstow.

They then embarked on an ambitious scheme to raise £13,000 needed for the boat and trailer and, says Club Secretary Chrissie Coshall, "it's going very well. A supper in the Rogues Retreat arranged by the owner Jill Gadman raised £700 and the raffle drawn at the Golden Lion, another £900." The Club have also approached the Sports Council for assistance and anxiously await a reply.

Whatever, the gig is under construction and should be ready by March - a ballot in the village decided on the name Corsair, one of the three original gigs that adorned Port Isaac Bay. Not lacking ambition or nerve, the young PIRC are off to take part in the World Championship in the Scillies in May! (They have actually been practising, using the Padstow and Newquay boats kindly and sportingly lent to them by those clubs).

The Club are grateful for all the super help they have received - and now they want rowers of all ages, sizes and sex! Just call the Club Secretary Chrissie Coshall on Padstow (0841) 880794.



*w.m.n*

## Cash raises gig hopes

MORE than £4,000 has been raised by a group of enthusiastic gig racers in North Cornwall.

The target for members of Port Isaac Rowing Club is £13,200, the cost of a new boat and equipment.

A decision to make a grant and loan to the club has been announced by the Sports Council. But the amounts will not be known until January 3.

Club spokeswoman Jan Rowe said: "More than £4,200 has already been raised and promises of more have been received."

Club chairman Trevor Beare said it was important to recruit more rowers of all ages.

Training will soon resume and they intend to enter a number of races next year.

"The name of Port Isaac's new gig has been chosen by ballot, and by a significant majority vote, will be named Corsair," he said.



Share certificates were designed and sold. Each certificate indicated that the owner had invested money into helping the purchase of a gig for Port Isaac and were part of the community spirit that the new rowing club represented.

JANUARY 12, 1991

## £4,000 been raised already

# FUND TO BUY NEW GIG

**By Becky Morris**

THE traditional sport of gig racing has caught on in Port Isaac, where the recently formed Port Isaac Rowing Club are going all out to raise the cash for their own gig.

Once the village used to have three of the sea going rowing boats - but that was in the days when gigs earned their living piloting ships into harbour.

Now the gig races held throughout the county are extremely popular. Would-be racers from Port Isaac have got together and hope to have raised the £14,000 needed to buy the gig they need.

They are in the running for a generous grant from the Sports Council, and have raised £4,000 themselves already. The Sports Council is looking on us very favourably and

we should know very soon the amount of the grant," said member Neville Andrews last week.

So confident is the 60-strong club that the money will be found that it has already named the gig and commissioned a boat builder.

The whole village was invited to take part in a ballot in the Post Office to decide what the gig should be called, and the name chosen was Corsair after one of the three gigs that used to row in Port Isaac. The other two were called Jane and Tom Sayer.

Peter 'Dasher' Revelly of Padstow is to build the new club's boat.

Fund raising has included raffling a model gig - the draw is to be held at the Golden Lion pub on January 26. A supporter from Portsmouth has made and donated the scale model.

"We also raised £700 at a supper held at a member's house," said press officer Jan Rowe. The supper, held at the home of Jill Gadman, was a great success. "We begged and stole lots of food and drink and then charged everyone who came," she explained.

**SING-SONG**

Another successful money raiser was a sing song held at the Golden Lion in Port Isaac, which was attended by visiting rowers from Padstow and Newquay gig clubs.

Chairman of the new club is Trevor Beare, who has rowed with Newquay Gig Club. At the end of last summer, keen gig racers from Port Isaac joined in with Newquay's evening rows. They were so enthusiastic that they decided to hold an open meeting in Port Isaac and the Rowing Club was born.

The Port Isaac Rowing Club already has a men's team, a ladies' team and a team for the under 16s of either sex. Keen rowers are sought to join - "We could do with some new members, the more you've got the better it will be," said Mrs Rowe. "It is good fun but very hard work" she added. If you would like to take part, ring 0208 880210.

The rowers of Port Isaac are also seeking coxes to steer them - you don't have to be as light as a jockey, but it helps! The club is also still unsure as to where the gig will be stored, but hopes it will find a venue in the village itself.

The whole community was involved including the Primary School, where they ran a competition to produce a design to be used on club clothing, T-shirts and sweatshirts.

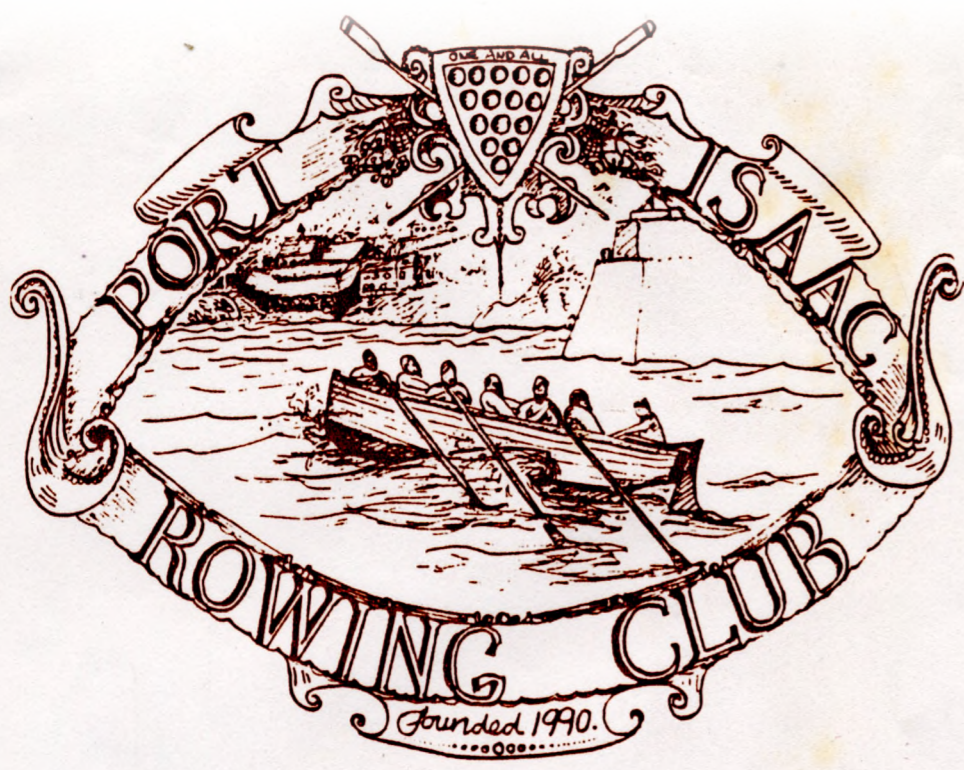
Some of the men from the village started singing in the local pubs, namely The St Kew Inn and The Golden Lion, to help raise money. Some of these chaps went on to become the Fisherman's Friends and their story is another chapter of Port Isaac's history.

# ... and Port Isaac's gig was built from Cornish elm grown in the Allen Valley, just four and a half miles from the village ...

A boat builder from Padstow, Peter Reveley, aka Dasher, was commissioned to build the gig. His family had built boats in Padstow for as long as memory existed, using Cornish elm and traditional techniques. The elm for Corsair is reputed to have grown in the Allen Valley, not far from the village of St Teath, about four and a half miles from Port Isaac. He had already built *Dasher* for Padstow Rowing Club and *Cape Cornwall* for the rowing club of the same name, based in Sennen.

A name had to be chosen for Port Isaac's first gig and a competition was held. Members of the public could pay for the privilege to name the boat. A short list of names was compiled from research on gigs that had existed at some time in the village - *Tom Sawyer*, *Jane* and *Corsair*.

## Corsair was the clear leader, voted for by over half the village



GIG NEWS.

The Port Isaac Gig Corsair will be launched on Saturday 30th March by George Moth at 2.30pm. on Port Isaac Beach.

Teams from Padstow, Nevagissey, Fowey, Newquay and Cape Rowing Club will take part in fun races for men, ladies and juniors.

It will be a fun day for all the family with various stalls etc on the beach.

Share Certificates designed by various members of the Rowing Club can be bought at the Golden Lion by anyone wishing to help raise money for the Gig.

The Coffee Morning held at the Golden Lion raised £105.00 thanks to everyone who helped and supported us.

There will be a disco on Easter Saturday March 30th. at the Huntsman Inn at 8pm. come and have a pop.

New members are welcome to join the club.

Jan Rowe.

March 1991.

*Corsair* was officially launched in Port Isaac on Easter Sunday 1991 by George Moth. George had a career as a Naval architect and had been a strong supporter of the rowing club, from it's inception. He was the obvious choice for the honour being one of the oldest residents of the village at the time and having been the landlord of the The Lawns, as well as his long and dedicated support of the RNLI, for which he was awarded a gold medal and was the current branch treasurer.

There were hundreds of spectators on the beach and cliff tops around the village as *Corsair* took to the water.

Other clubs were invited to attend and races were held ... apparently Port Isaac didn't fair too well on this occasion. The crews were still novices, at least that's one excuse that's been used! It was a good day nonetheless.

## George Moth launches Corsair



crowds of people turned out to mark this special occasion

... thanks to George Moth who did a wonderful job launching Corsair on Easter Saturday ...

... the weather was perfect and a large number of people, both locals and visitors, came to wish the Corsair good luck ...

... fundraising on the day raised over £500 ...



George Moth

