

New Gig Launched

Not all eyes were on the Thames Boat Race on the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. The glorious spring weather encouraged many people to attend the launching of the newly built gig 'Corsair' at Port Isaac on Saturday.

Several teams travelled from all over the county to join in the celebrations. The 'Corsair' launched by George Moth, one of the oldest residents in the village, was built in Padstow by Peter Reveley (Dasher), and is the first gig to be launched in Port Isaac within living memory.

Gigs like 'Corsair' were built for speed in order to be the first to meet visiting trading schooners and pilot them into coves around the coast. After the turn of the century, when sail gave way to power, they were no longer needed.

Conditions were ideal for the two fun races held over a mile long course following the coast from Bounds Cliff to the harbour entrance. Racing commenced with the mens teams, cheered along the way by the many supporters lining the cliff tops. First across the finishing line in this closely contested race was the Padstow gig 'Teazer' coxed by 'Dasher', who later said they had won by just a Stemband.'

The ladies event was as



George Moth named and launched Port Isaac Rowing Gig Club's new boat 'Corsair' on Saturday, March 30th with the crew: John Brown (cox), Trevor Beare (Chairman), Steve Hudspith, Rob Shepherd, Robert Andrews, Kevin (Tank) Burt, and Paul Glanville ready to compete in the afternoon's races; and (left) George with his Gold Medal.

Photo: Clemens Photography, Bodmin

competitive, with the Roseland gig 'Williams Peters' pulling clear towards the finish by a boat length to beat the Padstow team.

A variety of stalls on the Platt, along with collections, raffles and other fund raising activities made a

welcome contribution towards the building and upkeep of the 'Corsair.'

The 'Corsair's' next outing will be to Padstow in April, when she will be competing against other gigs in a six mile race.

Jan Rowe

