

## **AGM 2011: Chairman's Report:**

Firstly may I welcome everyone here tonight. 2011 has continued in the successful vein of 2010. The beginning of the year saw Circe complete her winter maintenance – we were loaned the use of the shed at Wind sports and she was sanded, resealed and repainted ready for the new season. The winter months saw many of us not only training on the water, but also circuit training twice a week, which is now underway again. (Tuesday and Thursdays at Penryn and Falmouth Schools).

This year she was joined by our new boat Serafina. Money to build her was received from Sport England, Cornwall Community Foundation Grass Roots, Co-operative Fund and donations from local companies Golder Associated, Morgan Bradbury, Scrace & Co, Worshipful Company of Founders and Remington Hickeys. The remainder was sought from club members in the form of sale of 64ths – many of us in this room tonight in fact own a plank or two.

She was named in February by the Right Reverend Tim Thornton Bishop of Truro and we were joined by members from Bats, local gig clubs and Nankersey Male Choir. Her name was suggested by Stella and was voted the outright winner in the club vote. A message from Philip Pullman author of the novels His Dark Materials from where Serafina came from said ' Thank you very much for letting me know about this. I'm delighted to hear about Serafina, and I hope that the spirits of the Arctic will bless her and all who sail in her...'

Serafina is the first gig in over ten years to be built of Cornish Elm – the wood was sourced from Trevarno Gardens by local saw miller, Jo Burbridge

During April, both Circe and Serafina were transported to Scillies and NRC descended upon the islands for a fun filled weekend. It was not quite what we expected with first Sylvia being unable to row her first race, myself ending up with such back pain the Island GP was called and I was banned from rowing for the weekend, Lucy managed to dislocate her shoulder in the last race and poor Terry ended up for an overnight stay in hospital.... However despite all the mishaps, the final results were MA70/129, MB 67/129, LA 70/120, LB 96/120 and Veterans 58/64...

Training for scillies will begin in earnest in December so anyone interested in attending the World Championships next year, please let the Rowing Captain know as soon as possible. Camping and B&B spaces have already been booked and both boats have been entered as attending.

Back from Scillies we continued to attend many of the events around the Cornish Coast, including Truro River Race, Truros event at Turnaware Bar, Rock at Daymar Bay which was a lovely day, the Tribute Event at Falmouth and various Friday night races from Black Rock. Of course 31<sup>st</sup> July saw our own event, where we had better weather than last year, was a tremendous success with clubs attending from St Agnes, Truro , Flushing & Mylor and Devoran.

We raised over £500 on the day. We managed to win Vets and Novelty Race (we came last!).

Our event on the Sunday would not have happened had not all club members worked hard on the day , producing cakes, sandwiches, starters and finishers, rescue boats. Support was given by Kevin and Tracy Laity for prize giving and the Regatta committee for the loan of much of the equipment. Also thanks to those who took charge of rowing Circe and Serafina to the beach and back home again.

A lot of hard work went into regatta week, not least the towing to the Street Market where NRC's awareness was further raised and the Carnival with NRC dressing as witches won us first prize in the group category.

A fundraising day at Penryn Fair again took place this year with just over £300 being raised so thanks to those who manned the stall and provided the prizes.

This year also saw fun with Tall Ship Frederick Chopin who arrived with broken masts after an accident off the Isles of Scillies. She spent 8 months here and we managed to take some of the crew rowing and some of us managed to climb the rigging – I have pictures of Tea, Hayley and Mathew taking a breather in the Crows Nest! We also had inter crew racing between the FC crew and the Sorlandt – very much enjoyed by the tall ships crews and our rowers who ended up rowing back under the stars!

Another success this year has to be down to Lucy and Oli who organized NRC's attendance at the Freshers day at Tremough. Over 100 students signed up and rowing sessions have taken place every Sat & Sunday am and Wednesday PM with over 40 keen students taking part - A huge thankyou to Lucy, Tea, Sally and Oli for their hard work on this in not only coxing but arranging getting students to and from Mylor. We are now in a position to pull down funding from Sportivate as the new students train for six sessions each – the more students we get, the more funding we can draw down!

Monthly quiz nights are ongoing on the third Monday every month – we are now filling the pub each month and the questions are not getting any easier – it is however an easy extra £40 for the pot! Next one is next Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Membership has gradually increased and my thanks goes to Athina who took on the task of Membership secretary and will, I hope, continue to do so for 2012. Watch out for emails from her! You can infact pay her tonight and get it over and done with..... Anyone who wants to race at Scillies will have to have paid by January or they will not be selected.

You will all have seen the ever-growing website which has been brilliantly produced by Ken Cooper and Robbie Griffin, our continued thanks to them for their hard work and if you have anything to publish please send it to ken or Robbie.

And don't forget with Christmas coming to use the Easy Fundraising via our website – everything you purchase from house or car insurance to books from Amazon gives a donation to NRC. There will also be Christmas Cards to purchase in the next couple of weeks.

This years End of Season bash takes place here in the Village Club on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November – watch your emails from Lucy and check out the website for further information.

Also look out in December for emails from the Rowing Captain for the yearly maintenance – both Serafina and Circe have to come out, dry out, be sanded and repainted – the more help we have, the quicker we can get the boats back into the water and training can continue. Even if you can just do an hour or so a week, it all helps.

I would like to thank everyone who has become involved in our community venture, from the supporters who continue to work for us behind the scenes to those who you see all the time in and out of the boat, coxes and rowers alike. Thanks too to the Standard for allowing us a Club Wall where we can hang pictures and our ever growing collection of silverware –our Trustees, founder members and 64<sup>th</sup>ers and the Committee without whom I certainly would have gone under by now!

I hope I speak for everyone when I say what a success NRC has been and will continue to be and I look forward to next year when we will again have two boats on the circuit and be providing fun and enjoyment on the water for anyone who wants to join us.....