

PRESS RELEASE
Wednesday 7th Aug.

Organisers of '**Punts, Gigs and Jumbos**' were thrilled by the outcome of the community event held in St.Ives harbour last Sunday and consequently have every intention of staging a repeat before the end of the season.

Building on the success of their popular 'Scully Days', the Jumbo Association had invited the St.Ives Gig Club with their two wooden gigs *Defiant* and *Fortitude* to collaborate in order to provide the town with a comprehensive introduction to traditional boat-handling.

As a result, scores of people took to the water, many for the first time, to try their hand at sculling or rowing a gig. Peter Berriman, chairman of the Gig Club, reported that *Defiant* had been kept busy throughout the afternoon taking out approximately 50 novices. The occasion also provided an opportunity for Giles Gilbert to launch a new mahogany dinghy he had recently completed to add to the sculling fleet.

Ashore members raised funds providing teas, homemade cakes, fish BBQ's and information for those interested in joining the clubs.

A new sport is born in St.Ives.

The event culminated with an experimental Scully Race in which, in order to engage any existing local talent, St.Ives Boatmen were to take on the Rest of the World.

Only minutes before the start, teams were being assembled and the rules agreed. Two identical traditional St.Ives punts were made available providing a fair match. They had been built by Jonny Nance who was also attempting to organise the race.

In an inspired moment it was decided to have a single relay race: Each contestant would scully off the beach to round a buoy in the centre of the harbour before returning to leap ashore whilst team members spin the punt about. The next contestant would then scramble aboard whilst the punt is shoved off on the next leg.

First up were Peter Tanner (St.Ives Boatmen) and Giles Gilbert representing the Rest of the World. Giles, who had been taught by a 14 year-old Breton champion, was first back. Craig Stevens then took over with his brother Mike in hot pursuit. They returned neck and neck as the encouragement from the shore grew ever more frantic. The next contestants were Roger Warren (St.Ives Boatmen) and Robert Goodden (who commissioned the first jumbo *Celeste*). Unfortunately for the Rest of the World, Robert had already exhausted himself whilst practising in the mistaken belief the race had begun! So by the time their best scullier 'John-Boy' Stevens took the oar, the St.Ives Boatmen already had a good lead. Jonny Nance had much catching up to do and, to make matters worse, failed to receive a good shove off, but at least managed to round the buoy before John-Boy reached the shore.

So the St.Ives Boatmen were the clear winners of the first Scully Race and a new sport was born in St.Ives. They duly received their prize (donated by the St.Ives Brewery) which was presented by the mayor Cllr.Colin Nicholls. Thanking the organisers, the mayor acknowledged the need and significance of this community collaboration and looked forward to more events in the future.

Boats in the Bay 2013, the annual celebration of luggers at St.Ives, will be held on Saturday 7th September.

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