

## ***A NEW SPORT IS BORN IN ST.IVES!***



*Teams prepare to shove off for the start of the First St.Ives Scully Race. Photo: Anne Curnow Care*

With two identical traditional punts available for the Association's latest Scully Day, some sort of race was inevitable. In order to showcase any surviving local talent amongst the professional harbour-users, it was proposed that St.Ives Boatmen should take on the Rest of the World. The ruse worked for several local boatmen rose to the challenge. An impromptu relay race was hastily organised whereby 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 spun the punt about. The next contestant would then scramble aboard whilst the punt is shoved off by the whole team on the next leg.



### ***St.Ives Boatmen:***

*Craig Stevens, Roger Warren, John Stevens and Peter Tanner.*



### ***Rest of the World:***

*Mike Stevens, Robert Goodden, Giles Gilbert and Jonny Nance*

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. With the action so near at hand, a large crowd soon gathered. 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 practicing 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.

So the St.Ives Boatmen were the clear winners of the first Scully Race and a new sport was born in St.Ives! They duely 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.

He needn't wait long for all contestants were clearly elated by the experience and keen to try again before the end of the season. It is hoped to stage the next race on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September before the crew reception for **Boats in the Bay** - the annual gathering of luggers in St.Ives Bay which takes place the next day. As the Bretons are no strangers to sculling, there's already talk of challenging Camaret which is twinned with St.Ives.

We are delighted that the professional harbour-users rose so magnificently to our challenge. Until now we've failed to engage this group significantly in our activities which has been a cause for concern. Whatever the reason was, it's clearly behind us now. After a lifetime of sculling only plastic boats if at all, they all expressed the pleasure of sculling a boat designed for the purpose. Some have even joined the Association and look forward to sailing the jumbos.



*Giles Gilbert (right) draws ahead of Peter Tanner to win the first leg for the Rest of the World. All photos: Anne Curnow Care.*

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Jonny Nance  
Secretary  
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