

# The Ruby Challenge

Saturday 20 July 2024

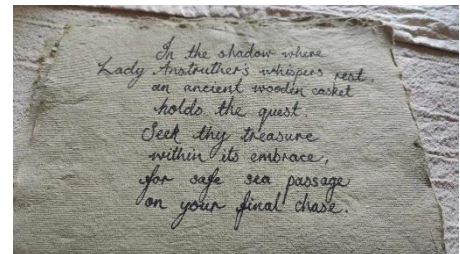
By Diane Williamson

Saturday morning dawned bright, sunny and warm with no sign of the dreaded rain, so it was all hands-on deck to get set up and ready for the arrival of the visiting clubs. A busy time ensued getting skiffs onto the beach with many calls of 'where's Cal?!' as clubs were moving their skiffs into position as directed by Cal.



Wormit crew threw themselves into the challenge by dressing up as pirates and didn't they look fabulous!

Setting off at one-minute intervals timed by Lynn and Shona and with tangible excitement from all involved, the race was on and started with a run up the beach by one crew member to collect the scroll containing instructions on how to find the 'treasure'. The race was in two sections; Anstruther to Ruby Bay, a crew change as nominated crew members ran off to find their treasure to take on the return row back to Anstruther.



All clubs safely launched and rowed hard towards Ruby Bay whilst changeover crews made their own way by road. On arrival, Lynn went off to bury all the treasure, whilst Shona made sure that no-one on the beach escaped to the loo until Lynn returned lest any skullduggery took place in the form of spying on Lynn's treasure destination.

Fast forward an hour or so and the first three boats, St. Ayles, Chris O'Kinnaird and Wormit arrived at Ruby Bay together. Their treasure was quickly found and Chris O'Kinnaird was first away closely followed by St Ayles then Wormit. Any hopes of victory for the Chris O'Kinnaird crew quickly faded as St Ayles passed first followed by Wormit a bit later. Elie and St Monans rowed hard to catch Chris up, but to no avail as cox and crew played a bit of

cat and mouse to stay ahead. On arrival in Anstruther, a jelly-legged run up the beach by one crew member to hand over the treasure and the race was finished.

Before the all-important prize giving took place, the more important eating of cakes had to take precedent. After all, everyone had earned a much-needed sugar boost. And what a superb choice of home baking there was. So much choice that more than one (or two, or three) well-earned buns had to be consumed by many. Well, it would have been rude not to.

Back to the beach for prize giving. It was lovely to see rowers from all the clubs mixing; Fife Friday seems to be encouraging rowers to be even more sociable than before. The winners were our very own St Ayles crew with a speedy time of 2.18.04; followed by Wormit who finished on 2.21.14 and the first ever Skiff, Anstruther's Chris O'Kinnaird coming in third with a time of 2.26.59.



1	Fife Fisherfolk Pitlochry, Craib, Wormit	2.41.34
2	Elie & Earlsferry	2.30.52
3	Kinghorn (Anster boat)	2.45.42
4	Chris O'Kinnaird (Anster)	2.26.59
5	St Andrews	2.34.44
6	Wormit	2.21.14
	St Ayles (Anster)	2.18.04

All skiffs were packed up and headed home, Alan's workshop was tidied up, the remaining home baking divvied out and a fab fun day of rowing was at an end.