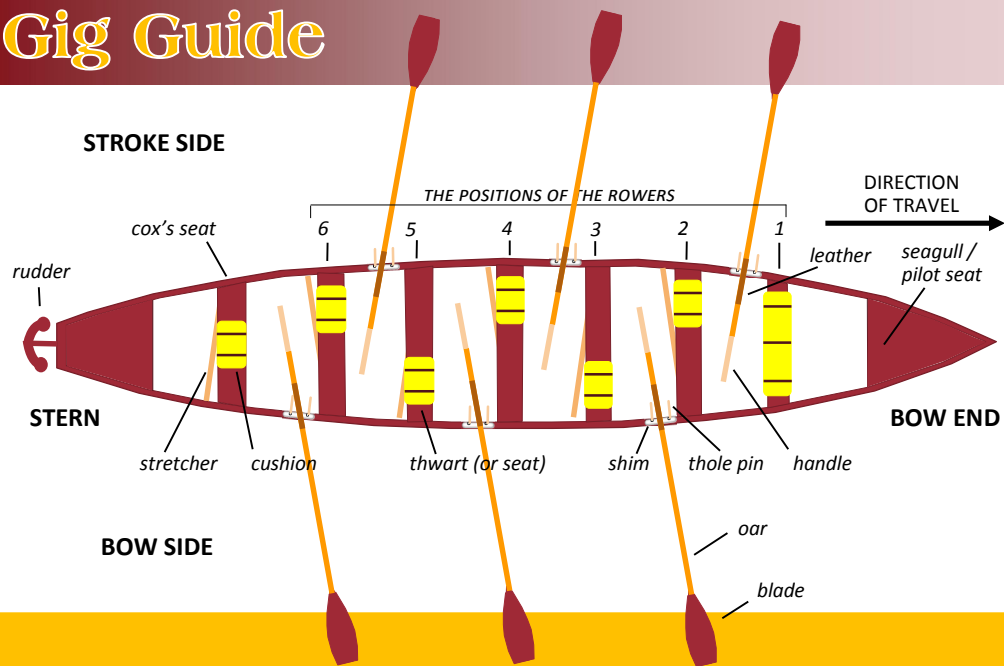


Gig Guide



Our first gig was the wooden boat Rapparee which was made for us in 2008 by boat-builder Brian Pomeroy based near Dartmouth, funded through donations from local rowers and the wider community. We bought a second wooden boat, Rogue, in 2012. Both of these boats were made to specifications determined by the Cornish Pilot Gig Association which means we can race them in official events.

We also have two fibre glass training boats, Capstone and Lantern. These are perfect for training as they are very stable (heavier than our wooden boats) and cope with most of the weather Ilfracombe can throw at us.

Each year, we carry out maintenance on all of our boats, oars and other equipment. If this is something you would like to help with, please let us know.

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A beginner's guide to gigging



Ilfracombe Pilot Gig Club

Registered as a company in England & Wales 09717920
Registered office: APB Accountants 1/3 Market-Square, Ilfracombe EX34 9AU

The oarsomeness of gigging



A bit of histoary

Pilot gig boats are traditional wooden boats which were used as the first lifeboats in the South West and the Scillies. The shape and manoeuvrability of gigs means that they are ideal to negotiate our rocky coastline. Pilot gig were used as a the first lifeboats here in Ilfracombe Harbour 200 years ago.

Gigs are fast which means they were perfect for racing out pilots to incoming merchant vessels. These vessels needed the support of a local pilot to guide them into our harbours. The first boat to reach the vessel and supply a pilot was the one that got paid.

See you on the water!

Weather and water permitting, we try to get on the water at least once a week. We meet on the slipway half an hour before our rowing time to allow time to get the boats ready.

Wear something comfortable that gives you a range of movement—shorts, t-shirt, vest tracksuit bottoms etc and footwear that can get wet—old trainers or sandals. Wellies are not advisable. Wear layers so that, on a cold day, you can take warm tops off as you warm up. You can also bring a drink of water.

After three sessions, we ask you if you want to become a member of the Club. When you are more experienced, you can decide whether you want to row recreationally or join our competitive squads.



Winter warm-ups

When the nights draw in and the seas get rough, Ilfracombe giggers hit the gym to get fit for the season ahead. A small fee is chargeable but it is worth it for guilt-free chocolate-eating at Christmas.

We try to row at the weekends when weather and water allows it.



Join the Club!

The Gig Club was formed in 2007 and is run by a voluntary committee of 12 people. We are a limited company and a Community Amateur Sports Club. We are members of the Cornish Pilot Gig Association and abide by their guidelines.

Our basic costs (insurance, boat maintenance, mooring fees) are currently covered by your annual membership fees. Each time you row, we ask you to contribute £1. This helps us to pay for items like new pins which regularly get lost or broken. We look to grants and fundraising events to buy new kit and other costs. If you can help with fundraising, please let us know.

Each autumn we have an AGM at which you have a chance to hear about what has been going on behind the scenes, vote for committee members or stand yourself.



WHAT THE COX SAYS

When you are in the boat, the cox will tell you exactly what to do. Here are some terms they might use:

Oars! = stop rowing

Watch your kit! = you are about to hit something with your oar

Hold water = put your oar in the water to stop the boat.

Toss oars = bring your oar into the boat and hold it upright

Catch a crab = when your oar gets stuck in the water

Flag's up... flag's down!

It is your choice whether you decided to be a competitive rower, and compete in local and national regattas, or a recreational rower and enjoy regular relaxed rows in the local area. And you can always change your mind as your confidence grows. Competitive rowers will be asked to commit to a minimum number of regattas each year.

We have our own regatta in June, the County Championships are held in Newquay each September and the World Championships are in the Scillies each May. However, there are many other events in the calendar of rowing events. It is entirely up to you!

