

## **2007 Rowing & Sculling Season News**

### **Double Delight for Berwick Rowers**

In the Northern Sculling Series rowed over six consecutive weeks on rivers stretching from the Tweed to Stockton on Tees Berwick had a number of weekly successes. At the conclusion of the event an overall prize is awarded to the fastest crew in each boat category. Berwick ARC are delighted that for the second year running [Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns](#) won the overall series title as the fastest ladies double scull. The 2007 series was a very well fought contest and the Berwick pair only clinched victory by 1 point over their main rivals from Durham University. Alison and Hilary finished with two first places one second and a third to give them their overall victory. Further good news to delight Berwick rowers is that it has just been announced that Berwick ARC has been successful in being awarded an Awards for All lottery grant to help to purchase new boats. The club has been expanding rapidly over the last two seasons so made the application to assist with the purchase of two new beginner sculling boats, a fine single scull and a double scull pair. It is hoped that the boats will be at the boathouse in time for the new season opening in the Spring.

### **South Hylton Long Distance Sculling - Saturday 1st November 2007**

Saturday 3rd November saw the penultimate round of the Northern Sculling Series. Again the weather was kind and conditions were ideal for the 5000 meter race down the Wear at South Hylton, Sunderland. The fastest boat of the day was a coxless quad scull from the host club South Hylton proving that knowledge of the course really can give an advantage. Berwick's fastest boat of the day was the ladies S2 double scull of Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns. The ladies were very pleased with their performance to finish in a time of 18.04.2 but were disappointed to learn that they had lost out on taking the S2 honours by just 0.6 second from Durham University. Ian Smith and Alan Robertson (vet F) double. Sculled consistently to finish in 18.12.2 which after the age handicap was applied was enough to give Ian and Alan the win in veteran doubles. Simon Wild and David Cairns (S4) double improved on previous weeks to finish in a very creditable 18.47.5. Annette Wilson and Estelle Dodd (Novice) continue to put in some solid results in their first year together in a double scull finishing in 20.49.4. Berwick single sculler Robin Morrison (vet D) found form again and steered a good course over the final mile of bends to finish in 18.57.4. Chris Eke (S2) in his first series race this year sculled well to be home in 18.58.7. The final round of the Sculling Series 2007 remains on the river Wear but moves to Durham. Berwick are hoping that their ladies S2 double will be able to retain the series title that they won in 2006.

### **Tees Long Distance Sculling - Saturday 27th October 2007**

The fourth round of the Northern Sculling Series moved to Stockton on Tees on Saturday. The technical 5000 meter course saw the biggest entry so far this year with over 130 boats starting. The fastest boat was a men's coxless quad scull from Durham University. Berwick Rowing Club had four boats competing. Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns in ladies S2 double sculls. The ladies good run of form came to an abrupt halt after the ladies struggled to steer the very twisting course down the Tees. Estelle Dodd and Rowena Park contested ladies novice double sculls and put in a really creditable performance as this was their first race together over the difficult course. Berwick's single sculler Harry Black (Vet C) continues to improve putting in his best performance so far over the course he enjoys for all its technicalities. Robin Morrison (Vet D) was unlucky to catch a slower boat ahead of him on one of the tight corners and was forced very wide causing him to lose ground, but recovered to scull the course in a respectable time. The fifth round moves to South Hylton at Sunderland on Saturday when Berwick oars people will be hoping for better fortunes. The Members of Berwick Rowing Club would again like to give their very grateful thanks to Lloyd Ltd for their sponsorship of the boat transport to Tees.

### **Berwick Long Distance Sculling - Saturday 20th October 2007**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October brought the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Northern Sculling Series to the Tweed. The course ran over the 5000 meters from West Ord to Berwick. The scullers were again blessed with wonderful calm water making for some great racing. The fastest Berwick crew were the ladies S2 double Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns the

ladies used their knowledge of the river to record an impressive victory over Durham City and Talkin Tarn winning by 6 seconds in a time of 21.39. The men's veteran D double scull Graham Thompson and Gordon Benton sculled well finishing in 21.55. Followed in 22.06 by Alan Robertson and Ian Smith. When the veteran handicap was applied this gave the veteran victory to Alan and Ian. Simon Wild and David Cairns S4 double scull finished in 22.31. Estelle Dodd and Annette Wilson ladies novice double completed the course in 25.16. The first Berwick single sculler to finish was Robin Morrison (vet D) 22.56. Harry Black (vet C) was home in 23.14 and Phil Craze making his debut in a single scull finished in a very creditable 27.06. The members of Berwick Rowing Club would like to thank The Lang family for allowing access to the river over their land. The next round of the series moves to Stockton on Tees where the Berwick scullers will be tested to the full over the extremely technical course.

### **Wansbeck Long Distance Sculling - Saturday 13th October 2007**

On Saturday the second round of the Autumn Sculling Series moved to the river Wansbeck at Cambois. For the second week running the crews had near perfect conditions with no wind and warm sun. A stark contrast to some of the weather conditions encountered in the summer regatta season! Berwick attended with six crews. Racing was split into two divisions with two Berwick crews in the first. The fastest boat over the 4000 meter course was Durham School in a coxless quad scull in the impressive time of 11minutes 40 seconds. The quickest Berwick boat was Alan Robertson and Arthur Wood in veteran F double sculls in 13.22. Giving Alan and Arthur the win in veteran doubles. Veteran F is for athletes aged 60-65 years of age so rowing really is a sport for all. Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns having moved up a status to S2 took on Durham University and Talkin Tarn. Alison and Hilary were delighted to win their event in a time of 13.36 just 4 seconds ahead of next finishers Durham. The second division beginning an hour after the first saw Berwick single scullers and ladies novice double take to the water. The leading sculler in this group was Berwick's Robin Morrison (veteran D) who despite not hitting the form of last week finished in 14.04. Gordon Benton (veteran E) making a return to single sculling after a long break put in an excellent performance finishing in 14.38. Harry Black (veteran C) finished in a creditable 14.44. Annette Wilson and Val Keen (Novice) sculled in their first race together and covered the course in a respectable 15.28. Members of Berwick Rowing Club would like to express their grateful thanks to Lloyd Ltd for sponsoring the transport of the boats this week. Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October sees the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the series move to Berwick. Racing will begin at West Ord at 10.30am.

### **Tyne Long Distance Sculling - Saturday 6th October 2007**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October saw the first round of the Northern Long Distance Sculling Series take place on an unusually calm river Tyne at Newburn. There was a big entry with crews from Berwick to York attending and Tyne rowing clubs under 23 international Gold medallist oarsman Kieran Emery represented his club in men's Elite single sculls. The biggest challenge facing the competitors was the very unseasonal October sun. The fastest boat over the 5500 meter course was the coxless quad scull from Durham University. Robin Morrison of Berwick made a good start to the 6 week long campaign by picking up a win in the well contested Veteran D single sculls. Robin was home in a time of 22 minutes 17 seconds. Some 6 seconds clear of his closest rival. The Berwick Veteran D double scull of Graham Thompson and Gordon Benton sculled well finishing in 21.28. They were followed by Simon Wild and David Cairns in S1 double sculls in 21.57. Berwick's final double scull saw an excellent debut performance by Estelle McClymont and Annette Wilson in ladies Novice finishing in 24.38. Berwick's Harry Black sculled well in Veteran C Single sculls and was home in 22.43. The next round on the series moves to Wansbeck on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October when Berwick hope that their 3 crews forced to withdraw from action on the Tyne due to illness will be back in action.

### **Durham Primary Regatta - Saturday 29th September 2007**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September saw the annual Durham Primary regatta take place. Berwick ARC were represented by just one ladies coxed four. The ladies who only began rowing this year for the annual Trades 4's race on the Tweed enjoyed their rowing so much that they decided to try out open competition. They have been practicing on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and felt ready to tackle the race at Durham especially

for athletes who have only started rowing this year. The crew of Wendy Telford, Kerry Mark, Susan Tait and Denise Graham coxed by Sam Seaton met the Tees B crew in their first race. Berwick rowed steadily and had a commanding lead by the half way stage which they extended to take a comfortable win. This then put the Berwick ladies into the final where they met the Tees A crew. Berwick made the better start of the two crews and edged a half length lead. Tees worked hard and remained with Berwick who were unable to stretch to clear water. After an excellent call from cox Sam the Berwick ladies gave it their all and pulled out clear water to take the win by a length and a half. An excellent result for four new comers to the sport. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October sees the start of the annual Long Distance Sculling series held over 6 consecutive weeks at Tyne, Wansbeck, Berwick, Stockton on Tees, South Hylton and Durham. Berwick have several crews competing and would be glad of your support on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October when the race comes to Berwick. The boats will begin at West Ord and race the 5500 meter course to the Royal Border Bridge. Last year more than 100 boats covered the course which is an impressive sight as each boat races down the river and under the by-pass bridge.

### **Talkin Tarn Regatta - Saturday 7th July 2007**

Berwick Amateur Rowing Club travelled to Talkin Tarn, Cumbria on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July for their final regional regatta of the season. Heavy rain showers didn't put a dampener on a great day's racing. First on the Tarn for Berwick over the 700 metre course, was the Novice Coxed Four, of Chris Eke, Simon Wild, Roy Trotter and David Stott, coxed by Sam Seaton. The crew had a comfortable lead over their opponents in the qualifying heat giving them a win and place in the final against Ustinov and Tees, which they won by one length. Chris Eke went on to compete in the Elite Single Sculls missing out on a win by Chester le Street. Later in the day the men's crew, with David Cairns replacing Simon Wild competed in the S4 Coxed Four but were beaten by Queen Elizabeth High School. Robin Morrison qualified through to the final of the Novice Single Sculls but marginally lost out to his opponent from Nithsdale. He then went on to qualify to the Veteran D/E Single Sculls final, this meant giving his opponent from Durham a six second start. Robin made up the distance over the course but the Durham sculler made a final push to the finish. After their success at Berwick, Rowena Park and Estelle McClymont competed in the Women's Novice Double Sculls. They qualified through to the final but unfortunately lost out to their opponents from Tees and Tyne. The girls then teamed up with Shirley Grimsdale and Sam Seaton, coxed by Chris Eke, to compete in Women's Novice Coxed Quad Sculls against Hexham and Tees. The girls finished in second place with Hexham winning. They later went on to race in Women's Novice Coxed Four, coxed by Roy Trotter against St Leonard's and Hexham and finished in second place. Simon Wild and William Grimsdale competed in the Veteran C Double Sculls and lost out to Durham in a straight final. It was a busy afternoon for Hilary Cairns and Alison Inglis, their first event was a heat of the Women's S3 Double Sculls, after a very close race against Ustinov the umpire awarded the win to the Berwick crew. The final saw the girls racing against two crews from Tyne which they went on to achieve a well deserved win. Hilary teamed up with husband David in the Mixed Veteran Double Sculls and won against crews from Talkin Tarn and Tees. Women's Novice Single Sculls, was the next race for Alison which she went on to win against Talkin Tarn. The final race of the day saw Alison and Hilary team up with David Cairns and Robin Morrison in a straight final of the Mixed S3 Coxless Quad Sculls, against Chester le Street. For the Berwick crew, who had only one previous outing together, it was another very close race with Berwick winning by only a foot. Club members would like to thank William Grimsdale and Simon Wild for transporting boats and equipment to and from this season's regattas.

### **Berwick Regatta - Saturday 23rd June 2007**

The rain on Saturday did not stop 150 crews enjoying the biggest ever Berwick Rowing Regatta. The previous day's heavy rain in the borders led to a fast running river at the West Ord Course and this brought along some fast race times. The prestigious title of King of the Tweed was won by Steven Thompson of Chester Le Street rowing club winning the elite single sculls in a close fought final race against Berwick sculler Chris Eke. Chris teamed up with Roy Trotter, David Stott and Ben Tucker coxed by Les Eke in the senior 4 coxed fours the new crew in their first race together rowed a fine race only losing by 1 length to Trevelyan College Durham. Later in the day Chris teamed up with Hilary Cairns in the mixed double sculls. The experienced Berwick pair took the win over Ustinov College by ½ length. Hilary then went on to win veteran mixed

double sculls with husband David beating Chester Le Street in the final. There was more success for Berwick ladies when Rowena Park and Estelle McClymont won ladies novice double sculls in an extremely close final with Chester Le Street. The two girls had earlier in the day competed in quad sculls with team mates Sam Seaton and Shirley Grimsdale. Unfortunately after a good start Berwick were overhauled by Hexham who won by 2 lengths. Hilary Cairns and Annette Wilson contested the veteran double sculls against George Watson's but were unable to match the Edinburgh pairs pace. Berwick men's veterans Ian Smith and Alan Robertson had a successful day winning their double sculls race against Hexham. They then teamed up with Cambois crew mates John Matthews and Arthur Wood to take the veteran fours title. Phil Craze made his debut to racing in a quad scull with Simon Wild, Robin Morrison and William Grimsdale. The Berwick crew could not on this occasion match the pace of their more practiced Hexham opponents. Simon and William also contested senior 4 double sculls but lost out this time to Tyne. Berwick juniors put on a very creditable performance at their home regatta. Guy Skivington –Jones moved up an age bracket to race junior 16 single sculls and just lost out to Tyne. Guy also raced in a composite double scull with a George Watson's crew mate but were unlucky to lose out to George Watson's in the final. Shea Grimsdale and Dan Law had success in the junior 15B double sculls beating St Andrews by a large margin. All the Berwick boys then got together in a quad scull and raced a hard fought race against an older Tyne crew losing out by ½ length. With this racing experience under their belts we look forward to seeing these lads flourish in future regattas. Hosting regattas is exciting but expensive for the host club. Berwick Rowing Club wish to thank The Lang family for allowing the use of their land at West Ord as all visiting clubs love this beautiful venue. We are also indebted to the following local businesses for their trophy sponsorship: Berwick Rotary Club, M&W Engineering, Sanderson McCreath & Edney, Adam Douglas Solicitors, The Tweeddale Press Group, J H Greenwood, S&L Wild (Construction Services), Nixon Hire, The Duke of Northumberland, C M Mace, A&P Inglis, JT Dove Ltd, J H Wood Engineers, Lilburn Estates Farming Partnership, McCreath Simpson & Prentice Ltd, The Cobbled Yard Hotel, Cheviot Rentals, Lloyd Ltd, Ord House Country Park, Berlinos Restaurant, Borderfields Ltd and General Mills. Berwick members are now looking forward to attending the final regatta of their season at Talkin Tarn, Cumbria on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Hexham Regatta - Saturday 2nd June 2007**

In contrast to previous regattas attended by Berwick Rowing club in recent weeks the sun shone brightly at Hexham for the Amec Hexham Regatta on Saturday. Berwick had entrants in 6 events. The first Berwick member onto the water was sculler Robin Morrison competing in novice single sculls. With a field of 13 this was going to be a true test of sculling ability and endurance. Robin sculled well in the preliminary rounds seeing off two rivals from Durham University and one from Nithsdale. This set Robin up for the final against Tees. Feeling the pressure of three previous races in quick succession Robin was unable to match the pace of his Tees opponent and was beaten by 1 ½ lengths. Robin then went straight back to the start line to race in veteran D single sculls. Robin was not going to let another race be taken from him and sculling confidently took the lead from the start over his Talkin Tarn opponent. Giving him victory in the D Sculls event. Simon Wild and William Grimsdale competed in senior 4 double sculls but were unable to match the fast pace set by their opposition from John Snow College. Later in the day Simon and William competed in veteran C double sculls. Their Durham opposition took an early lead but the Berwick pair pushed them all the way narrowly missing out on a win. Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns represented Berwick in the ladies veteran B double sculls. Their opposing crew from Lancaster took a slight lead from the start. Berwick made a big effort to come back to level at the half way mark but were unable to catch the stronger crew. Eventually going down by 1 ½ lengths. Later in the day Ian Smith and Harry Black competed in veteran E double sculls. Their father and son opponents from Nithsdale proved too strong for the Berwick crew who despite having had a good row on this occasion could not match the speed of Nithsdale. The next regatta in the calendar for the Berwick oars persons is their own regatta to be held at West Ord on 23rd June.

### **Tees Regatta - Saturday 19th May 2007**

Berwick Rowing Club travelled to Stockton on Tees on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Since the building of the barrage Tees Rowing Club have enjoyed a superb 4 lane racing facility. So the 7 travelling crews from Berwick were eagerly anticipating a good days racing.

Unfortunately gale force gusting winds played havoc with the days racing schedule with many of the smaller boat categories having to be cancelled on safety grounds. Causing several Berwick rowers not to get a race. Just before the decision to cancel double sculling races was taken Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns did venture onto the water to race in ladies veteran B double sculls. Despite having had some good training sessions recently the windy conditions proved too much for the Berwick pair and they finished a disappointing third. Shea Grimsdale, Dan Law, Guy Skivington-Jones and Ben Robinson from Tyne RC competed in J15 quad sculls the lads showed real promise in their first race together but were overhauled by the regular training crew from Durham. Due to all the cancelled races Berwick's final race of the day was from Estelle McClymont, Rowena Park, Shirley Grimsdale and Sam Seaton coxed by Hilary Cairns in the absence of regular coach and cox Harry Black. The ladies were defending their title in novice coxed quad sculls that they won in 2006. Berwick showed their determination from the off by making a good clean start in terrible conditions. This gave the Berwick crew a slight lead. Berwick worked hard and had extended their lead to 1 boat length by half way. At this point a huge gust of wind caught both crews practically causing them to stop, Berwick quickly gathered themselves and made a big push to finish the race. Winning the race with an impressive distance between themselves and their Tees rivals. Berwick ARC are very much looking forward to hosting their annual regatta on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and are actively seeking race sponsors. From as little as £20 you or your business can support a race. Details of how to sponsor can be found on the club website. [www.berwick-amateur-rowing-club.co.uk](http://www.berwick-amateur-rowing-club.co.uk).

### **Strathclyde Regatta - Saturday 21-Sunday 22 April 2007**

Strathclyde County Park was the venue for Scotland's largest Regatta last weekend, which members of Berwick's Amateur Rowing Club took part in. Races were held over the 2000 and 1000 metre buoyed course. Saturday's racing saw Gordon Benton and Graham Thompson competing in the 1000 metre Veteran D Coxless Pairs against Glasgow BC in a straight final. The pair lost out to Glasgow after a strong cross-wind had hampered their start. They finished the course in 4:27:25. Sunday saw the conditions improve slightly for Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns competing in their first 2000 metre event, in the Women's Senior 2 Double Sculls. With eleven entries in the category, this meant a qualifying heat, in which they qualified in second place in 8:45:55. The final, just fifty minutes later, saw the girls with some tough competition and finished in sixth place in 8:36:69. Ian Smith and Alan Robertson competed in the 1000 metre Veteran F Double Sculls in a straight final against Nithsdale, Aberdeen and Inverness and finished in second place in 4:12:77. Robin Morrison was Berwick's only winner of the day and competed in the 1000 metre Veteran D Single Sculls straight final. With his competitors from Inverness and Loch Lomond having a higher veteran status, this meant he had to give them a seven second start but managed to row through them and finish in 4:08:65.

### **Yorkshire Head of the River Saturday 17th March 2007**

2007 certainly got off to a good start for two Berwick Amateur Rowing Club members, Alison Inglis and Hilary Cairns. The River Ouse at York was the venue for the Yorkshire Head of the Race, which was held on Saturday. There were over 170 entries from all over England for the 5100 metre race, with competitors racing in eights, quads, fours, doubles, pairs and singles. Conditions were not good with a strong wind increasing throughout the morning but fortunately blowing down the course. Alison and Hilary competed in the women's senior 3 double sculls. They had an excellent race and the hard winter training was all worthwhile. With a good rate and excellent course steered, they completed the course in 21 minutes 2 seconds, but lost out on a category win by 20 seconds to the home crew from York City Rowing Club.