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INVITATION TO COMPETE

The 21st World Pilot Gig Championships will take place from Friday, 30 April until Monday, 1 May 2010 on the Isles of Scilly. It is once more my pleasure on behalf of the organising committee to extend our invitation to you to compete in this unique event. The format will remain much the same as in previous years, but with some changes, and we hope improvements, most of which have been suggested by you the competitors. The wonderful spirit of competition and camaraderie that endures during this weekend is what makes this such a momentous occasion. Please join us to celebrate all that is good about gig rowing.

A change made at the request of the CPGA is to increase the age requirement for Coxes to be 18 years of age or over. This will accord also with our requirement that all Coxes be experienced. The lack of experience of some Coxes may have been a contributory factor in the disqualification of some crews last year. I would remind that all members of the crew must have attained the age of 16 years.

A new form to appeal against the decision to disqualify or relegate in group an errant gig has been prepared. The appeal will be heard by three marshals not involved in the disqualification. Should you be involved in sanctions please do not appeal as a matter of course as this may delay the event. You will know if you have erred. Hopefully it will not be necessary to invoke this procedure. The race results this year will be posted at the scoreboard, not at the tunnel, together with any notification of disqualification or relegation in group.

Continuing from the recent improvements in buoyage and again at your request we shall be placing a much larger buoy to delineate the end of the finish line, and start line boys will be numbered to assist crews in finding their place in the line.

It was considered helpful by many of you last year to have me making myself available to discuss any problems or misgivings you may have or indeed suggestions for improving the event. Consequently I shall once again be on the committee bench at the refreshment Tunnel run by Maggie and her girls. Most of you are by now aware that the funding for the event is generated by the refreshments we sell at the Tunnel.

Please support us by purchasing the very good value, wholesome, great variety of food available. The Sunday night BBQ will as always take place on Porth Mellon Beach, please join us there. Sports mode continue their strong support of the event and are the retailers of souvenirs and high-class official World Championship's clothing, and there also you can buy the outstanding DVD commemorating this event.

Finally, please remember that this event takes place in a busy working harbour. Do not climb over moored vessels, and please comply with the requests of the harbourmaster and his staff.

Rick Persich
Chairman World Pilot Gigs Championships Committee.
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TIMETABLES AND REVISED START INSTRUCTIONS 2010

Veterans and St. Agnes Starts

The start line will be formed by the use of 5 equally spaced tall buoys creating 4 starting sections. The gigs will be split, alphabetically, into groups of between 20 to 30 gigs. Each group will be drawn one of the sections. The number of sections used will depend on the number of gigs starting the race.

When gigs arrive at the start they should wait, well behind the start line, for the starters instructions. There will be a 10 minute warning for the start of the race announced over the radio, followed by a 5 minute warning, then counting down the 5 minutes once a minute, ending with GET SET then GO.

Safety boats will be positioned alongside the start buoys. They will stay in position when the race starts. Any gig hitting a safety boat will be disciplined. Any gig over the start line after the 1 minute warning and before GO is called will be disqualified.

The race start times are as follows:

Friday

- 18.30 Veteran Ladies' Race
- 20.00 Veteran Men's Race

Saturday

- 13.00 Ladies' St. Agnes Race
- 14.30 Men's St. Agnes Race

Please be at the start line at least 5 minutes before your race is due to start.

Please make sure that you have a radio battery or batteries that will last all day as you must have a working radio on board whilst at sea.

Group Starts

5 minutes before your start time or when the previous heat is about to start, move up to a position just behind your starting berth buoys. When the start line has cleared, your starting berths will be announced over the radio. You will then be asked, by radio, to move up, between your berth buoys, to the start line which is approximately 2 lengths past the berth buoys. The flag will now be in the horizontal position. Gigs moving ahead of the start line will be asked to move back. **Failure to do so will lead to disqualification.** When the line is straight the flag will be raised to the vertical position and “get set” will be called on the radio. There will be a short pause before the flag is dropped and simultaneously “go” is called on radio.

Any Gig rowing ahead of the start line while the flag is in the vertical position will be disqualified.

Gigs must be at the area when their heat is called. **Any Gig not at the start on time will be left behind.**

The group starts are as follows:

Saturday

- 16.00 Ladies' Group Races
- 17.30 Men's Group Races

Sunday

- 10.30 Ladies' Group Races
- 12.00 Men's Group Races
- 14.00 Ladies' Final Races
- 15.45 Men's Final Races

The groups will be started at 5 minute intervals with the slowest group starting first.