

ROWING – Cape Coastal Rowing Club

The past couple of months have been relatively quiet from a pilot gig rowing perspective, with many of the regular gig crowd tied up with Cape Coastal Rowing Club training for the April 27 Freedom Paddle in sculling boats, and the early winter weather not playing ball.

A new intake of South African Maritime Training Academy (SAMTRA) cadets has been introduced to gig rowing by coach Geordie Kohler though, with weekly sessions, and the hardier members still managed to get out on the water for the traditional Friday afternoon wind-down rows most weeks.

False Bay Gig Rowing Club also hosted British gig veteran Greg Carroll, who started rowing in 1994 while attending Falmouth Marine School in Cornwall and has raced at county and world championships with Falmouth Gig Club. Greg was most generous sharing his broad Cornish gig rowing experience with our novice crews and has proved an invaluable contact with our British counterparts, who we hope to host in Simon's Town in the near future.

False Bay Gig Rowing Club has extended an invitation to Cornish Pilot Gig Association clubs for a visiting crew to take part in the Prescient Freedom Paddle around Robben Island next year, using one of the two gig boats that are moored at FBYC. The invitation has sparked a lot of interest, so watch this space!

