

Brief Report on Freshwater Sprints **Saturday 29th October 2022**

The freshwater sprints are a Scottish event organised around the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (SCRA) AGM and cox/umpire training, where regional teams race against each other in a friendly, time-honoured fashion. It takes place at the breathtakingly beautiful venue of Loch Tummel made more spectacular by the autumn show of leaves.



A small (5) posse of us drove up to take part – Shona, Elsie and Babs went ahead in the Scouting Party, going up on Friday night and Bev and I followed on Saturday morning.

Five regions were represented (Fife, South West, North and West, North East and South East) and mixed regional teams raced against each other in a marathon, 19 race event (mostly 500 metre sprints with two longer races to finish) consisting of the widest range of categories I've ever seen!!



Loch Tay generously shared their boat, `Red Haired Lass` with the Fife team – it`s a beautiful boat which handles well but we were seriously hampered by the heaviest oars any of us had used before! Really makes you appreciate our wonderful, white tipped oars.



Despite this, we managed to give the field a run for their money in a few categories. There was strong competition between the North East and the North and West teams with the scoring being very close. An inadvertent piece of detective work, carried out by two SASI/SCRA officials, identified an irregularity on the North East skiff and an ensuing penalty meant that the North and West team rightly took overall 1st place in the event.

The rain came on cue just as the event finished and continued during the journey home for Babs, Bev and I. Shona and Elsie stayed on for the AGM and another night in the caravan!!

It had been a great day of friendly rowing with a group of inspiring and enthusiastic rowers of all ages and abilities which was well managed by the newly trained umpires. The rolls, pies and bakes were pretty good too!

Looking forward to the autumn display again next year but hoping that we can take the St Ayles or at least our own oars!!

Susan Coates (12/02/22)