

Mail fra Neil Gardner (Billygoats):

Peter,

The Billygoats are the alumni society of Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, Cambridge. Every year since 2009 a crew from our generation (late 1970s at Cambridge) have entered the Rhine Marathon, which is run by RuderClub Germania in Dusseldorf (see <http://www.rcgd.de/> for info and a link to the Marathon page). Prior to last year we had never trained in the correct type of boat, as the UK does not have many rowing clubs with river boats suitable for the rough conditions we encounter on the Rhine.

Then in 2013 Neil Gardner happened to become part of the Masters group at Stavanger Roklub, and immediately saw the potential for Stokkavann as a training venue for our Rhine Marathon crew – good water (sometimes rough!), a friendly club and a couple of beautiful Schellenbacher boats named Ellen and Ellen 2. The opportunity was too good to miss so in September 2013 we made our first attempt with great success and benefits for the crew who were better prepared for the Rhine than ever. Therefore for this year it was a “no-brainer” to ask for a repeat of the event, and this time even the weather cooperated and we had a fabulous weekend with perfect rowing conditions and constant sunshine. We went out twice in Ellen 1 and completed 3 circuits around Stokkavann each day, roughly 21 km x 2, or the marathon distance we will cover on October 4th between Leverkusen and Dusseldorf. Thank-you to Stavanger Roklub for your generosity and hospitality – we will be probably start making plans for another visit in 2015 as soon as the race in Germany is over!

Best regards / Med vennlig hilsen

