



Fife  
Scotland



### Coastal Rowing Club Inspires Retired Firefighter

David Leeson from Fife is a wheelchair user who has secondary progressive multiple sclerosis. David is a retired firefighter who ended his career in community fire safety as a schools liaison officer. David passionately believes in active living and is an adaptive skier and curler.

David contacted Disability Sport Fife about his interest in coastal rowing and one single communication to the St Andrews Coastal Rowing Club contact Julie Hardisty was enough to open up a new "passion" for the Fife man. Thanks to GOGA investment in Fife, DSF was able to fund specially adapted rowlocks for one of the St Andrews skiffs. This has enabled more disabled people to access this hugely popular coastal sport.

Disability Sport Fife recognises the St Andrews Coastal Rowing Club as a strong partner with members who are fully committed to inclusive practice. The St Andrews club attracts members of different abilities from a range of backgrounds. Members build and maintain club boats and have the responsibility of lifting their equipment in and out of the water at every session.

The St Andrews Club members built their skiff, named the Blue Bay, to accommodate an adapted / removable seat. Key supporter, the St Andrews Harbour Trust installed the first phase of pontoon development that crucially provides open access for those with mobility challenges.

Normally all equipment has to be made of wood but the SCRA committee waived the rules to offer full and free participation for adaptive rowers in regattas. The St Andrews Coastal Rowing club has members with

different impairments. Equipments modifications have to be made to accommodate different members. In some instances the only modification that will have to be made is to schedule entry at high tide. The St Andrews Harbour Trust plan to install a winch and when that happens, skiff access will be so much easier for members with mobility difficulties.

Members hope to encourage more adaptive rowers to join the club and experience the thrills and pleasures associated with this sport. Access may take a little longer for some but members are patient and committed to an inclusive ethos and practice. Julie can be contacted for further information at [secretary@staccr.org.uk](mailto:secretary@staccr.org.uk)

Photo of David comfortably located as a fully included crew member.

Richard Brickley MBE – President Disability Sport Fife



GOGA in Fife will inspire children, young people and adults with a physical, sensory or learning disability, plus **significant others**, to access and enjoy physical activity including sport. GOGA in Fife is inclusive in ethos and practice and will involve key DSF partners. To register please contact **Norma Buchanan** [norma.buchanan@fife.gov.uk](mailto:norma.buchanan@fife.gov.uk)

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