



One year's haul.

Over the years George Parsonage has won close to 800 races on waterways mostly in Scotland.

Ben Parsonage who George recons was the fastest sculler he ever saw, won two races before he was deemed a “professional” due to his rescue work on our waterways.



Bens sculling boat “Razor”



George's sculling boat

George's tally includes around 130 Championships.

It is quite a formidable collection and the trophies, programmes, photographs and other records, form a history of rowing and sculling in Scotland and the north of England in the 1960's and 70's.

George did venture further afield and raced at the Henley Royal Regatta, International events on the Bosbaan Amsterdam, Bagsvaerd Copenhagen, Enniskillen, Blessington Dublin, Ratzeburgh, Bochum-Witten, Hazewinkel Belgium and masters' events at Cologne, Budapest, Lago del Puccini Italy, Miami, Vichy, Vienna and Zagreb

George still holds the record for the scullers Head of the River Clyde, a 4000-metre race which he won in 1967 in the record time of 13 mins 40 secs. Which as of 2021 has not yet been bettered.

The record for a single scull along the length of Loch Ness (24miles) which he set in a time of 2hrs 43mins. In 1975 and the overall time in a double scull with Peter Haining 2hrs, 28mins, 09secs.

Was part of a crew that set the fastest time for rowing across the Irish Sea Arklow to Aberystwyth 14hrs 7mins for the 89miles.

Some of Georges favourite hunting grounds were in the North of England with Heads of the rivers at Durham Tyne, South Hylton, Blythe, Tees, Berwick. He loved winning the Ture Hillestrom and the Black Diamond trophies on the Tyne, the scene of some of the greatest professional sculling races, these professionals being Georges sculling heroes. George thinks the Tyne 4 1/2-mile course is the best test of watermanship in Britain.



George competing in the Diamond Sculls at Henley Royal Regatta.

The majority of his trophies are lying around somewhere. Some were given away, some like clocks, razors and cameras were just used and some amazingly ended up being used for home Communion.

“Quite often we received goblets as prizes for winning races and it was, not long before I had a fair collection of such goblets in pewter or in stainless steel. Over the years I had also amassed a number of friends who became clergy in various local churches, and so an idea developed. I would give a church 6

goblets on a tray (also a prize) that they could use for communion. Single goblets were given to clergy to use when they gave home communion to persons who were house bound. It was extremely pleasing to do this small deed and I hope the goblets are still in use”

“Winning races was nice, though sometimes looking back, ones I was beaten in were among the best races. I was very lucky in that I had good opposition in Glasgow, Scotland and the north of England that helped push me to faster times. I have the greatest respect for scullers who came out week after week to race me to just see how close they could get to me”.



Yearly hauls.



The "Head" pennants



There are some Dragon Boat trophies among the collection. Year after year a motley crew of rowers and friends was put together and as “George’s Dragons” won the Scottish Dragon Boat Championships.

The Dragon Boat racing culminated in a fourth place for Scotland at the Commonwealth Regatta in Nottingham. George steered and was Team Manager. Great days, great fun.



Shelves of trophies, dusty and uncleaned, but full of memories.