

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – 74th Race features Olympians, British and overseas internationals and new victory ceremony.

The 74th running of the Women's Eights Head has received a total of 291 entries.

On Saturday 15th March at 3:30pm, the 74th Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. With the wettest Winter the UK has experienced since records began, many rowers have had their training disrupted and head races have been cancelled across the country. In recent weeks, the stream conditions on the Tideway have also been affected by the large volume of water from upriver. Providing the weather is favourable on race day, the stream should make for some very quick times and potentially allow course records to be broken.

In a new format for 2014, the prizegiving for the race will be held on the same day on Putney Embankment, which represents not just a first for the Women's Head, but a first for all the major Tideway Heads.

The field has a strong showing from current and former international rowers, with no fewer than 11 Olympic Medallists in the field, who between them share 7 Gold, 7 Silver and 3 Bronze medals from Olympic regattas stretching from Los Angeles in 1984 through to London 2012.

The race for the Head Pennant is likely to come down to a duel between the two British Squad boats. These comprise a composite crew featuring the likes of Gold Medallists Katherine Copeland, Heather Stanning and Helen Glover, racing against Leander Club, with Olympic Silver Medallist Frances Houghton in the five seat, and stroked by 2013 World Champion Polly Swann.

In the battle for the Club Pennant, Putney rivals Vesta RC A and Thames RC A start two places apart at 2nd and 4th respectively and Thames will surely be trying to build on their strong results from the Head of the River Fours where they won two pennants. Wallingford RC A should also be in contention for a good placing with several GB lightweight triallists on board, and starting 9th.

Durham University BC and Newcastle University BC both field strong entries, with four crews apiece. The cancellation of the BUCS Head means that there is no form guide but the relatively benign conditions on the River Tyne mean that they haven't suffered the same interruptions to training that some of their usual competitors from the Thames Valley will have experienced. These challenges however are unlikely to stop the likes of Imperial College BC putting in a strong challenge for the University Pennant.

The race this year sees a large overseas contingent looking to test themselves against the top British crews. Three French squad crews and a crew of Italian Juniors head a fleet of overseas crews with strong representation from Germany and Switzerland.

A novelty for the Masters Pennant category this year sees a reunion crew of former GB internationals combining to compete as a Masters B composite. This crew will feature London 2012 Gold Medallists Anna Watkins and Katherine Grainger, Australian Kate Allen (née Slatter) who won the Gold in Atlanta in the coxless pairs, and is coxed by Adrian Ellison, who steered Sir Steve Redgrave home for his first Olympic Gold in 1984. Backing them up are a number of other Olympic and World medallists. Behind this crew the challenge is likely to fall between last year's winners, Lea RC and the composite of Barnes Bridge Ladies BC and Mortlake Anglian & Alpha RC. Our oldest competitors this year are a Masters F composite, helping crew member Pauline Rayner celebrate 60 years in rowing. Pauline first rowed the WEHoRR in 1954 for Alpha Ladies RC, and has rowed the race nearly every year since then, mainly for Alpha and subsequently Thames RC.

For the website and past results visit www.wehorr.org

For more information please contact press officer: Sarah Harbour on 07812 990 760 or at press@wehorr.org

Official Race photographer for 2014 Jet Photographic <http://www.jetphotographic.com/>

Detail WEHoRR 2014

Elite

51 Army RC, Gloucester RC, Imperial College BC, London RC, Minerva-Bath RC, Oxford Brookes University BC, Tees RC, Leander

*B: Katherine Copeland
2: Kristina Stiller
3: Beth Rodford
4: Heather Stanning
5: Jessica Eddie
6: Zoe Lee
7: Helen Glover
S: Olivia Carnegie-Brown
C: Phelan Hill*

52 Leander Club

*B: Caragh McMurtry
2: Louisa Reeve
3: Victoria Meyer-Laker
4: Katherine Douglas
5: Frances Houghton
6: Victoria Thornley
7: Lucinda Gooderham
S: Polly Swann
C: Zoe De Toledo*

53 Bath University BC, Gloucester Hartpury RC, Hollingworth Lake RC, Northwich RC, Oxford Brookes University BC, Tees RC, University of West England RC (*U23 Composite*)

Senior

1 Imperial College BC A
2 Vesta RC A
4 Thames RC A
12 Durham University BC A
55 Newcastle University BC A
56 University College London BC A

Intermediate 1

23 Vesta RC B
26 Tideway Scullers School A
27 Grosvenor RC A
57 Aberdeen University BC, Edinburgh University BC, Glasgow University BC, Clydesdale ARC, Strathclyde Park RC, Robert Gordon University BC (*Scottish Rowing U23 Composite*)

Intermediate 2

22 Marlow RC A
24 University of London BC B
31 Thames RC C
34 City of Oxford BC A

Masters

14 Lea RC A
72 Clydesdale ARC, Molesey BC, Leander Club, Marlow RC, Tideway Scullers School BC, Thames RC

*B: Elise Laverick
2: Rachel Stanhope
3: Kate MacKenzie
4: Philippa Cross
5: Anna Watkins
6: Kate Allen
7: Katherine Grainger
S: Gillian Lindsay
C: Adrian Ellison*

73 Broxbourne RC A

74 Barnes Bridge Ladies BC, Mortlake Anglian & Alpha RC

Notable crews not racing

Cambridge University Women's BC
Osiris BC

Most number of crews

Clubs:

Thames RC: 7 crews

Universities:

Cardiff University BC, Durham University BC, Newcastle University: 4 crews

Number of entries by classification

Elite	16	6%
Elite (excluding overseas)	4	1%
Senior	7	2%
Intermediate 1	15	5%
Intermediate 2	28	10%
Intermediate 3	127	44%
Novice all	68	23%
Novice academic	49	17%
Novice club	19	7%
Overseas	15	5%
Jnr/school	16	6%
Univ	58	20%
Univ & academic	107	37%
Club	71	24%
Provincial Club	45	15%
Masters	14	5%