

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



First win for Thames RC since 2001 in 72nd Women's Eights Head of the River Race

With Olympic Trials keeping the national squad busy, the 72nd Women's Eights Head of the River Race provided lots of opportunities for club crews to shine. Light rain as the crews were boating looked as though it might put a dampener on the proceedings but as the first crews crossed the start line, the skies began to clear and the sun had come out by the time the second half of the race was underway.

Thames Rowing Club A stormed through the field from their 12th place start position to finish fastest overall in a time of 20:10.92, the first time they have won the event since 2001. Only eight seconds separated the top three crews with RC Belvoir Zurich A finishing second, reclaiming the Overseas pennant they last won in 2010 and Imperial College/Sport Imperial BC A winning the Senior pennant in third.

Nottingham RC A finished an impressive fifth, sandwiched within a 4 second gap between Vesta RC A and Wallingford RC A, and take the Provincial pennant. In recent years, Nottingham have become a regular feature in the top 10, having finished there every year since 2006.

The School Pennant was won by Headington School Oxford BC, who saw off stiff opposition from SC Palermo. It will be interesting to see whether this overseas rivalry will continue next year.

The rivalry between the larger Putney clubs was, as always, closely fought. Although Thames RC won the Head overall, with their A crew finishing 15 seconds ahead of Vesta's top boat, overall Vesta slightly edged them on both aggregate finishing positions and time across each of their six crews.

Cardiff University BC A, built solidly on last year's best ever result to again improve their position, finishing 23rd and in the process winning the Intermediate 3 Pennant, in a fitting tribute to Dr Jenny Bucknell, their crew member who sadly passed away three weeks after last year's race.

The Masters Pennant this year goes overseas to Willem III from Amsterdam, a sign of the growing international reach of the event.

With the top four University crews finishing within 15 seconds of each other, the University Pennant was a particularly hotly contested category, with Reading University emerging victorious. The second and third placed Universities, Cambridge and Durham, will have to console themselves with the Intermediate 2 and Intermediate 1 Pennants respectively. Those with an eye on the form for the Boat Race in three weeks will notice that Cambridge finished 26 seconds ahead of Oxford.

Provisional Pennant Winners

Head	Thames Rowing Club A	20:10.92
Overseas	RC Belvoir Zurich A	20:16.78
Senior	Imperial College BC/Sport Imperial BC	20:18.25
Provincial Club	Nottingham RC A	20:27.81
University	Reading University BC	20:30.66
Intermediate 2	Cambridge University WBC A	20:38.71
Intermediate 1	Durham University BC A	20:45.11
School/Junior	Headington School Oxford BC	20:58.31
Intermediate 3	Cardiff University BC A	21:10.76
Masters	Willem III	21:46.84
Novice Club	Lea RC C	22:04.30
Novice Academic	St Catharine's College BC (Cambridge) A	22:45.42
HM Forces	Royal Air Force RC	23:55.96

The prizes will be presented on Thursday 15th March at Thames Rowing Club, Putney Embankment.

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

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Official Race photographer for 2012 Jet Photographic <http://www.jetphotographic.com/>