

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



Challenging conditions, but great racing at the 76th Women's Eights Head of the River Race

The 76th Women's Eights Head of the River Race had challenging conditions, with an icy northerly wind and sleet showers during the race. With the absence of the main GB squad, who are concentrating on preparations for Rio, the overall title went to a development crew, comprising athletes from Leander RC, Reading RC and Tees RC.

Entries had closed early for the first time, with a full draw of 320 crews. The cold weather forced a number of crews to withdraw in order to safeguard the health of their athletes, which reduced the starting field to 300 crews. We hope to see these crews back next year. The safety team had a hard day's work and successfully ensured that there were no serious issues on the day.

For the first time, pennants were awarded for the top three places overall, to recognise the fact that placing so high in a competitive field is a phenomenal achievement in its own right. These places were filled this year by Imperial College BC A and Molesey BC A, who also took home the Senior and Club Pennants.

Next up was the Intermediate Pennant, won by Oxford Brookes University BC A. The University Pennant was won by Cambridge University Women's BC A, successfully defending the title they won last year.

The closest race of the day was in the School/Junior category, where Cus Milano Lombardia, from Italy broke Headington School's 4 year winning streak by a margin of just 0.5 seconds – around a canvas over the four and a quarter miles of the race! The Italians also took home the Overseas Pennant for the second year in a row.

Nottingham RC A continued their dominance in the Provincial Club Pennant, with a top 10 finish.

The Novice Pennants for Club and Academic were won by Lea RC F and Newcastle University BC C respectively.

The Masters Pennant was another close contest, this year won by Tideway Sculler School D, with their handicapped time just 3 seconds ahead of the next placed crew. They were also the fastest Masters crew on their raw time.

2016 saw the introduction of two new Pennants, specifically aimed at Medium and Small Clubs. The honour of being the first clubs to win these awards went to Tyne ARC A in the Medium category and Ardingly in the Small category. The committee were pleased to see new faces and club colours at the prizegiving.

The Fin Award returned after an absence of a couple of years, being awarded at the committee's discretion to Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC B for endeavour in the face of adversity and for being good Samaritans.

For the third year running, prizes were once again presented at a Victory Ceremony on the Embankment in front of Thames Rowing Club. The "Voice of Rowing", Dr Robert Treharne Jones hosted proceedings and we were pleased to welcome Jacomine Ravensbergen to present prizes, who came direct from the FISA Conference with the exciting news that in the 2020 Olympic Games, women's rowing will be given parity of number of events with men's rowing for the first time. Also present was The Worshipful the Mayor of Wandsworth Councillor Nicola Nardelli, who having Italian roots, was particularly excited to see the performance of the Italian Juniors.

Provisional Pennant Winners

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Head | Leander RC, Reading RC, Tees RC | 19:17.7 |
| 2 nd | Imperial College BC A | 19:24.3 |
| 3 rd , Senior, Club | Molesey BC A | 19:26.5 |
| Intermediate | Oxford Brookes University BC A | 19:33.6 |
| University | Cambridge University Women's BC | 19:34.5 |
| School/Junior, Overseas | Cus Milano Lombardia (ITA) | 19:52.4 |
| Provincial Club | Nottingham RC A | 19:57.0 |
| Novice (Club) | Lea RC F | 20:37.3 |
| Medium Club | Tyne ARC A | 20:50.4 |
| Novice (Academic) | Newcastle University BC C | 20:50.7 |
| Masters | Tideway Scullers School D | 20:52.3 (Raw), 20:21.3 (Handicap) |
| Small Club | Ardingly | 21:53.0 |

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

For more information please contact press officer: Sarah Harbour, press@wehorr.org

Official Race photographer for 2016 Jet Photographic <http://www.jetphotographic.com/>

Further sponsors:

- Rock the Boat - sponsor and official supplier of WEHoRR merchandise <http://www.rock-the-boat.co.uk/>
- Rowperfect - sponsors of Small Club pennant (winning crew received a Coxmate GPS) <https://www.rowperfect.co.uk/>
- Nero & Bianco - providing chocolate for all winners
- Peros - providing coffee for all winners

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