

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – 77th Race sees record field 90 years on from Weybridge vs Ace

On Saturday 11th March at 3.30pm, the 77th Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. This year marks the 90th Anniversary since Weybridge Ladies took on Ace in the first women's race along the Championship Course, which was the forerunner to the founding of the Women's Head in 1930. See the following link for more details and some footage from Pathé News <http://wehorr.org/history/> - 90 years on, we have 321 crews that will cross the start line.

Following the silver medal success of the GB Women's VIII at the Rio Olympics last year, several of the athletes feature in crews taking part in this year's Women's Head: Olivia Carnegie-Brown rows in the Oxford Brookes crew starting 3rd, Katie Greves represents Wallingford in their Masters crew starting 15th, Karen Bennett is in the Leander Club crew starting 51st and Zoë Lee strokes the GB Composite going off behind them. The fight for the Head Pennant is likely to be between these two new starters with the Leander crew also featuring Olympic Silver medallist Vicky Thornley among a range of up and coming GB athletes.

Following the introduction of the Small and Medium Club Pennants in 2016, the committee received feedback that the number of opportunities for student crews to win awards had decreased. In response, this year the race will feature a new University Intermediate Pennant, for second or lower crews from British Universities. It is hoped that this will be as hotly contested as the Pennants introduced last year. The premier pennant for student crews remains the University Pennant, which Cambridge University will be looking to defend for the second year in succession. The University of London look to be their nearest competition following their success at the BUCS Head last weekend.

The Senior Status category continues to grow this year with 14 crews competing. Imperial College A starting first overall, will be followed down the course by Molesey A and Oxford Brookes A who are sure to want to challenge them for the pennant. Newcastle University A and Nottingham Rowing Club A start in 7th and 9th place, the latter looking good to retain their Provincial Club pennant

There is a large field for the Masters competition this year with 21 crews entered. Wallingford A look strong with a good starting position, but they will face tough competition from a Masters B composite starting 63rd and a Masters C composite starting 64th. Both crews contain athletes that are regulars on the Masters rowing circuit and will have the added advantage of the age-related handicap.

In the School/Junior pennant, Headington School, starting eighth will want to reclaim their title after losing out to the Italian Juniors from CUS Milano last year by a very small margin. Their nearest challengers will be Henley, with their up and coming junior squad, starting twelfth. The CUS Milano crew are back again this year and although too old for the School/Junior Pennant, will be wanting to defend the Overseas pennant.

There will once again be a Victory Ceremony held after racing on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club (scheduled start time 7:45pm). The provisional results will be published online whilst the race is under way. This received positive reviews last year, and increased the enjoyment of many spectators.

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

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

Official Race photographer for 2017 Jet Photographic <http://www.jetphotographic.com/>

Official Supplier of WEHoRR Merchandise Rock the Boat <http://www.rock-the-boat.co.uk/>

Sponsor of a prize for winner of the Small Club Pennant Rowperfect UK <http://www.rowperfect.co.uk>

Detail WEHoRR 2017

Elite

- 4 Cambridge University Women's BC A
6 CUS Milano
51 Leander Club
Bow: Anastasia Chitty
2: Jessica Leyden
3: Holly Nixon
4: Victoria Thornley
5: Karen Bennett
6: Katherine Douglas
7: Fiona Gammond
Str: Holly Norton
Cox: Erin Wysocki-Jones
52 ULO/NEW/IMP/LDR/AGE/BAU/SOC
Bow: Alice Baatz
2: Sam Courty
3: Gemma Hall
4: Caragh McMurtry
5: Rebecca Chin
6: Josephine Wratten
7: Nicole Lamb
Str: Zoë Lee
Cox: Matilda Horn

Senior

- 1 Imperial College BC A
2 Molesey BC A
3 Oxford Brookes University BC A
7 Newcastle University BC A
9 Nottingham RC A
10 University of London BC A

Intermediate

- 5 Thames RC A
11 Tideway Scullers School A
14 Imperial College BC B

School/Junior

- 8 Headington School BC A
12 Henley RC A
22 Marlow RC A

Masters

- 15 Wallingford RC A
28 Lea RC C
63 QBC/KRC/TSS/LRC
64 RDG/MAR/CBR/SCP/WLT/LEA/UTC

Notable crews not racing

Oxford University Women's BC

Most number of crews

Clubs:

Lea RC: 6 crews; Cantabrigian RC, Thames RC,
Putney Town RC: 5 crews

Universities:

Glasgow University: 5 crews

Number of entries by classification

Elite	8	2%
Elite (excluding overseas)	3	1%
Senior	14	4%
Intermediate	165	51%
Novice all	84	26%
Novice academic	60	17%
Novice club	24	7%
Overseas	7	2%
Jnr/school	25	8%
Univ	25	8%
Univ Intermediate	41	13%
Univ & academic	126	39%
Club	50	16%
Medium Club	34	11%
Small Club	17	5%
Provincial Club	50	16%
Masters	21	7%