

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



Perfect racing conditions at the 77th Women's Eights Head of the River Race

The 77th Women's Eights Head of the River Race had warm and calm conditions, with flat water presenting an opportunity for some great racing. This, combined with a spring tide gave fast conditions and resulted in five of the course records falling, including the new Small and Medium Club categories, which were introduced for the first time last year.

Overall, the event was won by a crew from Leander Club, featuring Olympic silver medallists Vicky Thornley and Karen Bennett. After their introduction last year, pennants for the top places were again awarded this year. In 2nd place only 4 seconds behind Leander were Cambridge University Women's BC A, who successfully defended the University Pennant for the third year in a row, also setting the course record. Their line-up featured probably the strongest pedigree the event has seen in this category (Irish Olympian Claire Lambe and no fewer than 6 other U23 internationals). This impressive performance surely bodes well for the Women's Boat Race in three weeks' time. In third place were Imperial College BC A, who also picked up the Senior Pennant, narrowly beating their own course record from three years ago. The Club Pennant was retained by Molesey BC A who finished fifth overall.

Following last year's reorganisation of the Intermediate standard pennants, the Committee responded to feedback about the number of categories now open to University crews with the introduction of the University Intermediate Pennant. This was won by Cambridge University Women's BC B.

Seven of the CUS Milano Crew, who won the Overseas Pennant this year, were the same athletes who last year also picked up the School/Junior Pennant. Now being too old to enter the Junior category, it was reclaimed by Headington School Oxford BC A, who were also able to celebrate a new course record.

Cantabrigian RC A won the Provincial Club Pennant – the first time for their club to be represented in winning one of the WEHoRR's Pennants, and overturning what had been a lengthy period of domination in this event by Nottingham RC.

The Novice Pennants for Club and Academic were won by St Andrew BC, one of our furthest travelling competitors, and Newcastle University BC D respectively.

The Masters Pennant was yet another close contest, this year won by a Masters C composite with their handicap time only 2 seconds ahead of the next placed crew.

2016 saw the introduction of two new Pennants, specifically aimed at Medium and Small Clubs. These were well received, and were awarded again this year. The 2017 winners were Exeter RC A and St Andrew BC respectively.

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 compered proceedings and we were pleased to welcome Andy Parkinson, CEO of British Rowing to present prizes. Also present was the Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Wendy Speck.

Record Times Set

University	Cambridge University Women's BC A	18:17.7
Senior	Imperial College BC A	18:36.2
School/Junior	Headington School Oxford BC A	19:15.9
Medium Club	Exeter RC A	20:07.9
Small Club	St Andrew BC	20:26.6

Provisional Pennant Winners

Head	Leander Club	18:13.1
2 nd , University	Cambridge University Women's BC A	18:17.7
3 rd , Senior	Imperial College BC A	18:36.2
Club	Molesey BC A	18:52.8
University Intermediate	Cambridge University Women's BC B	18:56.1
Overseas	Cus Milano Lombardia (ITA)	19:02.9
Intermediate	Tideway Scullers School A	19:04.1
School/Junior	Headington School Oxford BC A	19:15.9
Provincial Club	Cantabrigian RC A	19:18.8
Masters	RDG/MAR/CBR/SCP/WLT/LEA/UTC	19:57.8 (Raw), 19:25.8 (Handicap)
Medium Club	Exeter RC A	20:07.9
Novice (Academic)	Newcastle University BC D	20:10.1
Novice (Club), Small Club	St Andrew BC	20:26.6

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 2017 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 a prize for the Small Club pennant (winning crew received a Coxmate Audio) <https://www.rowperfect.co.uk/>
- Bewley's - providing coffee and chocolate for all winners

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