

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – 78th Race kicks off a bumper 3 days of Tideway Eights Races

On Saturday 10th March at 9:45am, the 78th Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. 319 crews will be crossing the start line to kick off a three day festival of Tideway Head Racing, with the men's Head of the River Race on the Sunday and the Schools' Head on Monday 12th March. This will mark the first occasion on which the men's and women's heads have shared the same weekend.

Leander Club start first having won the Head Pennant last year. Packed with current GB women's squad members including 2017 World Championship Silver Medallist Victoria Thornley, they'll be looking to defend their title this year after only just edging out the Cambridge women last year. With no GB Composite crew this year, there are senior and U23 internationals scattered across the top of the start order. Leander's main competition will likely be Imperial College, starting third with a stern pair of Olympic Silver Medallists Zoe Lee and Rebecca Scown.

Cambridge University will be aiming to win the University Pennant for the fourth year in succession with their crew looking strong again this year. London narrowly beat Edinburgh at the BUCS Head last weekend so it will be interesting to see if their form continues through to the WEHoRR. The University Intermediate Pennant has had its rules tightened this year to exclude crews containing internationals and Oxford & Cambridge Blues which should hopefully make for more competitive racing in that category.

The Senior Pennant looks hard to call, with a number of strong entrants, both from the worlds of university (including Oxford Brookes A, Cambridge B and Edinburgh A) and club rowing (Thames A and Nottingham A).

There are now a total of four pennants awarded to 'club' crews, namely, the Club, Small Club, Medium Club and Provincial Club pennants. Some of the highlights in these events may include Cantabrigian A, starting 14th and aiming to defend the Provincial Club title and Molesey A, starting 5th and Tideway Scullers School A, starting 10th contesting the Club Pennant.

Competition at Masters level has grown again this year with 27 crews contesting the Pennant. Wallingford RC A (starting 23rd) and Lea RC A (starting 33rd) both look strong, but will have to look out for the composites starting 58th and 69th, both of which contain athletes that have won the Masters Pennant before.

The field for the School/Junior Pennant is just over half the usual size at 14 entries, probably due to the proximity of the Schools' Head taking place only two days later. Headington A (13th) are entered in the Intermediate category, leaving their B crew, who start 45th, with the job of retaining the pennant this year. Henley Rowing Club, who start 17th, will be hoping to provide stiff opposition. The rest of the contenders are grouped together much further down the order from 241 onwards.

There will once again be a Victory Ceremony held after racing on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club (scheduled start time 2.00pm). The provisional results will be published online whilst the race is under way and this year we hope to also publish intermediate times to Barnes Bridge and Hammersmith Bridge, which we hope will be of interest to both competitors, coaches and 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 2018 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>

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

Official Victory Ceremony supporter Bewleys <https://www.bewleys.co.uk>

Detail WEHoRR 2018

Elite

- 1 Leander Club A
Bow: Anastasia Chitty
2: Rowan McKellar
3: Victoria Thornley
4: Harriet Taylor
5: Fiona Gammond
6: Emily Carmichael
7: Karen Bennett
Str: Holly Norton
Cox: Morgan Baynham-Williams
- 2 Cambridge University Women's BC A
- 3 Imperial College Boat Club A
Bow: Joanna Thom
2: Alexandra Stonehill
3: Maddalena Ardissino
4: Melanie Wilson
5: Georgia Francis
6: Rebecca Shorten
7: Rebecca Scown
Str: Zoë Lee
Cox: Christopher Au

- 4 University of London BC A
- 5 Molesey BC A

Senior

- 6 Oxford Brookes University BC A
- 7 Cambridge University Women's BC B
- 8 Edinburgh University BC A
- 15 Newcastle University BC A
- 18 Thames RC A

Intermediate

- 10 Tideway Scullers School A
- 13 Headington School Oxford BC A
- 14 Cantabrigian Rowing Club A

School/Junior

- 17 Henley RC C
- 45 Headington School BC B

Masters

- 23 Wallingford RC A
- 33 Lea RC A
- 58 QBC/TSS/KRC/LRC/MAA

Notable crews not racing

Oxford University Women's BC

Most number of crews

Clubs:

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

Universities:

Durham University, Exeter University, University of Bristol, University of London, University College London: 4 crews

Number of entries by classification

Elite	8	2%
Elite (excluding overseas)	3	1%
Senior	12	4%
Intermediate	185	58%
Novice all	67	21%
Novice academic	50	16%
Novice club	17	5%
Overseas	10	3%
Jnr/school	14	4%
Univ	36	11%
Univ Intermediate	62	19%
Univ & academic (total)	148	46%
Club	34	11%
Medium Club	26	8%
Small Club	18	6%
Provincial Club	45	14%
Masters	27	8%