

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – 79th Race features domestic and international crews

On Saturday 16th March at 11.30am, the 79th Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. Entries for this year stand at the full 320, with that total having been reached just prior to the entry deadline. The Status Pennants have been revamped for this year's race and the committee hopes that these will provide crews the opportunity to race others of a similar standard. As such, there is an opportunity for crews to write themselves into the history books as the first winners under the new rules.

Leander Club again lead the way having won the Head Pennant last year. Packed with current GB women's squad members including Rio Olympic Silver Medallist Karen Bennett, they'll be looking for their third successive win. There's no GB Composite crew this year, however Imperial College's top boat, starting third, is loaded with both current and past internationals, including double Olympic Gold Medallists Helen Glover and Heather Stanning who haven't been seen together in a boat since Rio. Both crews will need to watch out for the two Chinese National Squad crews which will be starting among the new entries. It's the first time the race has welcomed crews from as far afield as China and we hope that their appearance inspires other national teams to make the trip to row the distance.

Cambridge University (2nd) will be aiming to win the University Pennant for the fifth year in succession. They should be safe from Oxford Brookes (6th) having beaten them in private fixtures recently, but Edinburgh, starting 7th, were winners of the BUCS Head last weekend, so will be gunning to add a win on the Tideway to their achievements.

The Senior Pennant is one of the categories with an expanded field this year as a result of the rule changes. Featured in this category are some of the top club crews in the country, both from the Tideway (Tideway Scullers School A and Thames RC A), and further afield (Nottingham RC A and Cantabrigian RC A). The latter two crews will also be renewing their battle for the Provincial Club Pennant, where last year, Nottingham RC A won by the smallest of margins. Also of note is London RC as it has been some years since they have fielded a women's eight. As a result, they are with the new entries starting 68th, but are likely to move well up the order.

As part of the pennant review, the old Intermediate Pennant has been split into two new pennants, the Challenge Pennant and the Challenge Academic Pennant, hopefully offering both club and university crews good opportunities for racing and chances of coming away with medals.

The Club Pennant will likely feature crews such as Molesey BC A (4th) and Leander Club B (9th). In the Small Club category, St Andrew BC (57th) have dominated for the last couple of years. It's likely that this is the last year that they will qualify as a Small Club, and they face new competition from NCRA(36th). Medium Club is similarly hard to call – the highest place starter will be Tyne Amateur RC A (59th).

There are 32 Masters crews this year which must be one of the largest entries in the history of the Pennant. Tideway Scullers'/Quintin (70th) and Upper Thames/Strathclyde Park (77th) both contain past winners of the Master's Pennant, but the nature of the handicapping system means that racing is often particularly close in this category.

The School/Junior Pennant entries look especially competitive this year with four crews retaining their places from last year with a top 50 start position - Henley RC (14th), Headington School (22nd), Marlow RC (25th) and CUS Milano (28th) from Italy. This year we're also welcoming Enniskillen Royal BC from across the Irish Sea.

There will once again be a Victory Ceremony held after racing on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club (scheduled start time 3.45pm). The provisional results will be published online during the race and this year we hope to again publish intermediate times to Barnes Bridge and Hammersmith Bridge, which we hope will be of interest to competitors, coaches and spectators. Full crew lists will also be available on the live timing site.

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 2019 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>

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

Detail WEHoRR 2019

Elite

- 1 Leander Club A
Bow: Fiona Gammond
2: Katherine Douglas
3: Rowan McKellar
4: Emily Ashford
5: Josephine Wratten
6: Harriet Taylor
7: Karen Bennett
Str: Holly Norton
Cox: Morgan Baynham-Williams
- 2 Cambridge University Women's BC A
- 3 Imperial College Boat Club A
Bow: Holly Hill
2: Francesca Rawlins
3: Georgia Francis
4: Natalie Long
5: Anna Palmer
6: Heather Stanning
7: Helen Glover
Str: Rebecca Shorten
Cox: Henry Fieldman
- 4 Molesey BC A
- 5 University of London BC A
- 51 Chinese Rowing Federation, China A

Senior

- 10 Tideway Scullers School A
- 12 Thames Rowing Club A
- 13 Exeter University BC A
- 68 London Rowing Club A

Challenge & Challenge Academic

- 23 Tideway Scullers School B
- 31 Auriol Kensington RC A
- 32 Glasgow University BC A
- 33 Durham University BC B
- 38 Bath University BC A

School/Junior

- 14 Henley RC A
- 22 Headington School BC A
- 25 Marlow RC A
- 28 CUS Milano, Italy

Notable crews not racing

Oxford University Women's BC

Most number of crews

Clubs:

Vesta RC: 6 crews; Thames RC, Putney Town RC, Molesey BC: 5 crews

Universities:

Newcastle University, Cardiff University, Durham University, Edinburgh University: 4 crews

Number of entries by classification

Open	22	7%
Open (excluding overseas)	16	5%
Senior	31	10%
Challenge	87	27%
Beginner all	43	14%
Beginner academic	32	10%
Beginner club	13	4%
Overseas	10	3%
School/Junior	24	8%
Univ	21	7%
Challenge academic	77	24%
Univ & academic (total)	98	31%
Club	43	13%
Medium Club	29	9%
Small Club	14	4%
Provincial Club	49	54%
Masters	32	10%