

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



Imperial College take the honours in 73rd Women's Eights Head of the River Race

The 73rd running of the Women's Eights Head of the River, started by the new Chairman of British Rowing, Annamarie Phelps, featured both the largest ever entry (320 crews) and the largest number of finishers (302 crews). The forecast earlier in the week had been for rain, but it held off and despite thick cloud cover, the conditions were good for racing with only light winds. The large volume of rain over the winter meant for a strong stream and aided by a light cross-tailwind from Hammersmith home, crews succeeded in posting quick times, with seven course records falling.

Imperial College BC A, featuring two of Team GB from last summer's Olympics, lightweight double scull gold medallist Sophie Hosking and quadruple sculler Melanie Wilson, finished fastest overall in a time of 18:16.57, ten seconds off the course record set back in 2000 by a GB composite.

Following Imperial College home was a composite of Great Britain U23 rowers including some former World Junior Champions. The next seven places all took home Pennants in their various categories, including Cus Milano A with the Overseas Pennant in 4th and Nottingham RC A retaining the Provincial Club Pennant in 7th.

Headington School Oxford BC followed up their commanding victory at the School's Head two days previously by placing 14th overall, retaining the School/Junior Pennant and breaking the record previously held by rivals Lady Eleanor Holles BC since 2000.

Rivalry between Putney neighbours, Thames RC and Vesta RC, was hard fought down the course with their two top crews battling alongside Putney Embankment to loud cheers from supporters as the first two crews to cross the line, taking 6th and 3rd place respectively with the Senior and Club pennants.

Reading University won the University Pennant for the second year in a row, beating close rivals Durham University. These two were some distance ahead of the other contenders. Both Imperial College and Exeter University were ineligible for this Pennant as they fielded crews including non-students.

The Masters Pennant was hotly contested with winners Lea RC A finishing 18th, just one place and 4 seconds ahead of previous winners Barnes Bridge Ladies RC A. Both crews finished more than 15 seconds inside the previous record.

Both the Novice Club and Academic Pennants fields had been swelled by the number of people taking up rowing following the Olympics, and the extra competition inspired the winners in those categories, Lea RC C and Kings College London BC A respectively to some of the highest ever placings for Novice crews.

Record Times Set

Provincial Club	Nottingham RC A	18:57.54
School/Junior	Headington School Oxford	19:17.12
Masters	Lea RC A	19:23.42
Senior	Vesta RC	18:47.63
Intermediate 3	University of London BC A	19:07.92
Novice Club	Lea RC C	20:02.39
Novice Academic	Kings College London BC A	20:11.54

Provisional Pennant Winners

Head	Imperial College BC A	18:16.57
Club	Vesta RC A	18:47.63
Overseas	Cus Milano A	18:49.19
Senior	Thames RC A	18:50.97
Provincial Club	Nottingham RC A	18:57.54
Intermediate 2	Exeter University BC A	19:02.03
Intermediate 3	University of London BC A	19:07.92
Intermediate 1	Wallingford RC	19:11.89
University	Reading University BC	19:14.24
School/Junior	Headington School Oxford A	19:17.12
Masters	Lea RC A	19:23.42
Novice Club	Lea RC C	20:02.39
Novice Academic	Kings College London BC A	20:11.54
HM Forces	Army RC	20:30.26

The prizes will be presented on Thursday 21st March at Mortlake, Anglian & Alpha Rowing Club.

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

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Official Race photographer for 2013 Jet Photographic <http://www.jetphotographic.com/>