

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



Records tumble in 74th Women's Eights Head of the River Race

The 74th Women's Eights Head of the River Race saw seven of 13 records fall. The record rainfall this winter, and the consequent unprecedented red-flagging of the Tideway, had meant that the Organising Committee had been forced to plan for the potential cancellation of the race. Fortunately, a period of drier weather allowed the flow to return to safe levels, although still strong, and combined with warm weather and a helpful tailwind provided fast conditions.

The overall title was taken this year by a British Squad composite crew, featuring two Gold Medallists from London 2012, Helen Glover and Heather Stanning, and Bronze Medal winning cox, Phelan Hill. They won the title by more than 10 seconds from Leander Club, who were also a crew entirely composed of current GB internationals. Competition to place in the top 10 was strong this year, with high finish spots being occupied by GB U23 and French national team composite crews, one of the latter taking the Overseas Pennant and finishing in third overall.

Imperial College had set off in pole position as the first crew across the start line, and were able to win the Senior Pennant in a new record time. Intermediate 1 was won by a composite from Molesey BC and Putney Town RC.

Newcastle University showed the strength of their programme by claiming both of the Pennants available to University crews: the University Pennant with their A crew and the Novice Academic Pennant with their C crew, setting the records for both categories in the process.

The Masters category had two areas of interest this year. The pennant was taken by an all-star crew of multiple former international rowers, including London 2012 Gold Medallists Katherine Grainger and Anna Watkins. Further down the order was a Masters F composite that included Pauline Rayner, marking the 60th anniversary since she first competed in the WEHoRR. Once handicaps had been applied, this crew placed second in the Masters category.

The Intermediate 2 Pennant was retained by Exeter University BC A, having won it in 2013, while Thames RC took back the Club Pennant, and finished with four crews inside the top 50. For the third year running, the Provincial Club Pennant was won by Nottingham RC A.

Intermediate 3, School/Junior and Novice all featured reduced fields this year, due to safety concerns in the run up to the race. Headington School BC A won the School/Junior event for the third year in succession, narrowly missing out on their own record, set last year. Intermediate 3 went to Oxford Brookes University BC, with Henley RC C claiming the Novice Club Pennant.

In a new feature for this year, unprecedented in any of the Tideway Head Races, a Victory Ceremony was held on the same evening as the race outside Thames Rowing Club. At least one crew had made a hasty getaway, and had to turn back in order to be at the ceremony. Prizes were presented by race co-ordinator and Olympic Silver Medallist, Guin Batten on a specially constructed stage, with announcement from the "Voice of Rowing", Robert Treharne-Jones.

Record Times Set

Head	Army RC/Gloucester RC/Imperial College BC/London RC/Minerva-Bath RC/Oxford Brookes University BC/Tees RC	17:42.21
Overseas	Aviron Grenoble/C Aviron Nante/ Gerardmer AS Rowing/Lagny SN/Societe d'Encouragement du Sport Nautique (FRA)	18:20.55
Senior	Imperial College BC A	18:39.66
University	Newcastle University BC A	19:02.36
Masters	Clydesdale ARC/Molesey BC/Leander Club/Marlow RC/Tideway Scullers School/Thames RC [raw time]	19:02.42
Novice Club	Henley RC C	19:48.19
Novice Academic	Newcastle University BC C	20:01.84

Provisional Pennant Winners

Head	Army RC/Gloucester RC/Imperial College BC/London RC/Minerva-Bath RC/Oxford Brookes University BC/Tees RC	17:42.21
Overseas	Aviron Grenoble/C Aviron Nante/ Gerardmer AS Rowing/Lagny SN/Societe d'Encouragement du Sport Nautique (FRA)	18:20.55
Senior	Imperial College BC A	18:39.66
Intermediate 1	Molesey BC/Putney Town RC	18:54.26
University	Newcastle University BC A	19:02.36
Masters	Clydesdale ARC/Molesey BC/Leander Club/Marlow RC/Tideway Scullers School/Thames RC	19:02.42
Intermediate 2	Exeter University BC A	19:07.05
Club	Thames RC A	19:08.25
Provincial Club	Nottingham RC A	19:13.84
Intermediate 3	Oxford Brookes University BC	19:14.79
School/Junior	Headington School BC A	19:22.25
Novice Club	Henley RC C	19:48.19
Novice Academic	Newcastle University BC C	20:01.84

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

For more information please contact press officer: Sarah Harbour, 07812 990 760 press@wehorr.org

Official Race photographer for 2014 Jet Photographic <http://www.jetphotographic.com/>

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