

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – Entries close early for 83rd Race

On Saturday 4th March at 2:45pm, the 83rd Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. Entries for this year stand at 320 and closed one day early with some 15 crews missing out. This was the earliest that entries have closed for any WEHoRR, where capacity has been 320, and is evidence of the increasing popularity of women's rowing nationally.

Leander Club start first with a crew containing GB squad athletes, including Rio Olympic Silver Medallist Karen Bennett and current W4- World Champions Rowan McKellar and Heidi Long, but will face stiff opposition from a GB squad composite of scullers, including World Champion Imogen Grant, and members of the GB W4x who claimed World Championship Bronze in 2022, who lead off the new entrants starting 51st.

With international travel gradually returning to normal, there has been a pleasing increase in the number of overseas crews entering, with entries from Ireland, France, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany, spread across student, open and masters categories. Galway NUI BC A (21st) return this year to defend the pennant that they won last year.

Cambridge are back this year after missing 2022 and will be aiming to regain the University Pennant they held for the previous 4 contested races. It's the first time since 2012 that both Oxford and Cambridge have entered, so should be a good gauge for their upcoming Boat Race. With no fewer than five University crews starting in the top 10 however, Oxford Brookes, London (who won the Pennant last year), Edinburgh, Newcastle and Durham, who won the BUCS Head a week ago, will provide some strong competition.

The Senior Pennant has a slightly larger field this year with 54 entries. The high starting Senior crews are roughly evenly split between clubs and universities and it will be interesting to see which gains the upper hand. Cantabrigian RC A (23rd) will be looking to extend their run in the Provincial Club Pennant.

The Club Pennant looks likely to be a competition between Thames RC A (3rd) and Leander Club B (4th). Both clubs are showing strength in depth with the number of crews they are entering, and being adjacent in the start order will give them a good opportunity to measure against each other along the course. London RC (starting 22nd) look to be strong contenders for the Medium Club Pennant again this year, while the Small Club Pennant appears to be wide open with last year's winners not on the start list.

There are 27 Masters crews this year stretching from Masters B through to Masters F. The oldest competitor is an 85 year old cox who is now a stalwart of the Women's Head. The oldest rower will be 75.

Junior rowing is going from strength to strength with no fewer than six crews starting in the top 50 this year. Top contenders will be Henley RC A (16th) who will be aiming for their third successive win, and Headington School who start just 4 places behind them. The rest of the School/Junior category start at 250th.

There will once again be a Victory Ceremony held after racing on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club (scheduled start time 7pm). Prizes will be presented by New Zealand Olympic Gold Medallist, Grace Prendergast. It will be compered by the Olympic and Paralympic commentator, Camilla Hadland-Horrocks. The provisional results will be published online during the race and we also aim to again publish intermediate times to Barnes Bridge and Hammersmith Bridge, which we hope will be of interest to 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 2023 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>

Official Supplier of WEHoRR Merchandise Crewroom <https://www.crewroom.co.uk/>

Detail WEHoRR 2023

Open

- 1 Leander Club A
Bow: Karen Bennett
2: Chloe Brew
3: Emily Ford
4: Lauren Irwin
5: Annie Campbell-Orde
6: Esme Booth
7: Rowan McKellar
Str: Heidi Long
Cox: Morgan Baynham-Williams
- 51 Leander/Cambridge Uni/Tideway
Scullers/Edinburgh Uni/Molesey
Bow: Jessica Leyden
2: Imogen Grant
3: Kyra Edwards
4: Saskia Budgett
5: Hannah Scott
6: Meg Saunders
7: Lucy Glover
Str: Lola Anderson
Cox: Sasha Adwani

Senior

- 2 Oxford Brookes University BC A
3 Thames RC A
6 Edinburgh University BC A

University

- 2 Oxford Brookes University BC A
5 University of London BC A
6 Edinburgh University BC A
8 Newcastle University BC A
9 Durham University BC A
13 Oxford University Women's BC A
54 Cambridge University BC A

School/Junior

- 16 Henley RC A
20 Headington School BC A

Most number of crews

Clubs:

Cantabrigian RC, Marlow RC, Thames RC: 6 crews;
Henley RC, Putney Town RC, Twickenham RC, Vesta RC: 5 crews

Universities:

Edinburgh University, Newcastle University, Oxford Brookes University: 5 crews

Number of entries by classification

Open	22	7%
Open (excluding overseas)	16	5%
Senior	54	17%
Challenge	92	29%
Beginner all	31	10%
Beginner academic	23	7%
Beginner club	8	3%
Overseas	9	3%
School/Junior	46	14%
Univ	35	11%
Challenge academic	48	15%
Univ & academic (total)	106	33%
Club	54	17%
Medium Club	34	11%
Small Club	10	3%
Provincial Club	59	18%
Masters	27	9%