

# Women's Eights Head of the River Race

## Press Release



### 83rd Women's Eights Head of the River Race

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The water was calm with little wind for the 83<sup>rd</sup> race, making it perfect racing conditions despite volunteers and competitors needing to wrap up warm for the cold air temperatures. From the 320 entries on the start list, 307 crossed the start line, with 298 placing for a result. A late start of 2.45pm and cloudy conditions meant some of the last finishing crews needed lights to row home after the race.

For the second year in a row, Leander Club A filled with current GB squad athletes retained the Head Pennant, followed by Leander B by only 9 seconds, who took the honours in the Club pennant. The latter featuring athletes on the periphery of the national squad. Oxford Brookes University BC A put in a strong showing to round out the top three, with wins in both Senior and University categories only another 9 seconds back. All three finished ahead of the GB scullers composite.

The Overseas field was back to its usual size this year, however NUI Galway BC A successfully defended the title they won last year, finishing in 27<sup>th</sup> place ahead of their B crew who narrowly missed out on a top 50 finishing position.

The Provincial Club Pennant went to a new winner this year with Tyne Amateur RC A taking the honours by finishing in 30<sup>th</sup> place ahead of City of Bristol RC A (33<sup>rd</sup>) and Cantabrigian RC (34<sup>th</sup>).

Headington School Oxford BC A (20<sup>th</sup>) regained the School/Junior Pennant that they last held in 2017. They were closely followed by Henley RC A (22<sup>nd</sup>) and Wycliffe Junior RC (24<sup>th</sup>) with their first ever entry. There were eight School/Junior crews finishing in the top 50, which is the highest number in recent history, showing the continuing growth of strength of junior women's rowing on the UK domestic circuit.

The results for the remaining pennants were as follows: Challenge – Thames RC D (28<sup>th</sup>), Challenge Academic – Cardiff University BC A (55<sup>th</sup>), Beginner Academic – Edinburgh University BC C (68<sup>th</sup>), Masters – Wallingford RC A (141<sup>st</sup>), Beginner – Trinity College BC/Lady Margaret Hall BC (222<sup>nd</sup>).

The Medium and Small Club Pennants went to London RC A (21<sup>st</sup>) and Clydesdale Amateur Rowing Club A (109<sup>th</sup>) respectively. London's win was the second year in a row for them, but this was a first win in this category for Clydesdale returning the pennant north of the border, and continuing a 'tradition' of it being won by a variety of different clubs.

Prizes were presented at a Victory Ceremony on the Putney Embankment in front of Thames Rowing Club by Tokyo Olympic Champion Grace Prendergast of New Zealand, with World Rowing Commentator Camilla Hadland-Horrocks compering the proceedings. Guin Batten announced that this was her last race as Race Co-ordinator after leading the organising committee since 2010.

## Pennant Winners

Head	Leander Club A	18:38.1
2 <sup>nd</sup> , Club	Leander Club B	18:46.7
3 <sup>rd</sup> , Senior, University	Oxford Brookes University Boat Club A	18:55.0
School/Junior	Headington School Oxford Boat Club A	19:59.1
Medium Club	University of London BC A	19:59.7
Overseas	NUI Galway BC, Ireland A	20:10.9
Challenge	Thames Rowing Club D	20:12.7
Provincial Club	Tyne Amateur Rowing Club A	20:20.9
Challenge Academic	Cardiff University BC A	20:56.9
Beginner Academic	Edinburgh University BC C	21:06.0
Small Club	Clydesdale Amateur RC A	21:41.0
Provincial Club	Cantabrigian RC A	21:30.2
Masters	Wallingford RC	22:01.7 (Raw) 20:03.7 (Handicap)
Beginner	Trinity College BC/Lady Margaret Hall BC	23:15.7

For the website and past results visit [www.wehorr.org](http://www.wehorr.org)

For more information please contact press officer: Sarah Harbour, [press@wehorr.org](mailto:press@wehorr.org)

Official Race photographer for 2023 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>

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