

# Women's Eights Head of the River Race

## Press Release



### **WEHoRR – Entries close even earlier than last year for 86<sup>th</sup> Race**

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The 86<sup>th</sup> Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 12.15pm. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, entries flooded in from the start with half of the places taken within the first 24 hours. The race reached capacity just under three weeks before close of entries which meant that a waiting list was used for the second year running. This is even earlier than last year's record, setting a new milestone in the event's history.

Once again, Leander Club field a complete crew of current GB squad athletes in their top crew making them the stand out favourites to take the Head Pennant for the seventh race in succession. This year they will also be contesting the Club Pennant.

Thames RC A starting 2<sup>nd</sup> and last year's Club pennant winners Molesey BC A starting two places behind them will be battling it out to show which club has the fastest crew on the domestic circuit. Both crews contain athletes with GB pedigree. Leander Club B (7<sup>th</sup>) and Leander Club C (8<sup>th</sup>) containing athletes who performed strongly at Hammersmith Head recently, could provide an upset. The club with the most entries switches to Vesta RC this year.

St Andrew BC A (64<sup>th</sup>) are the highest starting Medium sized club and will be aiming to defend the title they won last year. Derby RC A (69<sup>th</sup>) will be aiming to repeat their win in the Small Club Pennant, with Itchen Imperial RC A (95<sup>th</sup>) and Hereford RC A (96<sup>th</sup>) their closest starting opposition. The result of the Provincial Pennant was tight last year, and winners Nottingham RC A (30<sup>th</sup>) will have their challengers, City of Cambridge RC A, starting right behind them.

Cambridge University (3<sup>rd</sup>) will be looking for their third University Pennant in a row. Newcastle University (12<sup>th</sup>) Edinburgh University (14<sup>th</sup>) and Durham University (17<sup>th</sup>) were the fastest three at BUCS Head, whether Edinburgh's win there will translate to the Tideway remains to be seen.

The Senior Pennant has had a 40% increase in size this year with 73 entries. There continues to be an even split between clubs and universities amongst the highest starting Senior crews.

The Masters field of 39 crews hasn't quite matched last year's bumper field of 41, but still represents 12% of the entry size. They encompass nearly the full range of age groups, stretching from B through to G. The oldest competitor is 75. The field starts from place 104.

Six Junior crews start in the top 50 this year, Headington School A lead off from (27<sup>th</sup>) followed by Henley RC A (37<sup>th</sup>) and Lady Eleanor Holles BC A (41<sup>st</sup>). The rest of the 34 crew School/Junior field start at 276.

The Overseas Pennant has 6 entries this year, with crews from France, Ireland, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands. Last year's winners are not back to defend the title, which leaves the Pennant competition wide open.

The Victory Ceremony for Pennant winners will again be held on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club after racing (scheduled start time 4.30pm). Prizes will be presented by two-time GB Olympian Chloe Brew and once again we welcome back the Olympic and Paralympic commentator, Camilla Hadland-Horrocks as MC for the afternoon. The provisional times 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](http://www.wehorr.org)**

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

**Official Race photographer for 2026 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>**

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

# Detail WEHoRR 2026

## Open

- 1 Leander Club A
- 2 Thames RC A
- 3 Cambridge University BC A
- 4 Molesey BC A
- 5 Oxford Brookes University BC A

## Senior

- 6 Thames Rowing Club B
- 12 Newcastle University BC A
- 13 London Rowing Club A

## University

- 3 Cambridge University BC A
- 12 Newcastle University BC A
- 14 Edinburgh University BC A
- 17 Durham University BC A

## School/Junior

- 27 Headington School Oxford BC A
- 37 Henley RC A
- 41 Lady Eleanor Holles BC A

## Most number of crews

### *Clubs:*

Vesta RC: 8 crews; Marlow RC, Molesey BC, Thames RC: 6 crews

### *Universities:*

Oxford Brookes, Newcastle: 5 crews

## Number of entries by classification

<b>Open</b>	26	10%
<b>Open (excluding overseas)</b>	20	6%
<b>Senior</b>	73	22%
<b>Challenge</b>	130	40%
<b>Beginner all</b>	25	8%
<b>Beginner academic</b>	18	6%
<b>Beginner club</b>	7	2%
<b>Overseas</b>	6	2%
<b>School/Junior</b>	34	10%
<b>Univ</b>	34	10%
<b>Challenge academic</b>	62	19%
<b>Univ &amp; academic (total)</b>	96	29%
<b>Club</b>	79	24%
<b>Medium Club</b>	21	6%
<b>Small Club</b>	22	7%
<b>Provincial Club</b>	60	18%
<b>Masters</b>	39	12%