

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – Record entry for 73rd race

The Women's Eights Head has received a total of 320 entries, far exceeding the previous record entry of 303, set in 2011, and hitting the upper limit for total entries that the event can accommodate. Numbers have been particularly swelled by an influx of novice club crews, presumably inspired by the events of last summer's Olympics.

On Saturday 9th March at 2:30pm, 2,880 competitors (including 70 male coxes) will be led off by Thames Rowing Club to race the 4 miles 374 yard course. Thames will be aiming to defend the Headship Pennant they won in 2012. The absence of the GB Rowing squad who are in Australia for the first World Cup Regatta must surely auger well for their objective.

A change in the procedure for the draw this year, based on competitor feedback, means that only the top 55 finishers from the 2012 race retain their starting position, with the remaining crews started by status category.

The absence this year of both Oxford and Cambridge should give Newcastle starting 8th a good chance of winning the University Pennant after their strong performance behind Cambridge at the BUCS Head. Durham will be determined not to let their North East rivals get away with the prize, starting one place ahead in 7th. Imperial College also look to be a contender but will start among the new entries in 57th place directly behind the GB Junior Composite who should give them a good race.

The number of head race cancellations means the form guide is somewhat bare for both the Provincial Club and Club pennants. Wallingford RC, starting 5th can probably be expected to challenge for top honours as they feature several of the club's top lightweight scullers. Upper Thames RC, starting 11th as the highest domestic elite crew will feature former World Championship gold medallist Naomi Ashcroft.

17 overseas crews have entered, including Uppsala University, Sweden, with RC Belvoir Zurich starting in 2nd and looking to defend the Overseas Pennant they won last year and challenge Thames for the overall prize. This year there are entries from six overseas countries, with the largest volume of entries coming from Germany (5 crews), Switzerland (4 crews) and Italy (4 crews).

With last year's winner of the Jackie Darling Cup (Masters Pennant) not competing in 2013, the field is open for a new winner. Hot contenders for this prize are likely to include York City RC and Barnes Bridge Ladies RC, the latter starting 10th and having won the pennant several times in recent years. The oldest competitor this year, as he also was in 2012, will be 74-year-old cox, Paddy Davison from City of Bristol RC.

Chair of the race committee, Guin Batten, comments, "the athletes have all been training hard over the winter, but it's only once the race gets underway that they will get the answers to questions such as 'did I do enough training?' and 'could I have done any more?'. Each rower will have their private doubts, but together the 'strength of will' and 'power of one' will help each rower to be proud and race strong."

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

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

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

Detail WEHoRR 2013

Elite

2 RC Belvoir Zurich A

*B: Jenny Weinkopf
2: Ulrike Lohmann
3: Xenia Klaus
4: Gessica Gambaro
5: Regina Derrer
6: Anja Odermatt
7: Stéphanie Lindner
S: Miriam Hoener
C: Irene Forzoni*

11 Upper Thames RC A

56 Agecroft RC, Grange School (Hartford) RC,
Hollingworth Lake RC, Northwich RC, Reading
RC, Tees RC (*Junior composite*)

57 Imperial College BC A

Senior

1 Thames RC A

*B: Sarah Jones
2: Sophie Slaney
3: Charley Phillips
4: Donna Etiebet
5: Carrie Thomas
6: Barbara O'Brien
7: Emma Windham
S: Helen Austin
C: Hannah Burke*

3 Vesta RC A

4 Nottingham RC A

7 Durham University BC A

8 Newcastle University BC A

Intermediate 1

5 Wallingford RC

9 Molesey BC A

12 Vesta RC B

20 Thames RC B

Intermediate 2

16 Edinburgh University BC A

17 City of Bristol RC A

19 Vesta RC C

21 City of Oxford RC A

Masters

10 Barnes Bridge Ladies RC A

36 York City RC A

47 Lea RC A

Notable crews not racing

Cambridge University Women's BC
Leander Club
Osiris BC

Most number of crews

Clubs:

Thames RC: 9 crews

Universities:

Cardiff University BC: 6 crews

Number of entries by classification

Elite	18	6%
Elite (excluding overseas)	4	1%
Senior	7	2%
Intermediate 1	9	3%
Intermediate 2	30	9%
Intermediate 3	120	38%
Novice all	98	31%
Novice academic	58	18%
Novice club	40	13%
Overseas	17	5%
Jnr/school	20	6%
Univ	55	17%
Univ & academic	113	35%
Club	83	26%
Provincial Club	47	15%
Masters	18	6%