

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – 80th Race features new Pennant categories

On Saturday 7th March at 2.30pm, the 80th Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. Entries for this year stand just shy of a full draw at 318. The Status Pennants were revamped for last year's cancelled race so there is still the opportunity for crews to write themselves into the history books as the first winners under the new rules. The winter head race season so far has been heavily disrupted by wet and windy weather and flooding, meaning that there have been relatively few opportunities for crews to show their form in advance.

With no race taking place in 2019, the start order has been based on the results of the 2018 race with Leander Club leading the way being the last winners of the Head Pennant. All of their crew have represented Great Britain at either U23 or Senior level, so must be hot favourites to retain the title. For the 2nd year in a row there's been no entry from a GB Composite crew. The City of Oxford College crew (starting 51st) are composed of Chinese athletes, including some who competed at the World Juniors in 2019, as part of a programme run by Sir Steve Redgrave in his capacity as Performance Director of the Chinese Rowing Federation.

Cambridge University (2nd) will be aiming to win the University Pennant for their fifth consecutive time. Imperial College (3rd) and University of London (5th) will be hot on their stern both fielding fully student crews for the first time in several years. Although Oxford Brookes A crew are racing, they will not be contesting the University Pennant. Newcastle (11th) and Edinburgh (7th) Universities showed good speed at the recent BUCS Head and will be eager to show their form against the Universities that weren't present for BUCS. Oxford University are among the new starters (52nd) having not raced at the Women's Head since 2012, and will be wanting to test their speed ahead of the Boat Race in a few weeks' time.

The Senior Pennant is one of the categories with an expanded field this year as a result of the rule changes. It will be interesting to see how this enlarged field plays out with Thames RC A (12th) looking to be up against some high-quality student opposition. Nottingham RC A (19th) and Cantabrigian RC A (20th) will also be renewing their battle for the Provincial Club Pennant, where two years ago, Nottingham RC A won by the smallest of margins.

As part of the pennant review last year, the old Intermediate Pennant has been split into two new pennants, the Challenge Pennant and the Challenge Academic Pennant, hopefully offering both club and university crews good opportunities for racing and chances of coming away with medals.

The Club Pennant will likely feature crews such as Molesey BC A (4th), Leander Club B (9th) and Tideway Scullers School A (10th). In the Small Club category, St Andrew BC (58th) have dominated for the last couple of years. It's likely that this is the last year that they will qualify as a Small Club, and they face new competition from NCRA (37th). The highest placed starter in Medium Club is London Rowing Club (54th).

There are 37 Masters crews this year which must be one of the largest entries in the history of the Pennant. We also have three of those retaining places in the top 50, with Lea RC A starting 40th, Upper Thames RC 45th and Wallingford RC 47th.

The School/Junior Pennant entries look especially competitive this year with six crews starting in the top 50 - Henley RC (14th), Headington School (22nd), Marlow RC (25th), CUS Milano (28th) from Italy, Henley RC B (43rd) and Lea RC (48th). The rest of the field start at 250 with Lady Eleanor Holles A leading the charge.

There will once again be a Victory Ceremony held after racing on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club (scheduled start time 6.45pm). The provisional results will be published online during the race and this year we 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 2020 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>

Official Supplier of WEHoRR Merchandise Rock the Boat <http://www.rock-the-boat.co.uk/>

Detail WEHoRR 2020

Open

- 1 Leander Club A
Bow: Natasha Harris-White
2: Alice Baatz
3: Heidi Long
4: Alice Davies
5: Lauren Irwin
6: Chloe Brew
7: Rebecca Edwards
Str: Susannah Dear
Cox: Morgan Baynham-Williams
- 2 Cambridge University Women's BC A
- 4 Molesey BC A
- 5 University of London BC A
- 51 City of Oxford College
Bow: Yihui Wu
2: Zhunou Pan
3: Jiayi Wen
4: Jianan Chen
5: Yanrong Wang
6: Peixin Zhang
7: Ning Sun
Str: Hairong Zhang
Cox: Philippa Lloyd

Senior

- 3 Imperial College BC A
- 12 Thames Rowing Club A
- 13 Exeter University BC A

Challenge & Challenge Academic

- 27 Oxford Brookes University BC C
- 31 University of London BC C
- 32 Auriol Kensington RC A
- 33 Glasgow University BC A
- 35 Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC

School/Junior

- 14 Henley RC A
- 22 Headington School BC A
- 25 Marlow RC A
- 28 CUS Milano, Italy

Notable crews not racing

GB Squad

Most number of crews

Clubs:

Lea RC, Thames RC: 6 crews; Cantabrigian RC, Vesta RC: 5 crews

Universities:

Newcastle University: 5 crews; Durham University, Exeter University, Edinburgh University, Nottingham University, Cardiff University: 4 crews

Number of entries by classification

Open	34	11%
Open (excluding overseas)	30	10%
Senior	44	14%
Challenge	61	19%
Beginner all	41	13%
Beginner academic	30	9%
Beginner club	12	4%
Overseas	11	3%
School/Junior	34	11%
Univ	28	9%
Challenge academic	67	21%
Univ & academic (total)	125	39%
Club	41	13%
Medium Club	25	8%
Small Club	17	5%
Provincial Club	51	16%
Masters	37	12%