

# Women's Eights Head of the River Race

## Press Release



### WEHoRR – 82<sup>nd</sup> Race Back after a three year gap

---

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. Entries for this year stand at 301, with fears that the last couple of years would have reduced the size of the field proving unfounded, with the exception of Overseas entries. The Status Pennants were revamped for 2019's cancelled race, and with no race in the intervening years, there is still the opportunity for crews to write themselves into the history books as the first winners under the new rules.

With no race taking place since 2018, the start order has been based on the results of that race with Leander Club leading the way being the last winners of the Head Pennant. Unlike some years, there is no senior or U23 GB composite crew entered. Experienced eyes will recognise the composite starting 80<sup>th</sup> at the head of the Masters group as the Great Britain Olympic Eight from the Rio Olympics (with Helen Glover subbing).

With Cambridge University not defending the University Pennant this year, the battle will likely be between Imperial College (2<sup>nd</sup>), University of London (3<sup>rd</sup>), Edinburgh University (5<sup>th</sup>) and Oxford University (51<sup>st</sup>), the last of whom are making their first appearance since 2012. Edinburgh University showed their pedigree by winning the BUCS Head, but will they be able to stay ahead of their rivals? Although Oxford Brookes A crew are racing, they will not be contesting the University Pennant.

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 (12<sup>th</sup>) looking to be up against some high-quality student opposition. Nottingham RC A (16<sup>th</sup>) and Cantabrigian RC A (17<sup>th</sup>) will also be renewing their battle for the Provincial Club Pennant. This season, they both separately beaten most of their major rivals, but are yet to race each other directly.

As part of the recent pennant review, 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 be a battle between Leader Club B (6<sup>th</sup>), Tideway Scullers School A (7<sup>th</sup>) and Thames RC A (9<sup>th</sup>). St Andrew BC (55<sup>th</sup>) have dominated the Small Club pennant for the last couple of races, but have now accumulated enough entries to move them into the Medium Club category. It will be interesting to see both how they perform against the larger clubs, but also who steps up to take their place in Small Club. Castle Sempole RC make their debut in the Small Club category this year. The highest placed starter in Medium Club is Wallingford RC (42<sup>nd</sup>).

There are 26 Masters crews this year stretching from Masters B through to Masters F. The oldest competitor is an 84 year old cox. The oldest rower will be 74.

The School/Junior Pennant entries look especially competitive this year with five crews starting in the top 50 - Henley RC A (11<sup>th</sup>), Headington School A (18<sup>th</sup>), Henley RC B (38<sup>th</sup>), Sir William Perkins School (48<sup>th</sup>) and Headington School B (49<sup>th</sup>). The rest of the field start at 243 with Henley RC C leading the charge.

There will once again be a Victory Ceremony held after racing on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club (scheduled start time 3.45pm). World Rowing commentator, Camilla Hadland, will be comparing the ceremony and prizes will be presented by Rio Olympic Silver Medallist, Jess Eddie. 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](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 2022 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>**

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

# Detail WEHoRR 2022

## Open

- 1 Leander Club A
- 3 University of London BC A
- 4 Oxford Brookes University BC A
- 5 Newcastle University BC A
- 9 Thames RC A
- 51 Oxford University Women's BC A

## Senior

- 2 Imperial College BC A
- 5 Edinburgh University BC A
- 7 Tideway Scullers School A

## Challenge & Challenge Academic

- 10 Exeter University BC A
- 14 Newcastle University BC B
- 24 Imperial College BC B
- 28 Auriol Kensington RC A
- 32 Agecroft RC A

## School/Junior

- 11 Henley RC A
- 18 Headington School BC A
- 38 Henley RC B
- 48 Sir William Perkins's School RC A

## Masters

- 80 London/Wallingford/Tyrian/Leander/Edinburgh Uni/Marlow/1927/Oxford Uni Lightweight

*Bow: Katie Greves*

*2: Melanie Wilson*

*3: Frances Houghton*

*4: Polly Swann*

*5: Helen Glover*

*6: Jessica Eddie*

*7: Karen Bennett*

*Str: Zoë Lee*

*Cox: Zoe De Toledo*

## Notable crews not racing

GB Squad, Cambridge University BC

## Most number of crews

### *Clubs:*

Thames RC, Tideway Scullers School, Vesta RC: 6 crews; Marlow RC, Putney Town RC, Twickenham RC: 5 crews

### *Universities:*

Imperial College BC, Newcastle University, Nottingham University, Oxford Brookes University, University College London, University of York: 4 crews

## Number of entries by classification

|                                    |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Open</b>                        | 18  | 6%  |
| <b>Open (excluding overseas)</b>   | 15  | 5%  |
| <b>Senior</b>                      | 51  | 17% |
| <b>Challenge</b>                   | 80  | 27% |
| <b>Beginner all</b>                | 40  | 13% |
| <b>Beginner academic</b>           | 31  | 10% |
| <b>Beginner club</b>               | 9   | 3%  |
| <b>Overseas</b>                    | 3   | 1%  |
| <b>School/Junior</b>               | 23  | 8%  |
| <b>Univ</b>                        | 24  | 8%  |
| <b>Challenge academic</b>          | 63  | 21% |
| <b>Univ &amp; academic (total)</b> | 118 | 39% |
| <b>Club</b>                        | 58  | 19% |
| <b>Medium Club</b>                 | 30  | 10% |
| <b>Small Club</b>                  | 22  | 7%  |
| <b>Provincial Club</b>             | 59  | 20% |
| <b>Masters</b>                     | 26  | 9%  |