

# Women's Eights Head of the River Race

## Press Release



### **WEHoRR – Earliest close of entries in the event history for 84<sup>th</sup> Race**

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On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm, the 84<sup>th</sup> Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. Entries had to be suspended with over a week to go until the close of entries due to demand for a place to race. This is the earliest this has happened in the event's history and bodes well for the state of domestic women's rowing.

Leander Club start first with a crew containing current GB squad athletes and must surely be favourites for the Head Pennant with the absence of a national squad composite crew this year. Oxford Brookes University BC A starting two places behind them, contains Irish International Claire Feerick, with GB International Saskia Budgett rowing with University of London (4<sup>th</sup>). Beijing Olympic Silver Medallist Annie Vernon makes a return to the race this year in a Castle Dore/Dart Totnes composite starting 53<sup>rd</sup>.

There are only 5 crews entered in the Overseas Pennant this year, with last year's winners not returning to defend their title. The competitors hail from Ireland, Sweden, Germany, and Spain with the Dublin based composite starting in 85<sup>th</sup>.

Cambridge University (8<sup>th</sup>) are the highest starting competitor for the University Pennant and will be looking to show their dominance on the Championship Course ahead of the Boat Race later this month, but will face a challenge from the other contenders behind them, in particular Durham University (11<sup>th</sup>) who dominated the BUCS Head a couple of weeks ago.

The Senior Pennant has grown again this year with 57 entries. Again, there is a roughly even split between clubs and universities in the highest starting Senior crews. Tyne Amateur RC (27<sup>th</sup>) took the Provincial Pennant last year and will be looking for a repeat win ahead of a tight band of challengers: City of Bristol (30<sup>th</sup>), Cantabrigian (31<sup>st</sup>), Nottingham RC (33<sup>rd</sup>) and Agecroft RC (35<sup>th</sup>).

Leander Club B (2<sup>nd</sup>) will be looking to defend the Club Pennant from Thames RC A starting in 5<sup>th</sup>, the latter club showing incredible strength in depth fielding no fewer than seven crews. London RC (starting 20<sup>th</sup>) look to be a strong prospect for their last shot at the Medium Club Pennant. The Small Club Pennant will not be defended by last year's winners, with Derby RC (59<sup>th</sup>) and Nottinghamshire County RA (80<sup>th</sup>) the highest starting contenders.

The Masters field is 34 crews strong this year, representing over 10% of the entries. They encompass nearly the full range of age groups, stretching from A through to G. The oldest competitors are an 86 year old cox and a 76 year old rower, the former checking in with us every year to ensure he retains the accolade!

Junior rowing continues to go from strength to strength with an increase to seven crews starting in the top 50 this year. Headington School will be leading the charge from (19<sup>th</sup>) closely followed by Henley RC (21<sup>st</sup>). Shiplake College (38<sup>th</sup>) lead off the other junior crews in the top 50, with the Scottish Argonauts starting two places behind them. The bulk of the School/Junior category start at 254<sup>th</sup>.

The Victory Ceremony for Pennant winners will be held after racing on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club (scheduled start time 7:45pm). Prizes will be presented by Olympian Annamarie Phelps CBE, President of European Rowing and we are welcoming back Camilla Hadland-Horrocks, the Olympic and Paralympic commentator, as compere for the evening. 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 2024 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>**

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

# Detail WEHoRR 2024

## Open

- 1 Leander Club A  
*Bow: Philippa Emery*  
*2: Charlotte Fennell*  
*3: Natasha Morris*  
*4: Daisy Bellamy*  
*5: Phoebe Snowdon*  
*6: Juliette Perry*  
*7: Amelia Standing*  
*Str: Abigail Topp*  
*Cox: Henry Fieldman*
- 3 Oxford Brookes University BC A  
*Bow: Jasmine Bowers*  
*2: Beth Dutton*  
*3: Ariana Forde*  
*4: Jenny Bates*  
*5: Martha Birtles*  
*6: Grace Richards*  
*7: Claire Feerick*  
*Str: Brenna Randall*  
*Cox: Tom Bryce*

## Senior

- 7 Oxford Brookes University BC B
- 9 Edinburgh University BC A
- 12 Oxford Brookes University BC C

## University

- 8 Cambridge University BC A
- 9 Edinburgh University BC A
- 11 Durham University BC A
- 12 Oxford Brookes University BC C
- 13 Newcastle University BC A

## School/Junior

- 19 Headington School Oxford BC A
- 21 Henley RC A

## Most number of crews

### *Clubs:*

Marlow RC, Thames RC: 7 crews; Tideway Scullers School: 6 crews

### *Universities:*

Edinburgh University, Exeter University, Oxford Brookes University: 5 crews

## Number of entries by classification

<b>Open</b>	23	7%
<b>Open (excluding overseas)</b>	19	6%
<b>Senior</b>	57	17%
<b>Challenge</b>	173	22%
<b>Beginner all</b>	25	8%
<b>Beginner academic</b>	20	6%
<b>Beginner club</b>	5	2%
<b>Overseas</b>	5	2%
<b>School/Junior</b>	53	16%
<b>Univ</b>	30	9%
<b>Challenge academic</b>	61	19%
<b>Univ &amp; academic (total)</b>	111	34%
<b>Club</b>	56	17%
<b>Medium Club</b>	28	9%
<b>Small Club</b>	11	3%
<b>Provincial Club</b>	49	15%
<b>Masters</b>	34	10%