

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



84th Women's Eights Head of the River Race

After another winter of very wet weather, many rowers have had training disrupted and head races have been cancelled across the country. The non-tidal River Thames has been on red boards for large portions of time which has had a knock on effect on stream conditions on the Tideway. The PLA's Ebb Flag was set to Red in the run up to this year's race, which meant that the committee had to plan for potential cancellation scenarios in the week before race day. Although the flag turned yellow mid-week, the stream remained strong and, on safety grounds, the difficult decision was made to cut the field by around half. 162 crews set off on the day, with a strong stream and a stiff headwind making for choppy conditions around the middle of the course.

The Head Pennant was a close competition between Leander Club A and Oxford Brookes University Boat Club A with the former prevailing by just four seconds. Leander therefore retained the Head Pennant, which they've held since 2017. Third place was taken by Thames Rowing Club A who but in a strong performance to also claim the Club Pennant.

S D Santiagotarrak, from the Basque area of Northern Spain had let the committee know in advance that they were coming over targeting a win in the Overseas category, and duly obliged on the day. They finished in 42nd place, and we hope that they will be back again next year to defend their title.

Cantabrigian RC A (27th) reclaimed the Provincial Pennant this year, 20s clear of the next two fastest crews, usual rivals Nottingham RC A (38th) and last year's winners, Tyne Amateur RC A (39th)

Headington School Oxford BC A (17th) successfully defended the School/Junior Pennant from a quick Hinksey Sculling School crew who finished just three seconds behind them (=19th). For the second year in a row there were eight School/Junior crews finishing in the top 50 showing the continuing growth of strength of junior women's rowing on the UK domestic circuit.

The Challenge Pennant was won by St Andrew Boat Club (48th) who returned to the Victory Ceremony this year after winning the Small Club Pennant twice previously. Challenge Academic was won by the University of Exeter Boat Club C (60th). Neither the Beginner nor the Beginner Academic Pennants were contested due to the withdrawal of all beginner crews caused by the yellow flag status.

The Medium Club Pennant went to London RC A (15th) for the third time in as many years, and for what will be the last time they are eligible. The cut to the start order left Derby RC as the only entrant in the Small Club category, which meant that the pennant could not be awarded, however they put in a good show to finish 70th.

The Masters Pennant went to a Master's D composite crew who placed 68th overall, only twelve seconds behind the fastest Masters Crew in the A age group, however once the age handicapping had been applied, they were clear winners of the Pennant by 40 seconds.

Prizes were presented at a Victory Ceremony on the Putney Embankment in front of Thames Rowing Club by Olympian and President of European Rowing Annamarie Phelps CBE, with World Rowing Commentator Camilla Hadland-Horrocks compering the proceedings. Jess Eddie, in her role as the new Race Co-ordinator, reminded those present of how many challenges had been overcome to allow the race to happen at all.

Pennant Winners

Head	Leander Club A	18:47.2
2 nd	Oxford Brookes University Boat Club A	18:51.0
3 rd , Club	Thames Rowing Club A	18:59.4
University	Cambridge University Boat Club	19:17.5
Senior	Thames Rowing Club B	19:20.4
Medium Club	London Rowing Club A	19:41.7
School/Junior	Headington School Oxford Boat Club A	19:46.8
Provincial Club	Cantabrigian Rowing Club A	20:08.7
Overseas	S D Santiagotarrak	20:28.6
Challenge	St Andrew Boat Club	20:36.6
Challenge Academic	University of Exeter Boat Club C	20:50.9
Masters	Quintin/UTRC/Stratford/Walton/Strathclyde/Danube Sport RC	20:58.0 (Raw) 20:06.0 (Handicap)

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

For more information please contact press officer: Sarah Harbour, press@wehorr.org

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