

Women's Eights Head of the River Race

Press Release



WEHoRR – Earliest close of entries in the event history for 85th Race

On Saturday 8th March at 11:00am, which is also International Women's Day, the 85th Women's Head will take place from Mortlake to Putney. Entries flooded in right from when they opened with a third of the places taken within the first week. The race reached capacity two weeks before close of entries which allowed the use of a waiting list for the first time. This is even earlier than last year's record, setting a new milestone in the event's history.

Leander Club start first again this year with a crew containing current GB squad athletes most of whom competed at the Paris Olympics in 2024, and are therefore the stand out favourites for the Head Pennant.

Thames RC A starting in 3rd will be looking to defend the Club Pennant they won last year from Molesey BC A (6th) and Leander B (9th). With four more of their crews starting in the top 20, Thames RC continues to show incredible strength of depth. St Andrew BC A (47th) are the highest starting Medium sized club and will be wanting to add to the haul of Small Club pennants that they've won since 2017. The Small Club Pennant will not be defended by last year's winners, with Derby RC (59th) and Nottinghamshire County RA (80th) the highest starting contenders. Cantabrigian RC A (26th) reclaimed the Provincial Pennant last year and will be looking for a repeat win ahead of a tight band of challengers: Nottingham RC A (38^h), Tyne Amateur RC A (39th), and Agecroft RC (41st).

Cambridge University (7th) will be looking to defend the University Pennant, although University of London (4th) and Oxford Brookes B (5th) will be starting ahead of them, having raced with non-student crew members last year. Newcastle University (10th) and Durham University (12th) will be wanting to consolidate their speed after a strong showing at the BUCS Head.

The Senior Pennant has 52 entries this year with an even split between clubs and universities amongst the highest starting Senior crews.

The Masters field continues to grow with 41 crews this year, a 20% increase on last year and now representing nearly 13% of entries. They encompass nearly the full range of age groups, stretching from A through to G. The oldest competitor is 77. The field starts from place 82.

There are an unprecedented eight Junior crews starting in the top 50 this year, as Junior rowing continues to strengthen with 49 crews entered in total. Headington School A will again be leading the charge from (17th) closely followed by Tideway Scullers School A (21st) and Shiplake College (22nd). The rest of the School/Junior field start at 256th.

The Overseas Pennant has 7 entries this year, with competitors from Spain, Ireland, Sweden and Germany. Last year's winners S D Santiagotarrak (42nd) will be aiming for a 2nd title with their main challengers being University College Dublin (78th) and University College Cork (79th).

The Victory Ceremony for Pennant winners will again be held on Putney Embankment outside Thames Rowing Club after racing (scheduled start time 3.30pm). We welcome back the Olympic and Paralympic commentator, Camilla Hadland-Horrocks as MC for the afternoon with prizes presented by Olympic Bronze Medallist Hattie Taylor. 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

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

Official Race photographer for 2025 Ben Rodford Photography <http://benrodfordphotography.co.uk/>

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

Detail WEHoRR 2025

Open

- 1 Leander Club A
- 2 Oxford Brookes University BC A

Senior

- 8 Thames Rowing Club B
- 10 Newcastle University BC A
- 13 Edinburgh University BC A

University

- 4 University of London BC A
- 5 Oxford Brookes University BC B
- 7 Cambridge University BC A
- 10 Newcastle University BC A
- 12 Durham University BC A

School/Junior

- 19 Headington School Oxford BC A
- 21 Tideway Scullers School A

Most number of crews

Clubs:

Marlow RC: 8 crews; Vesta RC: 7 crews

Universities:

Oxford Brookes University: 6 crews

Number of entries by classification

Open	22	7%
Open (excluding overseas)	16	5%
Senior	52	16%
Challenge	132	41%
Beginner all	28	9%
Beginner academic	23	7%
Beginner club	5	2%
Overseas	7	2%
School/Junior	49	15%
Univ	23	7%
Challenge academic	59	18%
Univ & academic (total)	105	32%
Club	75	23%
Medium Club	22	7%
Small Club	13	4%
Provincial Club	55	17%
Masters	41	13%