



Vesta Scullers Head of the River Race 2012

Saturday 8th December at 9:30am

Organized by the Vesta Open Events Committee

Instructions for Competitors – Please read Carefully

Numbers

You will receive two paper numbers and one rigid plastic number from the collection point nominated on your entry form – Putney (Vesta Rowing Club), Hammersmith (Auriol Kensington) or Chiswick (Mortlake, Anglian, and Alpha). The number collection points will be open from 7:30am to 9:00am on the morning of the event. Numbers may also be collected from Vesta on the evening of Friday 7th December from 6:30pm to 7.30pm.

Of the two paper numbers, one is to be fixed to the back of your racing kit and one to your warm-up kit by four fixing points. We supply safety pins with the numbers. Great care should be taken as if your number flaps in the wind and becomes unreadable your time **may** not be recorded – *please make life easy for the marshalls and the timing teams!*

Important Note: The plastic number enclosed must be fitted into the Empacher slot on the bow of your boat. If the plastic number is not fitted to your boat crossing the finish line, **A TIME WILL NOT BE RECORDED**

Returning Numbers

Please return the plastic numbers to Vesta Rowing Club after the Race. **Failure to return your number will mean that you will be invoiced £10 for the replacement cost.** Failure to settle this debt and you risk possible exclusion for you *and your club* from subsequent events organized by the Vesta Open Events Committee. There will be volunteers from Vesta Rowing Club collecting numbers on Putney Embankment as you disembark/return downriver.

Lightweights

There will be two lightweight weighing-in stations; one at Mortlake, Anglian & Alpha (Chiswick) and one at Vesta Rowing Club (Putney). All stations will be open between 7:30am and 8:30am on the day of the race. Failure to weigh-in will make a sculler ineligible for a lightweight medal and they will instead race in the appropriate open weight category.

Max weight for Men: 75kg Max weight for Women: 61.5kg

Juniors

No competitor will be allowed to compete if his or her date of birth is after the 8th December 1996. This rule was mentioned on the BROE entry form. The Competition Welfare Coordinator is Sinéad Hayes, who is also one of the Entries Secretaries. She will be contactable for the duration of the event by any race official via the radio network and by any member of the public via mobile phone on 07967 997609. All allegations of harm to juniors participating in the event should be forwarded to Sinéad who will

determine the appropriate action to be taken. In the event of a junior going missing or being involved in an incident, the emergency contact details logged in BROE will be used by Sinéad to contact the adult responsible. Please be advised that this is a public event and that all competitors may be photographed and/or videoed by both amateurs and professionals.

River Closure and Boating Regulations

The river will be closed by the PLA to other traffic from 8.30am at Fulham ('Putney') Rail Bridge and 8:45am at Kew Railway Bridge until 11:30am – or until the last competitor has crossed the finish line ([Notices to Mariners U16 of 2012](#). **Before and after the time of the river closure, scullers should strictly observe the rules that are set out in the Tideway Rowing Code of Practice.** (<http://www.thames-rrc.org/rowing-on-the-thames/navigation-on-the-river-thames>)

It is the responsibility of scullers and club officials only to enter scullers that are competent to row on the tidal Thames with respect to such aspects as steering, emergency halts and navigation, etc., and dealing with the conditions such that they find them on the day. All competitors are reminded of the British Rowing and Thames Regional Rowing Council requirements to have British Rowing- compliant boat ID when on the tidal Thames.

It should be borne in mind that the PLA can fine you up to £1000 for an absent name on a boat and that the Thames Regional Rowing Council can fine your Club up to £500. Vesta Open Events Committee takes their responsibility to abide by British Rowing Rules seriously and disqualification for any boats observed without any ID is a certainty – and we may penalize any with ID that is not fully compliant (for example not in contrasting colours and which, as a result, is not readily visible). Vesta's website carries various links to advice for crews and scullers about rowing on the Tideway. (<http://www.vestarowing.co.uk/safety-tides/safety>). For International crews, if you do not know what your ID code should be, please contact us and we will advise.

Before Racing

Competitors should be aware of the new rule: 'Any club or crew which is involved in a verifiable, navigation incident on the tideway may be excluded from the event. This rule will be in effect for the fourteen days prior to and including the day of the event.'

Practice outings prior to the river closure are strongly discouraged. Please be aware of the Tideway Rowing Code of Practice rules on the use of lights in the hours around sunrise (sunrise is at 7.54am on race day).

You and your club has a duty of care to boat only in equipment that complies with the British Rowing guide to good practice in rowing, Row Safe, in all respects: for example, your boat must carry, securely fixed to the bow, a solid ball of rubber or material of similar consistency in accordance with British Rowing Rules of Racing. Buoyancy compartments must be closed & watertight and heel restraints in place and effective. Random checks may be made at boating areas and any boats found unsafe will not be allowed to boat until rendered safe.

Marshalling for Racing

- **Please allow enough time to get to the start – you will be paddling against the tide in very strong stream conditions and should know your own ability.** Boat at Putney by 8.30am, Hammersmith by 8.45am and Barnes Bridge / Chiswick by 9.00am at the latest. Be advised that we are currently experiencing **very strong** stream conditions.
- Competitors will be marshalled on the Surrey (South) bank.
- Competitors coming from Putney and Hammersmith should remain on the Surrey bank and **not** cross to the north bank at the Chiswick Crossing.
- Scullers numbered above 200 must not go above Barnes Bridge until told to do so under the control of Marshals.
- Sculler No. 1 will marshal 50m below Chiswick Bridge.
- All scullers must be in position by 0920.
- The Race will start without reference to latecomers.

- At 0922 Scullers marshalling by the Brewery will be told to take tops off.
- At 0925 Sculler No.1 will lead into the Start Area.
- After taking tops off, scullers will, when instructed, scull continuously in the Start Area to the turning buoy, turn as instructed, and scull continuously to the Start.
- *There is no stopping in the Start Area.*
- The Start is at Chiswick Bridge.
- The Timing Point is the University Stone, approx. 75m past the Start Point
- **No scullers will be allowed to join the Start from above Chiswick Bridge.**

The Race

- Scullers must give way when being overtaken by faster scullers.
- ALL SCULLERS MUST PASS ON THE OUTSIDE (MIDDLESEX) SIDE OF THE LINE OF MOORED BOATS ON THE STARBOARD (SURREY) SIDE OF THE FAIRWAY AT PUTNEY. ANY SCULLER FAILING TO COMPLY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

The Finish

The finish of the race at Putney is the downstream end of Putney Pier, where your time is recorded (so keep on sculling until you are past the pier – you may lose valuable seconds if you do not). After clearing the finishing line please continue sculling through Putney Bridge and Fulham Railway Bridge, keeping well clear of other competitors before turning. There will be marshalls below the finish line – obey their instructions (see finish diagram)

During the time of river closure (8:30am to 11:30am) scullers should proceed as follows: a) Scullers disembarking at Putney should turn towards the Surrey shore. b) Scullers proceeding up river beyond Hammersmith should keep to the Surrey bank as far as the Chiswick Steps Crossing where, under the strict control of the marshalls, they should wait in line (not bunched up) close to the bank before, and only when instructed cross to the Middlesex bank. c) Scullers returning to the Hammersmith Boathouses should keep to Surrey Bank, and should wait in line (not bunched up) close to the bank just before the St. Paul's slip and not directly opposite it, before, only when instructed, crossing under the direction of the marshal at St Paul's School.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MARSHALLS, STARTERS AND UMPIRES. FAILURE TO DO SO OR TO FOLLOW EITHER THE VERBAL OR WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPETITORS WILL RENDER YOU LIABLE TO A TIME PENALTY OR DISQUALIFICATION.

Safety & Rescue

Extensive safety and rescue facilities are employed for the race. In the event that a boat "gets into difficulty" any rescue assistance that is offered **MUST BE ACCEPTED** 1. For personal safety. 2. For safety of other competitors and to minimise the likelihood of impeding other scullers.

Random checking of boats may take place, to ensure compliance with British Rowing Rules including boat ID. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THESE RULES CAN RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

Warning

- All entrants in the Vesta Scullers Head should be aware that they enter the Head at their own risk.
- They should ensure that they are fully insured against that risk.
- They should be competent scullers and competent swimmers for Tideway conditions and the advice of British Rowing is that capsizing drills should have been done.
- It is their responsibility to ensure that their equipment is in good order and compliant with the British Rowing Rules of Racing.
- They must also be satisfied that they are sufficiently fit and competent to participate safely in the event in the conditions as they find them on the day.

Parking On The Embankment - Putney

Wandsworth Borough Council have put in place parking restrictions on both sides of Putney Embankment restricting all parking from 8.30am until 6.30pm on Saturday 8th of December. The organizers did not ask for this restriction, it was not in place in recent years, and the local police do not feel it is necessary. We are attempting to get it lifted but are unlikely to be successful. Parking is available in some nearby streets or local car parks under normal restrictions.

Results

Appeals should be made to the Chief Umpire, who will be on duty at Ranelagh Sailing Club, within one hour of the last sculler completing the course. Results will be available on the web at <http://www.vestarrowing.co.uk/events/vesta-scullers-head> as soon as possible after the race - and in Vesta Rowing Club on the afternoon of the race. In the event of a dead heat between two or more, the Sculler with the earlier or earliest start number will be placed above the other(s).

Prizes

The outgoing Chairman of British Rowing, Di Ellis, will present prizes at Vesta Rowing Club on Monday 17th December at 6:30pm. Prizewinners will be sent full details, via the details on their online entry form, after the race.

Cancellation

In the event of cancellation of the race due to inclement weather, refunds of entry fees will **NOT** be made. The reason for this is that we still incur the costs of running the event whether the race actually goes ahead or not.

VAT

The organizers are obliged by VAT regulations to note the following in relation to this event - "The Vesta Scullers Head is organized by Vesta Rowing Club, a community amateur sports club, which applies any surplus on the event to further the sport of rowing."

Sinéad Hayes

Chairman, Organizing Committee

07967 997609

scullers.head@vestarrowing.co.uk

Vesta Scullers Head, Vesta Rowing Club, The Embankment, London SW15 1LB