

# WALTON SMALL BOATS HEAD

12<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**CLUB CAPTAINS AND COACHES MUST ENSURE THAT ALL COMPETITORS READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE INSTRUCTIONS.**



We are constantly monitoring current river and weather conditions and any announcement regarding the running of the event will be made on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December and posted on the website by 12:00 midday.

**These instructions should be read in conjunction with the course map**

**If you do not have a boat on top of your car please do not drive down Sunbury Lane. Please do not attempt to Park in Sunbury Lane or Dudley Road including the private bit closest to the rec. We are getting no end of complaints from our neighbours about congestion and inconsiderate parking which cost us £800 last year after a complaint to the council.**

**If you are dropping someone off who is boating from Walton Rowing Club please do so at the leisure centre which is only a short walk.**

**There is ample parking at the leisure centre and in the Dudley Road recreation ground and at Cowey Sale near Walton Bridge.**

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPETITORS AND OTHER VISITORS**

The race will be run in accordance with the guidelines of the British Rowing Row Safe Guide to Good Practice in Rowing and the British Rowing rules of racing.

All competitors must be competent & capable of completing a 10k outing per division entered. They are responsible for deciding, in consultation with their coaches and club captains, whether they are able to do this in the conditions prevailing on race day. If there is NE wind blowing it can get choppy on the finishing reach so please check conditions on the day.

It is December and the weather may be cold or wet on race day. Please check the weather forecast in advance and dress appropriately, remembering to bring a change of kit for each division that you intend racing in. Multiple thin layers and a lightweight waterproof keep you warm and dry far better than one thick top. Hoodies are good for keeping you warm on the bank but are not good for sculling in and are awkward to store in small boats during racing.

The new building at Walton Rowing Club is fully open with showers and toilets and a large warm room for cover. There will be portaloos outside in front of the building. Registration will be upstairs in the clubroom and there will be catering facilities and bar available.

The new Walton Bridge is now open and the old one has gone so there are no buttresses in the river to get in your way. There is now a towpath all the way along the river bank under the bridge.

**RACE NUMBERS** will be available from Walton Rowing Club from 8 am on Saturday. Wear your numbers clearly on bow's warm-up top and racing vest or you may not be timed. It can be difficult reading the numbers at the finish; crews wearing duplicate or wrong numbers are liable to be ignored. It helps if you can place the numbers slightly towards bow's left shoulder, as the teams reading the numbers are on the towpath side.

**RESULTS:** We will try and make provisional results of each section available as soon as possible after each section at the club. The final results and prizes will be presented at Walton Rowing Club as soon as possible after racing has finished.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Tea, cake and sandwiches will be available all day at Walton Rowing Club.

**WEBSITE:** The start order and results will both be available at [www.waltonrowingclub.co.uk](http://www.waltonrowingclub.co.uk). Any notices concerning the race will also be posted to this site.

## **ARRIVAL AT WALTON (Please see separate map of car parks)**

### **PARKING AT WALTON ROWING CLUB**

**Unfortunately we no longer have access to the BP car park.**

If you wish to drop your trailer off on Friday please contact us and you can leave in Sunbury Lane past the rowing club.

**Trailers, Crews and spectators** should park in the recreation ground at the end of Dudley Road which fronts onto the river 100m above the finish line or in the vicinity of the Leisure Centre in Waterside Drive which is only a short walk to the club and far less congested. Dudley Road has a car spares shop on the corner. There is plenty of room for everyone, please respect members of the public and park where the marshal directs you. The car park will be open from 7:30am.

**Cars with boats on top** should park in the coned off section at the end of Sunbury Lane just past the rowing club. Access to Walton Rowing Club is down Sunbury Lane, if coming from Walton Town Centre take the road to Molesey and look out for the off licence on the corner.

**PARKING AT COWEY SALE CAR PARK (Just upstream of Walton Bridge)** This car park will be open for boat trailers and towing vehicles from 07.30 hours until 16.30 hours. Please ensure that all boat trailers are removed by 16.30 hours. In the event that they are not removed by this time the car park will be locked.

**IF THIS AREA BECOMES FULL CARS AND TRAILERS WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE RECREATION GROUND AT THE END OF DUDLEY ROAD NEAR TO THE ROWING CLUB.**

**PARKING OF TRAILERS ON WALTON LANE AT COWEY SALE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** There is no parking on the driveway to the marina that passes under Walton Bridge.

### **ON THE WATER (Please see separate map of course)**

**BOATING:** Crews boating from the rec please be aware of other towpath users. If the river level is high it is possible to boat from the bank in front of the rec. but you may not do so while the race is in progress. Otherwise boat from the Walton/St Georges landing stage. Crews returning to this area **MUST NOT CROSS THE COURSE AND MUST LAND AT WALTON ROWING CLUB**. There will be an extra landing stage this year.

Crews boating from Cowey Sale must take care when crossing the road.

Crews in the first 60 starters in each division must be sure to arrive in the marshalling area at least ten minutes before the start time of their division. Lower starters should be in position by the start time for that division. If you are boating from Walton RC you will need 30 – 40 minutes to paddle up to the start and if boating from Cowey Sale 20 – 25 minutes dependent upon ability and stream conditions. Please boat in plenty of time.

**MARSHALLING:** Crews should proceed to the start via the Old River (see Event Map) and the Desborough Cut is closed to all upstream traffic. Crews travelling upstream must keep to the Middlesex side of the river and not cut the corner at the new Walton Bridge. Crews will marshal on the Middlesex side of the Old River with the lowest number in each section waiting on the Old River opposite the Start Line. Crews outside the first 100 in each division should stay below Shepperton Manor (the large white house on the bend). At a signal from the marshal, crews will move upstream, in order, and paddle up the Middlesex side of d'Oyly Carte Island and turn anti-clockwise round the Turning Buoy above the island. Crews must follow instructions given by Marshals or by EA officers before and during the race; these will be given by electric megaphone. Crews who disobey this rule render their whole club liable to disqualification.

Crews will be started at about 10 second intervals, and times will be taken from a point approximately 20 metres downstream of the Starter.

**THE DESBOROUGH CHANNEL IS CLOSED TO ALL NON RACE AND ANY UPSTREAM TRAFFIC FROM 9.30 AM TO 4.00 PM**

**All competitors note that each section will start on time without reference to absentees. Crews in the first 60 starters in each division should boat early in order to avoid being delayed by slower boats on the way to the start.**

**THE RACE:** Crews must keep to the Surrey (towpath) side of the river. The bends are buoyed and crews must keep to the Surrey side of the buoys. There is also a line of buoys marking the race course at the finish to separate crews racing from traffic going upstream. Penalties may be imposed on crews passing the wrong side of the buoys. Move well to the Surrey when being overtaken. All competitors should listen out for instructions from Umpires at their various positions on the course. Failure to do so may mean disqualification.

Crews must be aware when navigating Walton Bridge. Be prepared to turn towards the Surrey side as soon as you have passed through the bridge.

On finishing your race keep paddling down until below Walton Rowing Club. Crews returning to Walton Rowing Club landing stage should turn to the Surrey (towpath) bank and join the queue to get in keeping close in to the bank. There will be an extra landing stage. **On no account may crews attempt to land on the towpath at the rec.** Crews returning to Cowey Sale must keep well to the Middlesex bank and be especially vigilant in the vicinity of the finish line. Do not attempt to cross the river to the Cowey Sale bank until you are through Walton Bridge and it is safe to do so as instructed by the marshals.

It is a rule of this race that steering or coaching instructions **must not be given by megaphone.**

**SWANS:** There are large numbers of swans on the Walton Reach, particularly close to the Anglers Hotel. Competitors must be vigilant as a collision with a swan is not in the interests of either party!

**SAFETY:** The organisers of Walton Small Boats Head believe that they have taken all reasonable steps to comply with the British Rowing Row Safe Guide to Good Practice in Rowing and to ensure that racing conditions are both fair and safe. However, the following additional conditions now apply; by taking part, crews accept these conditions and agree that they are reasonable:

1. Only Crews that coaches believe are competent should be allowed to compete.
2. Crews must check their own equipment before racing in accordance with the British Rowing Row Safe Guide to Good Practice in Rowing, section 2.3.
3. Club Captains must ensure that every member of every crew must have read these Instructions for Competitors and ensure that they understand them. Club Captains and rowing masters must ensure that parents of junior competitors are also aware of these conditions and accept them.
4. Competitors take part at their own risk. In the event of a collision Walton Small Boats Head accepts no responsibility and it is up to the competitors to apportion liability between themselves.
5. There will be first aid posts, with ambulance, at Cowey Sale (just upstream of Walton Bridge), Walton Rowing Club and Elmbridge Canoe Club (at the Start). Qualified first aiders man all the safety boats of which there will be five, based behind Desborough Island, at the top and bottom of Desborough Cut, at Walton Bridge and near the finish. Marshals are instructed to give priority to dealing with safety matters. Crews must comply with the instructions of marshals and safety crew.
6. All racing craft must carry their club six digit identification code as recognised by British Rowing. Crews or clubs not complying with this may be penalised.
7. All clubs taking part must have insurance meeting the requirements of the British Rowing Row Safe Guide to Good Practice in Rowing, section 1.5.
8. Coaches and supporters following crews on cycles must give due consideration to the safety of pedestrians on the riverside path.