

WALTON SMALL BOATS HEAD

8th December 2018

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 8th December and posted on the website by 12:00 midday.

These instructions should be read in conjunction with the course map

Please do not attempt to park in Sunbury Lane or Dudley Road, (including the private road on the approach to the Recreation Ground gates). We have received far too many complaints from our neighbours in recent years, and they are very likely to pass registration details of inconsiderately or illegally parked vehicles to the local police

If you are dropping someone off who is boating from Walton Rowing Club, please do so at the Elmbridge Leisure Centre, Waterside Drive, which is only a short walk away.

There is ample parking for spectators in the Dudley Road Recreation Ground and at the Leisure Centre

If picking up numbers from WRC please park outside the BP terminal gates and leave as soon as possible.

Trailers arriving on the day may park in the Dudley Road recreation ground or the Cowey Sale car park, our use of which is restricted this year by the local council. Trailers should park at the Desborough Cut end of Cowey Sale as directed by the marshals. Entry for trailers will cease at 9am. If arriving for Div 2 and Div 3, please park in at the Dudley Road Recreation Ground.

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

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 a North Easterly 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.

Walton Rowing Club will be open with showers, changing facilities and toilets but PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY VALUABLES IN THE CHANGING ROOM. There will also be portaloos outside in front of the building. Registration will be upstairs in the clubroom.

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. The self-adhesive numbers should be placed on each side on the sax board as far forward as possible

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

REFRESHMENTS: Tea, soup 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. 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

If you wish to drop your trailer off on Friday please contact us and you can leave it 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 and 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 go to the recreation ground.

PARKING AT COWEY SALE CAR PARK (Just upstream of Walton Bridge) Our use of the Cowey Sale car park is restricted this year. Entry will be by the gate at the Desborough Cut end and entry for trailers will cease at 9am. If arriving for Div 2 and Div 3, please park in at the Dudley Road Recreation Ground. Please ensure that all boat trailers are removed by 16.30 hours, at which time the high car park gate will be locked.

WHEN OUR 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 OR THE DRIVEWAY THAT GOES UNDER THE BRIDGE TO THE MARINA AT COWEY SALE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

ON THE WATER (Please see separate map of course)

BOATING: At Walton RC use the WRC/St Georges landing stage. Crews coming from the rec please be aware of other towpath users. Crews returning to this area **MUST NOT CROSS THE COURSE AND MUST LAND AT WALTON ROWING CLUB.**

For boating at Cowey Sale there will be a floating pontoon 100m above the bridge. Take care when crossing the road. When returning follow marshals instructions as to crossing the river.

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) as 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 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 megaphone. Crews who disobey this rule render their whole club liable to disqualification.

Crews will be started at about 10 second intervals from the Elmbridge Canoe Club stage, 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 bank 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 pay particular attention 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. **On no account may crews attempt to land on the towpath opposite the recreation ground.** 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 has read these Instructions for Competitors and ensure that they understand them. Club Captains and coaches 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 an ambulance, at Cowey Sale (just upstream of Walton Bridge) and Walton Rowing Club. 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.