

PAIRS HEAD of the RIVER 2020

Sunday, 11th OCTOBER at 11:00 hrs

Under British Rowing Rules - Organised by Barnes Bridge LRC

COURSE: UL Petrol Pumps to Sons of the Thames

COMPETITORS' INFORMATION

There will be no river closure for the 2020 race. All crews must comply with the navigation rules laid out in the TRRC Navigation on the Tideway document.

(<http://www.thames-rrc.org/rowing-on-the-thames/navigation-on-the-river-thames/>)

**** Note that all boats must clearly display their Boat ID in line with British Rowing requirements ****

TAKE GREAT CARE AROUND ALL THE BRIDGES, PIERS & FIXED OBSTACLES.

The Pairs Head Committee are delighted to welcome you back to racing on the Tideway in 2020 – a year of much change. We hope that this will be the start of an enjoyable Tideway Head racing season, albeit slightly different to what has happened in the past. Due to circumstances beyond our control we have had to change the course and move it upriver, so that crews do not enter the exclusion zone around Hammersmith Bridge. This is the first time Pairs Head, or indeed any Head, has been run under such conditions, and that's without considering the impact that Covid19 has had on our sport. We ask that you listen to our (mainly land based) marshals and comply with their instructions promptly, so that everyone has a enjoyable race, and please feed back any comments as to how we (and the future Tideway Heads) could improve to make the race better for everyone in the future.

NUMBERS: If entry fees have been received, numbers will be delivered directly to participating clubs. All numbers will need to be collected in advance of the race to allow time to quarantine the envelopes and their contents. Envelopes can be collected from the CSBC on Thursday (8th) 1900-2000 or Friday (9th) 1600-1800.

Crew changes can be made up until 09.00am online. To minimise gathering points, as per Covid considerations, there will be no administration area at CSBC.

Boat numbers require a number slot. Please ensure yours is firmly attached to your boat. It is very difficult for the timing team to identify you if your bow number gets lost. Should this happen please shout out your number loudly as you cross the start and finish lines!

Boat numbers must be returned or a charge of £30 will be incurred.

Each boat must display race numbers while marshalling and racing. Bow of each crew should wear one pin-number on the racing vest and one on the outer top whilst marshalling. **If numbers are not visible when racing you are unlikely to be given a time.**

COVID19 GUIDANCE – ALL CREWS MUST READ AND COMPLY

2020 is not a normal racing year. Please don't assume that processes are the same as previous years, check instructions and local guidance as well as the Pairs Head website. All normal Covid19 safety precautions should be taken - be aware, be safe, be sensible, maintain social distancing where possible and wash your hands and equipment thoroughly.

Every individual participating in the Head must complete the Covid19 Self-Assessment Health Declaration which can be accessed following the link below, and will appear on our website, **before** boating. The declaration is to ensure you have no Covid19 symptoms, nor have you been told to isolate.

<https://www.bblrc.co.uk/covid/>

If you do not complete this form and turn up for the race anyway, you will not be given a time or a result for Pairs Head. If you participate without making a declaration your club will be informed and it may affect future event entries.

Data will be held for 21 days, to assist in Track and Trace, should it be required. No data will be retained after 21 days.

If you develop Covid19 symptoms after making the declaration and before racing or within 14 days of the end of the race you must inform the Pairs Head Covid Officer:

Charlotte Fishman
covid-pairshead@bblrc.co.uk
07816421755

All crews should comply with their club's requirements concerning boating and movements of boats on land. Normal club processes apply, there are no "racing" exceptions to British Rowing's Covid guidelines i.e. restriction of access to changing rooms, congregating, social distancing. Prepare for the race accordingly.

On the water, crews should endeavour to remain 2m from any other crews at all times, for river safety as well as social distancing requirements.

No spectators are permitted at Pairs Head. Crews should ensure that their clubs communicate this to members and to coaches.

NAVIGATION AND MARSHALLING INSTRUCTIONS

A) MARSHALLING GENERAL

All crews will be marshalled in descending numerical order, in a single division on Surrey. Crew #1 will marshal up near Kew Road Bridge, near the Harbourmaster's Buoy. Crew #99 will marshal at Putney Town Boat Club Steps. Crews may have different colour numbers for bow – we are using up old stocks to minimise costs, the colours have no meaning. All crews will carry their number in an empacher slot on their bows. **All crews must have completed the Covid self assessment health declaration prior to racing, a link to which can be found on our website; if this has not been completed then their results will not be published.**

Crews are not permitted to warm up in the marshalling area. All crews must be boated in order – no slotting in will be permitted. No crews will be permitted to cross the river once the race has started.

When the race is started, crews will be turned consecutively, and sent down past Oliver's Ait towards Kew Rail Bridge. Crews must leave a 10 second gap between each crew to assist with the Start timing.

There will be no larger gaps between crews; all crews will be sent off in one continuous line.

Launches will patrol the marshalling area and the course and, in the interest of the crew members' safety, any instructions issued by the marshals should be obeyed immediately. Crews must be aware that should there be a need to suspend or abandon the race at any point, they will be instructed to STOP immediately. Whether racing or marshalling, all crews must then proceed cautiously ONLY as directed by the marshals who will be aware of the reason for stopping and will be able to manage the situation in the safest possible way. Safety control and a mobile paramedic will be at Civil Service Boathouse. **If in doubt dial 999.**

- 1. All crews will abide by British Rowing, Race and National Covid19 protocols**
- 2. All crews must in in position by 10.50.**
- 3. No slotting-in is permitted.**
- 4. No crew will be permitted to cross the racing line once the race has started.**
- 5. Crews marshalling below Kew Rail Bridge will be instructed to move up once crews above Kew Rail Bridge have started their turning and moving up process.**
- 6. Please cross onto Surrey below Chiswick Bridge, obeying the instructions of the marshals.**
- 7. Note that marshals may be on the bank, rather than on the water.**

C) RACE START

The signal to turn will be given by the marshals, and crews must turn and row in number order down past Oliver's Ait and through Kew Rail Bridge. **Crews must leave at least one length of clear water between boats.**

Crews will have a running start. The starter will start each crew by calling its number and saying "Go" e.g. "No. 1 Go". Timing will start a little downstream of this point. The **START** line is marked with a banner saying "**START**" and is on the Petrol Pumps before UL.

As crews above Kew Rail Bridge turn and move up, crews below Kew Rail Bridge will move up. Please obey the instructions of the marshals.

D) THE RACE

Boats being overtaken must give way by moving out of the stream. Observers will be posted at points along the course, and failure to observe this rule may result in time penalties, or, in extreme cases, lead to disqualification. Crews wishing to register an objection must do so to the Chief Umpire within 30 mins of the last crew crossing the finish.

There is no river closure for this race. Boats must comply with the rules of navigation i.e. stay starboard of centre. This is not the 'traditional' racing line. Racing crews must remain between the red and green buoys which mark the edge of the navigation channel and must not cut the bends.

The Finish line is at the Crow's Nest at Sons of the Thames and will be marked with a 'Finish' banner.

E) AFTER THE RACE

At the finish **DO NOT STOP** but proceed at paddling pace for a further 200 metres.

All crews must, as directed by the Finish Marshals, turn onto Surrey to return to their boathouses. Under no circumstances should any crew drift under Hammersmith Bridge.

Crews returning to AK and Furnival should turn to Middlesex and return to their boathouses.

Crews returning to Latymer and Sons of the Thames should pull in to St Paul's and wait until the last crew has crossed the finish line, before crossing the river. There are no planned gaps in racing to allow for safe crossing of the racing line.

All returning crews should, as ever, be aware of racing crews, and their interpretations of where they should be on the river may not be as expected. Returning crews should take every effort to avoid racing crews and should remain in single file, not moving out to overtake. You may be disqualified if you impede a racing crew.

This is when accidents are most likely to happen.

Returning crews should keep to Surrey until you reach the crossing point, where there will be a crossing marshal. If the race is still in progress then you must wait to cross under instruction from the crossing marshal. When given permission to do so you should cross quickly and efficiently to Middlesex, keeping a good lookout.

ANY CREW INTERFERING WITH RACING CREWS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Competitors (or supervising adults in the case of juniors) must assess the conditions on the day of the race and must only boat and race if they are confident of their ability in the conditions. It is each crew's responsibility to familiarise themselves with these race specific instructions and local rules of the river, plus ensure that your boat conforms to the BR Row Safe guidelines.

Provisional Results will be posted as soon as possible after the race on the website: www.bblrc.co.uk/pairshead/

SERIOUS STUFF – PLEASE READ AND COMPLY

You must boat and race in compliance with all local, club and British Rowing Covid19 guidance.

You MUST read the Rowing Code Of Practice - Rowing on the Tideway. Available at: <http://www.boatingonthames.co.uk/Rowing>

You are strongly advised to watch this excellent video: <https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/safety/tideway-navigation/>

You are strongly advised to carry a mobile phone in the boat (in a waterproof case).

If you need to call the 999 service, you need to ask for the COASTGUARD (this will be passed to the RNLI on our part of the river)

Should a crew have a mechanical steering failure, the crew should stop racing and notify an official of the problem. It is important that crews do not put themselves at risk by trying to finish the race with defective steering.

Any crew or club 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.

Returning crews must wait behind the last marshalling crews (still waiting to start) and shall not pass the marshal responsible. Any crew failing to observe this rule may be disqualified.

RACE ABANDONMENT PROTOCOL

There are 3 distinct times that the race committee may abandon the race. In addition to all normal race day considerations we are monitoring the Covid19 situation and will update our website regularly if conditions or guidance change.

Race abandoned before race day:

All competitors will be advised by e-mail (as provided on race entry) and the race website will be clearly updated.

Race abandoned on race day, before race start:

Competitors may be advised not to go afloat as weather conditions have deteriorated faster than predicted in the run up to the race, or indeed, are not clearing up as fast as predicted. Competitors will be advised by marshals who will be sent to each boating location (either on foot or by launch). Their instructions **MUST** be complied with.

If some competitors are already afloat when the decision is taken to abandon the race, then no further boating will be permitted, and marshals will advise all competitors already afloat to return either to their home boating location, or the nearest safe location in the advent of very serious weather. Marshals and possibly safety boats will patrol the course and inform and assist as appropriate. The PLA / Coastguard / BR will be consulted in the decision making process.

Race abandoned after race start:

Weather factors:

This is an extremely unlikely occurrence, as the race committee will have been monitoring the weather and would have most likely abandoned the race earlier if weather indicators and forecasts were adverse.

Non weather factors:

There are other non-weather related situations that could lead to a race abandonment, such as a catastrophic incident, or a failure in our safety cover for example.

Depending upon the cause of the race abandonment, competitors will be advised what to do by local marshals and umpires. The general rule will be to stop "racing" when advised, and then proceed to an appropriate location as directed.

The rule to remember is: **do what you are told by the race marshals**. The race staff will have the bigger picture of what is happening. The situation around you may be absolutely fine, but just around the bend, a pleasure boat may have broken its moorings and crashed into racing boats for instance. Alternatively, 2 of our safety boats may have become disabled or are required to deal with a major medical emergency and it therefore becomes unsafe to continue with such a reduced level of safety cover.

Map of Pairs Head 2020 Covid Course

You must boat and race in compliance with all local, club and British Rowing Covid19 guidance.

