

The Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge 2022



GUIDANCE NOTES

Sunday 3rd April 2022

**These notes should be read and understood by each
crew member and retained by the Coxswain**

This event has been organised by
The Thames Traditional Rowing Association (www.traditionalrowing.com)
And
Thames Alive (www.thamesalive.org.uk)
with the permission of
The Boat Races (www.theboatraces.org)

INFORMATION

This year we will have three divisions of Thames Watermen's Cutters preceded by a division of Pilot Gigs race over The Boat Race course from the start line at Putney to the Chiswick finishing line.

We will follow a flotilla of boats led by the Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana' up the course. Our events will be part of the day of events on the River Thames preceding the Boat Races and will be watched by 1000s on the riverbank and millions around the world on BBC television with hopefully particular interest this year as the event returns to the Thames.

There is a time and space limit placed on us by two factors. The Boat Race follows immediately after our events so we **MUST** be clear of the river at Chiswick by 14.20 at the very latest therefore it is vital that our events start on time.

The second factor is of space on the river which means that our events are strictly limited to six boats per division.

Our intention is to have a SAFE and FUN event for all.

METHOD

There will be hundreds of members of the public lining the pavements, tow paths and waters edge along our route. PLEASE act appropriately. You are likely to be on camera all of the time.

FACILITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ROWING CLUB

The Thames Traditional Rowing Association have temporary membership of the club for the purpose of running our event, this has been successfully running for over ten years.

Please make considerate use of the changing room and other facilities.

Refreshments will be available to purchase from the on-site café before and after the event.

There are other hostelrys in the immediate area should you wish to retire to these and enjoy the ambiance after the event!

Before the event - at ULBC, there will be a briefing for all coxes.

If you do not attend the Briefing, your crew will not be allowed to take part.

Listen for instructions to get afloat and when directed row downstream to Putney navigating in the usual way on the right hand side of the river. The river is still open to permitted traffic at this time.

The flotilla boats will take up position astern of Gloriana at Chiswick Pier and all craft will follow (stay astern of Gloriana) down to Putney

All boats MUST stay in close formation with safety ribs in attendance

*Any Class V craft moving onto moorings will have right of way
All Boat Race support boats – they have right of way!*

When we arrive at Putney all boats to be beached on the NORTH shore opposite Putney

(Toilet facilities are available in Bishops Park)

No boats are to go inside the mooring line off the Putney beach

Gloriana will moor at Putney Pier to board passengers

It is vital that at least one crew member remains with each boat at all times as the tide will turn as we wait for the start time.

Instructions will be given by loud hailer to call each division to get boated and prepared at the right time. It is ESSENTIAL your crew are close to your boat at all times – do not miss your start time.

The flotilla vessels will set off first following QRB Gloriana and will stay to the SOUTH (LEFT) side of the river throughout their row upstream.

All craft in the OWC will be called to get afloat – the tide will have turned, be aware you will be pushed upstream by the incoming tide.

Keep in mind that with the following tide, you will arrive at the start line sooner than you think.

Be certain to allow enough time and distance to turn and take your position as instructed by the Starter.

Should you arrive at the line too early, you WILL be advised to go around and line up again.

Each division must drift gently to the start line at the allocated time, listen carefully for the commands – **GET READY TO RACE, READY - GO!**

All Pilot Gigs and Watermen's cutters MUST keep to the NORTH (Right) side of the river – do NOT become involved with the flotilla craft.

During the race you will be followed by a safety boat – this is NOT an umpire launch. If you get into any difficulty you and your boat WILL be taken in tow back to ULBC

Have a good clean race – please be aware of the other boats around you and faster boats coming up from astern, do not block their passage.

SAFETY ~ ALL PARTICIPATING CRAFT

- **The river will be closed for this event.** All crews must be aware however that any Class V passenger boats or support boats for THE Boat Races will have precedence at all times.
- Crews must therefore take all necessary action to permit the safe passage of these other craft on the river.
- All Barge Masters and Coxswains should read the Risk Assessment (App. 1) and take any necessary action.
- All boats participating **MUST** carry a buoyancy aid or life jacket for each person aboard ~ **the Coxswain and any passengers *must* wear theirs at all times.**
- Anyone who cannot swim at least 50m fully clothed **MUST** wear a buoyancy aid or life jacket at ALL times.
- All boats **MUST** carry a bailer (attached to the craft) or a hand or electric pump.
- All craft will follow these Guidance Notes, but the Master (Coxswain) of the craft will at all times be responsible for the consequences of their own navigation and it is their decision to take part and/or continue to participate.
- We recommend that all crew and in particular Coxswains view the PLA video on 'Rowing through Central London' at www.boatingonthames.co.uk .
- All participating boats are to comply with any instruction given by a Safety Boat or Control Boat as the timings of The Boat Race Day Festival of Rowing are critical to its success.
- Safety Boats will be identified by a black flag with white 'Safety' lettering. There will be one safety boats in attendance for each division.
- If your craft is immobilised for any reason or becomes damaged and you need urgent assistance your Cox should remain seated, cross and uncross their arms above their head and if possible wave a piece of white clothing in the direction of the nearest safety boat.
- If any person aboard your craft becomes unwell signal in the same manner as above and follow instructions from the attending safety boat.
- In the unlikely case of Man Overboard (MOB) one member of the crew is to remain seated, shout loudly "Man overboard!" and point at the location of the person in the water. The Coxswain will attract the attention of the nearest Safety boat and then follow instructions. All other craft are to keep rowing up the course, craft must not round up and attempt recovery. Recovery of a Man Over Board will be carried out by a Safety Boat *not* participating craft.
- No alcohol may be consumed by any person before this event or whilst afloat as part of the Oxbridge Waterman's Challenge

- VHF radios will NOT be used by individual manpowered craft. Any communication you require with other craft will be carried out directly and verbally.
- Mobile phones and valuables should be kept to a minimum and carried in sealed waterproof bags. The organisers will not be held responsible for the loss or damage to any mobile telephones or any other such items.
- Every boat must be individually covered by valid public liability insurance up to £3 million for any one claim and for any loss, injury or damage to property or persons (including all persons aboard the craft).
- Any towing will be undertaken at the boat owner's risk.
- In the case of severe weather conditions on the morning of 3rd April a decision will be made by the organisers working with the PLA Harbour Master as to whether the event will proceed or which boats may take part as per the Risk Assessment.
- All participants must ensure they are prepared for all weather conditions ~ carry waterproofs, warm clothing. Refreshments will be available to all crews on return to University of London Boat Club.

IN CASE OF AN INCIDENT

In case of any incident the one and only rule is:

ALL CRAFT WILL BE TOWED OFF THE BOAT RACE COURSE.

Stay with your boat, take instructions from the attending safety boat and be prepared to be towed to above Chiswick Bridge.

Under no circumstances will boats be beached or left on the course.

At all times the Coxswains MUST keep a good look out and follow any instruction from the safety boats.

Coxswains - please keep a continual look out and steer a safe course at all times.

If it becomes necessary to warn other craft about their course call "Take a look (boat name)"

TIMETABLE

The timings of this event are critical to the success of the Oxbridge Challenge in conjunction with the flotilla and THE Boat Races.

All crew members are to be made aware that there will be **NO** delay in leaving University of London Boat Club and therefore they must arrive in plenty of time to prepare themselves and their boat for departure.

09:00 River Closure Commences

09:30 All crews arrive University London Boat Club (ULBC).

Please be aware of the Ultra Low Emission Zone now operating in West London

If you are driving to the event *PLEASE* check and pay at:

www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-where-and-when

New restrictions are in place as of January 2022.

There is no longer access to Hartington Road from the Great Chertsey Road (A316) at Chiswick Bridge. To access Hartington Road and the boathouse you need to use the Sutton Court Road access from the Great West Road (A4) via Grove Park Bridge.

Please park in Hartington Road, Chiswick, W4 3TU

Come up right hand stairs and in the Clubhouse across the flat roof.

All boats arrive ULBC - All crews assist with the recovery of boats on their arrival (**bring Wellington boots**).

10:15 Briefing for **ALL** OWC Coxswains, flotilla Coxswains and safety rib drivers.
No attendance = No participation

All crews and flotilla continue rigging boats and commence preparing to go afloat.

10:45 **All crews go afloat**

11:00 All Flotilla & OWC crews muster as per instructions off ULBC –
DO NOT GO FOR A WARM UP PADDLE!

PLA commence laying stake boats above Putney Bridge

11.30 Flotilla and OWC craft commence row downstream to Putney
Flotilla craft to lead, OWC to follow – at speed of slowest craft.

Gloriana will lead the way from Chiswick Pier downstream

All boats MUST stay in close formation with safety ribs in attendance

*Any Class V craft moving onto moorings will have right of way
All Boat Race support boats – they have right of way!*

12:15 OWC cutters and flotilla arrive Putney

As you approach Putney (Black Buoy) keep to the LEFT and go across to the NORTH shore – DO NOT GO INSIDE THE PUTNEY MOORINGS

Moor or beach your craft opposite London RC (the last clubhouse at the downstream end of the Putney boathouses) – at least one member of the crew MUST stay with the boat at all times

Gloriana will moor at Putney Pier and board passengers

12.25 Gloriana depart Putney Pier take up position off Thames RC

12:30 Flotilla form up astern of Gloriana

12:40 Flotilla salutes

12.45 Flotilla commence passage upstream

12:50 All OWC boats afloat
Form up in your divisions upstream of stake boats (opposite London RC)
(take instruction from Umpire)
DO NOT APPROACH BOAT RACE STAKE BOATS

12:54 Finish line Judge's launch ('Chasnee') depart Putney

13:00 Pilot Gig race start (take instructions from Starter/safety boat)
13:10 Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge Division One - Women's start
13:15 Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge Division Two - Mixed start
13:20 Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge Division Three - Men's start

Flotilla stay to SOUTH (port/left) side of river at all times.

All racing crews of OWC crews stay to NORTH (starboard/right) side of river at all times.

BE AWARE OF THE MUD FLATS OFF FULHAM FOOTBALL GROUND

13:36 OUWBC & CUWBC leave boathouses

13:45 Flotilla arrive at finishing line and salutes then continue upstream to ULBC.

Gloriana hold water opposite MAABC – disembark passengers/crew as required

13:55 OWC arrive Finish Line and clear Boat Race course as soon as possible.

Crews to immediately continue upstream to ULBC for disembarkation

- 14:00 All OWC, gigs and flotilla boats arrive ULBC –
boats prepared and leave for tow back to home moorings upstream.
Make sure everything is lashed down so it cannot go overboard during the tow.
Downstream tow awaits river opening after Boat Race
- 14:23 The Gemini UK Women's Boat Race**
- 14:38 Blondie/Osiris Race**
- 14:53 Goldie/Isis Race**
- 15:23 The Gemini UK Men's Boat Race**
- 15:43_{approx} THE Boat Race finish**
- 15:40 TTRA Prize Giving at ULBC
- 15:54 THE Boat Race Prize Giving commences

COMMUNICATION

The principal method of communication will be voice. A loud hailer will be used – listen for instructions

TTRA Event Organiser Malcolm KNIGHT will be available on mobile: 07973562038

Chris Cully will be Co-Ordinator for the flotilla and Gloriana will be available on mobile: 07775667977

Safety / Support Co-Ordinator Chris Lowe from NER can be contacted on VHF Channel 16.

The TTRA do not encourage use of the VHF at our events.
If you do bring one, please DO NOT use the VHF unless it is an emergency.

CONCLUSION

Please come and enjoy this great event, we're once again creating a little piece of river history.

TTRA and Thames Alive