

The Boat Race Flotilla



GUIDANCE NOTES

Sunday 2nd April 2017

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

This event has been organised by
Thames Alive (www.thamesalive.org.uk)
and
The Thames Traditional Rowing Association (www.traditionalrowing.com)
in partnership with
The Cancer Research UK Boat Races (www.theboatraces.org)

THE BOAT RACE DAY FLOTILLA 2017

On Sunday 2nd April 2017, the Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana' has been invited by the organisers of The Cancer Research UK Boat Races to row over the course from Putney to Chiswick. The Royal Barge will be escorted by traditional rowed craft from clubs and associations of the River Thames.

The flotilla will be followed, and overtaken, by the Watermen's cutters competing in the Oxbridge Challenge and the Oxbridge cutters racing over the full course for the first time in seven years.

These events will be part of the day of events on the Thames preceding the Boat Races and will be watched by 1000s on the river bank and millions around the world on BBC television.

The event will be organised from University of London Boat Club, Hartington Road, Chiswick.

The full course to be rowed will be from ULBC to Putney and return a total of 9.5 miles.

These Guidance Notes are to assist you in participating in this Flotilla. Please read, understand and then follow their directions.

Come prepared for the weather with sufficient clothing catering for both the sun and rain.

We hope you enjoy your afternoon on the River Thames.

Thames Alive

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. 2) 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 Flotilla are critical to its success.
- All craft must maintain close formation with the other craft, only taking up the southern half (port/left side) of the river.
- This is a processional row *******THE FLOTILLA IS NOT A RACE*******
- If you are unable to maintain the required speed move gradually to one side of the flotilla, you will be identified by a safety boat and then taken in tow to above the finish line. Remain seated in your craft at all times and take instruction from the attending safety boats.
- Safety Boats will be identified by a black flag with white 'Safety' lettering. There will be three safety boats in attendance on the flotilla.

- 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 whilst afloat as part of the Flotilla.
- 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 2nd April a decision will be made by the Thames Alive organiser, the Secretary TTRA working with the PLA Harbour Master as to whether the event can continue 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.

COMMAND & CONTROL

Malcolm KNIGHT (Director, Thames Alive) will have Command (hereafter called 'Controller') of the Boat Race Flotilla working with the Roger GOULD (Secretary of the TTRA and Controller of the Oxbridge Challenge races) and the PLA HM Duty Officer.

Marshal/Safety boats will be supplied by Northern Exposure Rescue and The Ahoy Centre. Any instruction given by the crews of these craft **must** be acted upon immediately.

The working radio will be Channel 14.

The Controller will liaise with London VTS re. the flotilla movements.

The total number of craft involved in the flotilla will be 24.

Sunday 2nd April 2017

TIMETABLE

The timings of this event are crucial to the success of the flotilla in conjunction with the Oxbridge Challenge 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 should arrive in plenty of time to prepare themselves and their boat for departure.

- 11:30 All crews to have arrived at University London Boat Club (ULBC).
Please park in Hartington Road, Chiswick, W4 3TU – there are no special parking facilities – DO NOT park in ULBC.
Come up right hand stairs and in the Clubhouse across the flat roof.
- 12:00 All boats arrive ULBC - All crews assist with the recovery of boats on their arrival (**bring Wellington boots**).

QRB arrive Wandsworth Riverside.
- 12:15 Briefing at ULBC for **ALL OWC Coxswains, flotilla Coxswains, umpires and safety rib drivers**.

No attendance = No participation

All OWC crews and flotilla crews continue rigging boats and commence preparing to go afloat.
Beware the tide is still ebbing (going out) so boats will have to be moved down the beach.
- 12:45 All Flotilla & OWC crews afloat and muster as per instructions off ULBC.
- 13:00 Flotilla and OWC craft commence row downstream to Putney
Flotilla craft to lead, OWC to follow – at speed of slowest craft.
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!*
- 13:15 QRB moor TFL Wandsworth Riverside.
- 14:00 QRB guests arrive Wandsworth Riverside Pier, Eastfields Avenue, SW18 1LP.
- 14:30 **River Closure commences - no unauthorised boat movements permitted.**
- 14:30 Flotilla and OWC cutters arrive Putney,
Position boats inside mooring line in front of the boat clubs, hold water or hold to the moored boats.

- 14:30 QRB Gloriana depart moorings, passage upstream.
- 14:45 QRB pass under Putney Bridge.
- 14:50 QRB toss oars opposite Thames RC.
Flotilla boats turn and follow QRB upstream.
- 15:00 PLA commence laying stake boats above Putney Bridge.
- 15:05 Finish line Judge's launch ('Chasnee') depart Putney – will overtake flotilla.
- 15:25 OWC First Division form up upstream of stake boats.
(take instruction from Umpire's rib).
- 15:30 Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge Division One (Ladies & Mixed) start.
- 15:35 Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge Division Two (Men's & Skerries) start.
- 15:40 Oxbridge Gig race start.

QRB Gloriana and escort flotilla stay to SOUTH (port) side of river at all times.

OWC crews stay to NORTH (starboard) side of river at all times.

- 15:47 OUWBC & CUWBC leave boathouses.
- 16:30 OWC completed and clear of Boat Race course.
Crews to immediately continue upstream to ULBC for disembarkation.
- 16:35 QRB arrive at finishing line.
Flotilla salute QRB and then continue upstream to ULBC.
- 16:40 All OWC and flotilla boats arrive ULBC - boats prepared and leave for tow back to home moorings upstream or recovered to trailers.
Downstream tow awaits river reopening after Boat Race.
- 16:45 QRB moor at Chiswick Marina (check depth!)
(Passengers and rowers disembark and go to Boat Race hospitality at MAABC).

- 16:35** **The Cancer Research UK Women's Boat Race**
- 16:50** **Blondie/Osiris Race**
- 17:05** **Goldie/Isis Race**
- 17:00 QRB depart moorings, hold water above Chiswick Bridge
- 17.35** **The Cancer Research UK Boat Race**
- 17:55**_{approx} **THE Boat Race finish**
- 18.00 TTRA Prize Giving at ULBC
- 18:10 QRB depart Chiswick Bridge, passage downstream to Chelsea Harbour moorings
- 19:00 QRB arrive Chelsea Harbour moorings.

FLOTILLA PREPARATIONS

The tide will be on the ebb/falling (HW Chelsea Bridge 01.05 BST, LW Chelsea Bridge 13:20 BST).

Boats to arrive by own arrangements – river tow, under own power or road trailer.

We do not have the large-scale infrastructure support as experienced during previous events so please can individual boat owners take responsibility for the safe arrival/removal of their boats, the safe, legal parking of their trailers and all vehicles.

RIVER ARRIVAL:

Please arrive in good time. Be aware there are large stones in the beach area so boats should be taken ashore gently by land based crew members only.

Boats should be manhandled down the beach as the water level drops.

ROAD ARRIVAL:

DO NOT PARK IN ULBC UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

Space at ULBC is extremely limited so please make use of two small slipways upstream of ULBC.

The first slipway is in Thames Road W4 3RE opposite Riverview Road, W4 – trollies or

trucks will be required to cross the beach, bring wellies.



The second is beside Kew Bridge in Strand-on-the-Green W4 3NG. This is also across a beach area so wellies will be required.



Chelsea Kayak Club is located in the arch to the right of the slipway (07979507374).

Above Kew Bridge is a pontoon where boats may be moored temporarily for loading/preparation, for access please contact 020 8847 3028.



Please park your vehicles with consideration for local residents.

DO NOT BLOCK THE SLIPWAY other than when you are unloading/loading your boat(s).

Please row/paddle your boats down to ULBC or ensure your Coxswain is present at the briefing.

12:15 ALL COXSWAINS MUST ATTEND THE BRIEFING

NO ATTENDANCE = NO PARTICIPATION

The events today will be running in parallel with the planned Boat Race events and we must not under any circumstances hinder the smooth running of this prestigious event.

FACILITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ROWING CLUB

The Thames Traditional Rowing Association have temporary membership of the club for the purpose of running their event, the Oxbridge Challenge, this has been successfully running for seven years.

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

Refreshments will be available 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!

THE FLOTILLA

Rowing crew/passengers please be ready to launch immediately after the briefing

Get boated as soon as possible and muster in the immediate area off ULBC – do not go for a practice paddle, you'll have plenty of time for that rowing down to Putney!



The beach at ULBC at low water – OWC cutters preparing to leave.

Be aware the river is still open and there may be other craft moving in the area.

A PLA launch will be stationed 75m upstream – this is the upper limit of the river closure and will advise other craft to leave the area.

The 20 craft of the Flotilla should position themselves downstream and the cutters of the Oxbridge Challenge upstream (nearer to the PLA launch).

13:00 When instructed by the Flotilla Controller commence downriver passage.

Please stay in close formation keeping to the right of the river.

Be aware there are temporary moorings on the right below Chiswick Bridge – any Class V vessel manoeuvring on to these buoys will have right of way.

Take instruction from the Control or Safety boats.

Continue downstream keeping in close formation.

Below Hammersmith Bridge please ensure the flotilla boats are leading followed by the cutters and boats of the Oxbridge Challenge.

As you approach Putney (Black Buoy) keep to the right and go inside the line of moored boats. Be aware of other boats moving in the area.

Stop rowing and moor to the craft, raft up with same size/style of boat facing downstream

Do not turn about as the tide will now turn and start to flood (LW CB 13:21)

See Picture 1 in Appendix 1

14:45 The Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana' will come upstream under Putney Bridge

Remain in position, as QRB approaches be prepared to give three cheers.

QRB will stop and toss oars opposite Thames RC – join in the rousing three cheers/salute to the University Boat Club crews.

As QRB lower her oars move off from your mooring, turn through the mooring line and take up position astern of QRB

See Picture 2 in Appendix 1

All craft will keep in close formation, a maximum of three abreast maintaining a steady rate of passage which will be set by 'Gloriana'. We MUST NOT spread across the river.

See Picture 3 in Appendix 1

All boats MUST keep to the left side of the channel

THIS IS A PROCESSIONAL EVENT **NOT A RACE**

It will be a very slow 'regal' row upstream – the proposed timings are below...

BOAT RACE Flotilla 2017

4.2 14 mins per km
Speed km/h Max 8 km/h

Time	Landmark	Distance	Duration	Start times
		km	minutes	
14:35	Depart moorings			
14:45	Pass under Putney Bridge			
14:50	Start (Allow salute @ TRC)	0	0	
15:20	Fulham Reach	2	29	
15:30	Hammersmith Bridge AK	2.8	40	Oxbridge Ladies & Mixed
15:35				Oxbridge Men's & Skerries
15:40				Oxbridge Gig Race
15:50	Chiswick Ait	4	57	
16:00	Bandstand	5	71	
16:15	Barnes Bridge TTRC	6	86	
16:30	Chiswick Bridge TSS	7	100	
16:35				Women's Boat Race
16:50				Blondie/Osiris
17:05				Goldie/Isis
17:35				Boat Race

The Finish Line judges boat ('Chasnee') will depart Putney astern of the flotilla and overtake on its way to the finish – this is an old Police launch and may cause wash, be prepared for it...don't complain, you have been warned!!

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 take instruction from the marshal /safety boats.

Coxswains please keep a continual look out and steer a safe course within the flotilla.

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

As the flotilla proceeds upstream listen for instructions to "Easy Oars!"

Be prepared to toss oars and join in the salute being given by 'Gloriana' at different locations.

At some point above Hammersmith Bridge the boats racing in the Oxbridge Challenge will commence passing the flotilla.

See Picture 4 in Appendix 1.

They will keep to the starboard (right) side of the river – the flotilla *must* keep to the port (left) side of the river.

THEIR PROGRESS MUST NOT BE IMPEDED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

Again the support/safety boats will follow the three divisions of racing boats – they may cause wash – be prepared for it.

A final salute will be given as Gloriana approaches the finish line below Chiswick Bridge.

Gloriana will now move to the port (left) side of the river.

ALL boats of the flotilla will continue upstream to ULBC – only those specifically authorised will remain in the vicinity above Chiswick Bridge.

ALL boats of the flotilla **MUST** clear the Finish area (in front of Mortlake Anglia & Alpha Boat Club (MAABC), you will not be permitted to remain in the area to watch the finish of the Boat Races.

Please return to your chosen launch site and safely recover your boat

OR

Return to ULBC and beach your boat, disembark crew and passengers and go and watch the Boat Race on the television - remember the tide is still coming in (High Water Richmond 19:42 BST).

Refreshments will be served in ULBC for all the crews who have taken part today – please enjoy the party.

CONCLUSION

Please come and enjoy this great event, we're once again creating a little piece of river history – the first Boat Race Flotilla.

Thames Alive