

Thames Alive

Risk Assessment

Event: The Boat Race Flotilla & Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge.

Location: River Thames – Wandsworth Riverside Pier to University of London Boathouse, Chiswick

Date: 2nd April 2017 13:00 – 16:30

Brief: The Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana' with an escort of twenty (20) traditional rowed craft will row over the Boat Race course from Putney Bridge to Chiswick Bridge. They will be followed and overtaken by the three divisions (total 14 boats) of the Watermen's Challenge who will start upstream of the Boat Race stake boats and finish at Chiswick Bridge. All craft, except 'Gloriana', will start and finish the events at UL Boathouse Chiswick. Gloriana will start and finish at Wandsworth Riverside Pier.

The Queen's Row Barge 'Gloriana': QRB is fully classified by the MCA and certified as a Class V passenger boat with suitably certified skipper and crew (2) plus 18 experienced oarsmen/women who regularly row on the River Thames

Watermen's Cutters: The Cutters have been built to specification set by the Great River Race since 1987. They have a GRP or wooden hull with inbuilt buoyancy sections and carry life rings, life jackets for all the crew with the coxswain and passengers wearing lifejackets. They are regularly rowed on the tidal Thames.

Shallops & Gigs: Large wooden hulled craft built for the River Thames and UK coastal waters.

Rowers: A mixture of experienced Watermen and those who row regularly on the tidal and non-tidal Thames.

Safety/Control boats: Safety ribs from Ahoy Centre and Northern Exposure Rescue - all coded and equipped with VHF radio, lifejackets, life rings, throw lines and First Aid kits.

Skippers & Crew: The crews of all ribs are holders of RYA certification, first aid trained and are experienced watermen on the River Thames.

Event Organisers:

Boat Race Flotilla – Malcolm KNIGHT, Thames Alive – rowed on River Thames, UK coastal waters and European waterways.

Oxbridge Waterman's Challenge – Roger GOULD, TTRA – rowed on River Thames, Atlantic oarsman.

Activity	Hazards	Persons at risk	Control measures	Risk level / Competent person.
Rowing on the tideway	Collision with fixed object/grounding	Boat crew & support crew	PLA informed. Navigation Woolwich Radio via Ch.14. Qualified experienced skippers on support boats. Full briefing given to all Coxswains and Boat skippers before commencement of event. (Non-attendance=non-participation) Lifejackets to be available in all boats for rowers & worn by Coxswains and passengers. Lifejackets to be worn by all support/safety boat crews. Communication via VHF radio, mobile or walkie-talkie. Control/safety boats will be capable of rescuing the rowers & taking to safe landing place. Further Emergency services of the local RNLI to be sought if required	Low. Coxswain of all rowing craft Skippers of all launches
	Collision with other craft (participants and other river users)	Participating Boats & Control/Support Craft	PLA informed. Navigation Woolwich Radio via Ch. 14. Qualified experienced skippers on support boats. Full briefing given to all Coxswains and Boat skippers before commencement of event. (Non-attendance=non-participation) NTM issued to other river users and broadcast via VHF by Woolwich Radio. Lifejackets to be available in all boats for rowers & worn by Coxswains and passengers. Lifejackets to be worn by all support/safety boat crews. Communication via VHF radio, mobile or walkie-talkie. Control/safety boats will be capable of rescuing the rowers & taking to safe landing place. Further Emergency services of the local RNLI to be sought if required	Low. Coxswain of all rowing craft Skippers of all launches
	Man overboard.	Boat crews & support crew	Lifejackets to be available in the rowing boats for all crew. Lifejackets to be worn by safety/control boat crew. Control/safety boats capable of MOB recovery. Communication via VHF radio. Life rings/lights and throw lines. Ref: sinking instructions.	Low. Skippers of all launches

	Sinking	Rowing boat crews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Safety/Control boat skipper takes overall command of rescue operations. 2.Crew captain (coxswain) to take control of the craft. 3. Rowers to put on lifejacket and inflate them and hold onto craft (fitted with buoyancy) and/or oars. 4. Priority will be to get rowers out of the water asap. Any problems Mayday call. 5. Recover boat and arrange tow to clear the course 	Medium. Skippers & crew of the Support/Safety launches
	Injury	Boat crew & support crew	<p>Injuries will be assessed and appropriate Mayday call or 999 call made before being transferred to the bank for road transport. Qualified 1st aiders in the safety boat crews. 1st aid and resuscitation equipment carried. CLP of The Boat Race to be utilised if required</p>	Low Skippers of both launches.
	Bad weather/ Flood conditions	Boat crews & support crew	<p>Met. Office weather forecasts obtained 24hrs prior to event and on the day. Event Organisers to make final assessment on arrival at UL Boathouse before commencement of crew briefing as to conditions (e.g. wind over tide). Event only carried out if the weather conditions are suitable and considered safe (rowed craft able to make good headway).</p> <p>Increased flow rate – Briefing to include additional warning to Coxswains ‘Ebb Tide Flag Warning’ to be consulted Fog – visibility <1/2 mile = No Go Wind – wind over tide (creating waves); 10 knots+ – flags/canopies stowed 20 knots+ - Consider No Go Secretary TTRA and/or Thames Alive have authority to cancel event at any stage.</p>	Medium to High Event Organisers (Sec. TTRA & Thames Alive)

	Cold water shock/ Hypothermia	Anyone in the water	Safety/Control boat on standby to remove anyone from the water asap. Survival bags on safety/control boat. Qualified 1st aiders in crews. VHF radio & mobile phone for emergencies CLP of The Boat Race to be utilised if required	Low to medium. Crews of safety/support launches
	Navigation along a busy waterway	Boat crew & support crew	Navigation Woolwich Radio via Ch 14 or mobile phone. Qualified skipper on all support boats. Abide by navigation rules of the river and agreed Passage Plan	Low Skippers of all launches.
	Engine failure on safety/support craft	Boat crew & support crew	Boat to anchor and contact Woolwich radio. Communication via VHF radio or mobile. Assessment made by Skipper of other launches to establish if it is safe to be towed to the nearest above Chiswick Bridge A minimum of six safety boats will be engaged on the event – three flotilla, three OWC.	Low Skippers of all powered launches.