



Goring & Streatley Regatta (17th July 2021)

Competitor Information

Dear Competitors,

Congratulations for completing your training which, for many of you, has been the first time in a rowing boat. We are now looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday and wish all crews the best of luck.

As you will be aware, the Regatta is in a very different format and location to the normal so, in many ways, Saturday's event will be a 'first' for us too. Whilst the numbers attending will be significantly less than in previous years, we have taken great care to ensure the safety of competitors and, in this regard, I would ask all crew members to read the attached document titled Safety Instructions.

One of the more positive outcomes of the reduced numbers is that we can ensure every crew takes part in at least three races and possibly four if they win through to the final. Also attached is the Racing Draw which details the times that each crew will be racing. The main difference in the racing format is that crews have been grouped in Pods of similar ability which will go on the water at the same time and complete all their races over a 90 minute period before returning to the Clubhouse. This will hopefully avoid athletes waiting around at the Clubhouse for several hours between races and it will keep the overall numbers at the Club, at any particular time, to a safe level.

We would ask that only competitors come down to the Club as we are not able to accommodate any supporters within the Club grounds. As has been explained to all of you, however, the racing will take place downstream of the railway bridge and spectators will be able watch and cheer on their respective crews from the public footpath that runs along the Berkshire Bank between Beale Park and Lower Basildon. Access to the footpath can be made from the end of Church Lane in Lower Basildon where there is limited parking for some 12 cars. The footpath starts on the left of the Lane and runs to the west of the Church grounds down to the River. Alternatively, access to the public footpath can be made from Beale Park or Pangbourne. Fortunately, the owner of the field, which borders the race course, is a Club Member and he is happy for supporters to have a picnic on the banks of the River.

On arriving at the Club you will be directed to a parking space. Spaces are limited so please do not leave wide spaces between cars. Please then go to race control to register your crew and collect your crew numbers. Each crew will have two numbers which should be pinned on the backs of the rower in the Bow seat and your cox. Please be ready to boat 15 minutes before the stated boating time for your division. Your allotted cox or the pontoon marshal will call you as soon as a boat is available. Please boat and cast off with the minimum for delay. Don't forget to take some water with you in the boat.

Having turned upstream of the Clubhouse, crews should progress downstream, keeping to the Berkshire Station, and marshal below the start line following the instruction of the marshalling steward. On being called to the start line, Competitors should expect a slightly staggered start to reflect the slight bend in the course.

With the exception of crews in Division D (which will race over 400 metres), all races will take place over 300 metres. Please do not stop rowing and collapse as soon as you pass the finish line as there may be another race immediately behind you. Your cox will ask you to row on for some 50 metres before turning and returning to the start line for your next race. After your third race, you will be told whether you are in the final (based on points won for each race) or to return to the Club.

Competitors returning to the Club will be able to purchase some hot drinks, bacon baps, burgers and cakes whilst catching up on the fortunes of your competitors. The weather forecast seems to be good for Saturday, although there will be some shelter in the event that it rains. We would respectfully ask competitors not to bring down and erect any gazebos, but you are welcome to spread out a rug on the grass areas whilst waiting to be called up to race.

Our scaled down event will not be the Regatta we had originally hoped for but we, nonetheless, very much hope you will have a fun time on Saturday, and welcome your feedback or suggestions. Needless to say, if any of you have caught the rowing 'bug' please do not hesitate to talk to me about continuing.

With regards

Richard Berkley
Captain of Rowing
Goring Gap Boat Club
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