

**Monkton Bluefriars Small Boats Head Race**  
**14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 under British Rowing Rules**  
**47<sup>th</sup> Year - Founded 1971 – 43<sup>rd</sup> Race**

**1 Instructions and Notes For  
All Competitors**

**1.1 Contact Details**

Hon Sec: Julian Bewick 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, Monkton Combe Bath BA2 7HB  
Phone 07970 611 411

Assistant Secretary: James Dawson Entries Secretary: Peter Bossom

Emails sent to [sbh@bluefriars.org.uk](mailto:sbh@bluefriars.org.uk) will be forwarded to the three people mentioned above.

**1.2 Before setting out for Saltford .....**

a. **Registration, Scratching and Classification:**

Clubs have been sent lists of their crews as entered. Print out the list which you will need when you register at Saltford. Use the list to declare scratchings and changes when you register at the race. Any changes known by 23:59 on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October should be emailed to [sbh@bluefriars.org.uk](mailto:sbh@bluefriars.org.uk).

- b. If you are unfamiliar with the course, have a look in particular at a close-up of the area around the bridge in the middle of the course. The Google map is very helpful. It is worth printing this to refer to later.
- c. **Flooding:** The river sometimes floods or flows quickly. The secretary will consult the safety adviser about the state of the river, and they may not allow some events to race if conditions are bad. Competitors will be informed in good time if flood conditions are likely.
- d. **Masters:** We propose to run the handicapping system for masters so that as many competitors as possible can be aiming for prizes. See the Almanack for an explanation of how it works.
- e. **Changing facilities:** None, so please come changed.
- f. **Dress warmly if necessary:** Wear clothing suitable for the occasion. If it is cold or wet, juniors will not be allowed on the water if they are inadequately dressed.
- g. **To get to Saltford:** Saltford is on the A4 between Bristol and Bath. Spectator parking is available in the Barnsdale Park field which is about 200m in the Bath direction from the trailer field entrance. The boat trailer park is in the Avon County RC field which has an entrance about 50 yards inside the 30 mph signs on the Bath side of Saltford. (51 23' 50"N 2 26' 58"W) Post Code BS31 3JS
- h. Conditions in this area may be muddy. You are advised to wear wellies. PLEASE NOTE THAT TRAFFIC THROUGH BATH CAN BE EXTREMELY SLOW.

**1.3 At Saltford .....**

- a. Indoor facilities are **not available** to Competitors.
- b. Boat trailers and cars carrying boats should be parked in the Field next to the main road. No other cars will be allowed this field. Please park trailers tidily next to the railway line.
- c. **Registration:** As in previous years, to speed this process, we require a signed printout of your club's entry details. This form should also be used by you to register substitutions, and scratching.
- d. Registration for ALL crews in each club will be issued together.

#### 1.4 Before Launching .....

- a. Coxes are not weighed at this event. In accordance with British Rowing Rules of Racing Notice is given that this rule is not being enforced.
- b. **Launching late:** Some crews (senior ones in particular) have in the past held back from launching on time, resulting in other people getting cold at the start. For the sake of all, NO CREW will be allowed to join the queue to launch after the time notified for the crew in the starting order.

#### 1.5 On the water

- a. **Moored boats:** Please take special care not to bump into moored boats, particularly those moored on the corner just above the launching area. Collisions may damage your boat or oars, and will disturb occupants of moored boats some of whom do shift work and may well be asleep on board.
- b. **Other river traffic:** The River is open to other traffic. Racing may have to be delayed; if it is, you are asked to be patient. It is possible that narrow boats, etc, may be moving on the river during racing and marshalling. If you meet other traffic, you must keep RIGHT, and treat other river users with caution and respect. Look out for other river users. The river is not closed, and there may be other craft, some of which may ignore the race.

#### 1.6 After the race .....

- a. **Results:** Will be announced as soon as possible after the race and prizes will be presented. Results will be posted at [www.bluefriars.org.uk/sbh](http://www.bluefriars.org.uk/sbh)
- b. **Traffic:** The exit from the Avon County field on to the A4 can be difficult. Be patient and get help if necessary. Some trailers may not get away till dusk. Make sure that your trailer lights are working.

#### 1.7 Safety - The "Row Safe" water safety code applies .....

- a. **Safety:**  
Competitors will not be allowed to launch unless they are wearing clothing appropriate to the weather.  
In the event of any accident, stay with your boat, and move to the side.
- b. **Marshals:** There will be marshals and race monitors posted along the course. These will communicate via mobile phone and radios.
- c. **Safety Boats:** There will be two fully equipped safety boats on the course. Further boats used by marshals will be on the water, but these will not be fully kitted out to rescue. To summon a rescue boat, contact a race monitor, or any other official. A safety boat follows the last boat in each division.
- d. **Medical Help:** St John's First-aiders are on hand at the boathouse. The hospital is 10 to 15 minutes away.
- e. **Emergency telephones:** Officials have mobile phones or radios, and they will certainly be available at the start, the bridge, the finish and in the area of the boathouse.

**Urgent Contact with clubs:** The mobile phone number declared on the entry form may be used to get in touch with you.

## Further Instructions For Competitors racing the LONG Course - Divisions A, C, E.

a.

### Launching .....

- a. **Launching:** The starting order shows the times when crews should join the queue outside the boat houses. After your boat has been inspected, launch as slickly as possible so you won't have to wait too long on the water. Help other crews, and don't hang back. Have oars and boats ready on time. If racing gets ahead of schedule, a division may be called to boat early. Listen for announcements.
- b. Short Course divisions B and D will be racing upstream immediately following crews proceeding upstream to race in divisions C and E, so boats in divisions C and E MUST launch on time and proceed upstream without delay.
- c. **Boats launching at Newbridge:** It is assumed that all boats except those of Minerva RC will launch at Saltford. Numbers for boats launching at Newbridge must be collected from Saltford. Boats will be checked by an official. Liaise with the Secretary about suitable launching times; warming up allowed, but ONLY upstream of a point 150 metres above bottom railway bridge; turn to paddle upstream as soon as any boat coming up from Saltford reaches the bridge. If warming up is needed, launch as a group in good time, and wait facing upstream above the bottom bridge, then slot into line of boats moving to the start. After the race, wait near the Marina well downstream of the Saltford boathouses (ie out of the way of boats coming in at Saltford).

### On the water

- a. **Above the start:** Competitors should arrange themselves facing upstream in the right order. Instructions will be given for taking tracksuits off and turning, after which competitors must be prepared to race immediately.
- b. **Turning :** In recent years, the average starting gap between boats has exceeded 30 seconds. There was an improvement in 2016. Waiting time above the start will be reduced and racing will be more interesting if this gap is further reduced. **Boats normally wait to turn one at a time: this is bound to cause delays, so please start turning round as soon as the boat immediately downstream of you starts to turn. Don't wait until it is fully turned before turning your boat.**
- c. **At the start:** Competitors must follow instructions from marshalls, and keep closely bunched until told to spread to out about 100m above the start. The order "Number xx, GO!" will be given just below the top railway bridge, and the time recorded from several lengths downstream. GAPS of several minutes may be included in the start sequence.
- d. **During the race:** Overtaking boats have right of way. There is plenty of room for passing, except at the bottom bridge half way down the course. If you fall in, stay with your boat and swim with it to the bank.
- e. **Bottom bridge:**

Refer to the google map which you have been advised to print.

The LEFT HAND ARCH OF THIS BRIDGE SHOULD BE USED (INSIDE OF THE CORNER) Any boat about to be overtaken must move out of the way and give audible warning if necessary. An Umpire will be posted at the Bridge.

The correct line to take at this corner when racing is to keep to the "correct" or right-hand (North) of the river until about the point marked H on the map. At this stage start taking the corner so that by the time you get to the bridge you take the inside arch marked at G. i.e. the wrong side of the river.

There is a buttress in the middle of the bridge, and if you position yourself on the south side of the river at H, you're taking the corner too early, and you are likely to collide with the buttress! We hope to put in a post marked H at the appropriate point on the bank. It will be worth noting Corner H on the way up to the start.

- f. However, if two or more boats approach Corner H in close proximity, they must listen for the Marshal's instructions, WHICH MUST BE OBEYED.

You may be directed to take the right-hand arch or if safety requires you may be told to stop. When issuing these instructions the marshals will try to favour the quicker or overtaking crew.

- g. **At the finish** which will be marked clearly with a post, competitors must paddle on to keep clear of following boats. N.B. If the stream is running fast, it may be necessary to move the finish upstream. Any change will be announced.

## Further Instructions For Competitors and officials involved in the SHORT Course – Divisions B and D

- a. **Format:** The race for division B consists of an upstream segment of approximately 1100m followed immediately by a downstream segment over the same course in reverse. The upstream segment starts at the Saltford timing point which is the finish of the Long Course and ends at the top of the long straight. Crews will be timed over both segments. Division D is organised in the same way.
- b. **Race Management:** The short-course races (divisions B and D) will be controlled by the Race Manager, who will be on duty at the rafts. It is important that all those involved in the race (competitors, umpires, marshals, timekeepers) understand the way in which the race will be managed. The aim is to give competitors as much racing experience as possible whilst making best use of the time on the river and minimising the amount of waiting by crews taking part in the short and long races.
- c. All boats racing over the short course MUST boat from Saltford.
- d. **Launching:** Crews will launch following the published timetable. Division B boats will launch immediately after division C boats have launched, and the division D boats will launch immediately after the Division E boats have launched. The launching order will be 1x followed by 2x, then 4x. Within boat types, boats which are expected to be SLOW will be sent off FIRST, with suitable gaps. This should result in faster boats starting first in the downstream segment
- e. **Sequence:** the sequence of events is as follows:
  - Crews will wait in the area between the boathouses until called to the raft. High numbered boats will be called first and will be directed to specific rafts.
  - Crew gets into boat at the raft. Must be ready to race. Remain at the raft.
  - The race manager will instruct crews to move off the raft.
  - **Immediately** after moving away from the raft, crews will paddle upstream and start racing just before they pass the timing point. Overtaking and stopping between the raft and the start are not allowed, even if the resulting starting order is not strictly numerical. The distance between the rafts and the start line is approximately 100m.
- f. **During the race:** Overtaking boats have right of way. There is plenty of room for passing. If you fall in, stay with your boat and swim with it to the bank.
- g. Officials at the upstream end of the course will inform crews when they finish. After finishing, wind down and continue paddling upstream. The first boat to arrive at the finish will park, facing upstream, downstream of the bottom bridge, as directed by marshalls. Succeeding boats will park in the order in which they arrive. Overtaking and shuffling into a different order is not allowed between the finish and the parking area.
- h. As soon as the last boat arrives at the finish of the upstream segment, all boats will turn round and face downstream.
  - i. The downstream course will start immediately. The likely starting order is 4x, 2x, 1x.
  - j. **At the finish of the downstream segment,** competitors must paddle on to keep clear of following boats. Turn downstream of the boathouses and get off the water as soon as possible. N.B. If the stream is running fast, it may be necessary to move the finish upstream. Any change will be announced.