



Spring Head to Head – Saturday 3 May 2025

Competitor Instructions

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1 Entries

Entries are invited from CRA and CUCBC clubs.

Events will be held for each boat class across **Open/Men's, Women's** and **Mixed** categories and in: **8+, 8x+, 4-, 4+, 4x, 4x+, 2-, 2x, 1x.**

Events will be banded as follows:

- **Championship** – crews containing members who in the past have rowed at national level events such as HRR, HWR, Wallingford and Met regattas or College 1st Division crews
- **Club** – College 2nd Division crews or town crews that are neither Championship or Novice
- **Novice** – any crew where all of the members of the crew have not started rowing prior to May 2024 or student crews rowing in the 3rd division or below
- **Masters** – Categories from Masters A to G as defined by British Rowing
- **Juniors** – Categories from J13 to J18 as defined by British Rowing

Where an event has a large number of entries, the organising committee may band entries into student and CRA, or by creating bands based on past performance. The organising committee reserves the right to change banding if they feel that a crew has been entered in a category that is too low.

Division times are as follows:

- Div 1: 09:00
- Div 2: 11.00
- Div 3: 13.00

Crews may express a preference for a division and to avoid a division when entering. The organising committee will try to accommodate preferences where possible.

Entries are to be made online using the link on the City of Cambridge Rowing Club website or here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cityofcambridgerowingclub/1639675>

Entries close on Monday 28 April at midnight.

Race fees are £12 per seat excluding the cox plus 50p booking fees. Fees will be collected using Ticket Tailor. Any crew that has not paid its entry fee before the event will not be allowed to race.

In the event that the race is cancelled, full refunds will be given.

2 Pre-Race and Boating

Race numbers can be collected from City of Cambridge Rowing Club from 7:45am on the day of the race. Numbers will be boards that fit into boat Empacher slots.

At the end of racing each club must return numbers to the City of Cambridge boathouse where there will be a “post bin” for numbers. Any number not returned will incur a £5 charge to cover the cost of replacement.

The event organisers may do spot checks of crews that are racing to ensure that they comply with British Rowing’s RowSafe guidelines.

3 Marshalling

All crews must be in the marshalling area 20 minutes before the start of their division. Crews will marshal on the towpath side of the river from the start up to the P&E and then alongside Stourbridge Common. Numbered boards will indicate the marshalling positions of crews.

4 Racing

- The first leg of the race will start at the Railway Bridge and at the upstream side of the A14 Bridge (2,000 meters). The second leg is the course in reverse.
- After racing Leg 1 crews must carry on rowing past the A14 bridge and await marshal’s instructions to spin. They will then marshal for Leg 2.
- Once crossing the finish line of Leg 2 crews should continue to row until they are clear of the finish line.
- Crews overtaking have priority on the racing line (i.e. the inside line on any corner). Any crew impeding another during an overtaking manoeuvre will be awarded a time penalty. Claims of impedance must be reported to the finish immediately after the division.
- Competitors and coaches are reminded of the need for courtesy to other river users, including walkers and anglers and to respect the river’s wildlife.
- Timing will be by RowClock with back-up paper timing. In the past some crews have queried times on the basis of in-boat timing apps such as Strava and Rowing In Motion. Having tested these we have found that that times from the apps can vary by as much as 5 seconds from people in the same boat. Such timings will therefore not be considered in any appeal.
- Time penalties may be awarded for any crews not following the event instructions or acting in an unsporting manner.
- We aim to film the racing and stream this online.

5 Prizes

Prizes will be given for Senior categories with 3 or more entries or Junior categories with 2 or more entries. Prize giving for winning crews take place directly after racing ends (approx. 3pm) at the City of Cambridge Boathouse.

6 Safety

6.1 Competitors' Responsibilities

All competitors must follow marshals' instructions and be alert at all times to the safety of themselves and others.

All competing Clubs have the responsibility to ensure that their crews and scullers abide by the Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing. In particular, all Clubs must ensure that:

- Inexperienced crews have experienced coxswains.
- Coaches of novice/junior crews evaluate the ability of these crews and consider whether they require an individual bank party on a bicycle, carrying a throw-bag, to escort them before, during and after the race. All junior 15s & under in small boats **MUST** have a bank party on a bicycle, carrying a throw-bag.
- Competitors are aware of the BR Row Safe Code, the Event Safety Information and Competitor's Guidance and have been instructed in capsize drill.
- Competitors are competent to take part in the event without putting other people at risk.
- Competitors are responsible for proceeding safely at all times, especially to the start and after the finish.

The Row Safe guide is available at

<https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/policies-guidance/rowsafe/>

6.2 Equipment

It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that the equipment they are using is safe and compliant with the requirements of the BR Rules of Racing and Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing. Event organisers may make spot checks on boat safety. Coxes arriving at the start without a suitable lifejacket or buoyancy aid will be disqualified. Any boat deemed unsafe will be disqualified and asked to return to its boat house with its crew.

6.3 Swimming Ability

Every competitor is expected to be in good health and must be able to swim a minimum of 100 metres in their kit. The river is relatively narrow and shallow in most places, and there is good access from the bank along the extent of the race course, however all crews should make due allowance for the stream and for points of the river which have increased depth or where navigation is more difficult.

6.4 Juniors

Coaches of novice/junior crews must evaluate the ability of these crews and consider whether they require an individual bank party on a bicycle to escort them before, during and after the race. **All junior 15s & under in small boats MUST have a bank party on a bicycle.**

6.5 Accidents

If you see an accident, give appropriate assistance if required. A marshal will take action or alert the rescue services by radio or phone as necessary. The whole course is visible to marshals, and there will be marshals with throw lines along the course. In the event of capsize please stay with your boat, check for the safety of all members of your crew and await assistance from marshals.

6.6 Insurance

All crews must have adequate third party insurance.

6.7 Health Information

Competitors are reminded that the Cam water is likely to contain the Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease) bacterium other sources of harmful and infectious diseases. Ensure pre-existing cuts, blisters etc. are covered with a suitable waterproof dressing before going afloat. Cuts, blisters etc. sustained during the race should be thoroughly washed immediately upon return to the boathouse. Should you be unlucky enough to fall in, please ensure you shower at the earliest possible opportunity. It is recommended that water bottles (including those with a "sports top") are placed in a waterproof plastic bag, rather than loose in the bottom of the boat, to reduce the risk of contact with unclean river water.

6.8 Weather

Although the race takes place in May, weather may still be either very cold, windy or wet. Crews are reminded that they will need to marshal at the lock after the first leg of the race. Therefore, all crews should ensure they have warm and dry clothing to wear while waiting to race the second leg.

If the forecast for the race is poor, or if conditions worsen during the day, the race organisers will make an assessment prior to the race start and may cancel racing either for specific crews (e.g. juniors) or for everyone. Refunds will be offered if this is needed.

7 Contacts

Race Control	Railway Bridge
Events Secretary	John Leighton – 07717 824 931
Safety Officer	Jenny Rankin – 07807 469352
Welfare Officer	Tom Watt – 07900 160766
Marshals	Individuals will be based along the course (identified by their yellow tabards). All with access to throw lines/radios/thermal blankets/megaphones/mobile phones/PPE
Emergency Aid	Race Control
Hospital	Accident and Emergency at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hill's Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ Tel: 01223 217118
Emergency	Fire, Police, Ambulance. Tel: 999

8 Course Map



9 Emergency Access Points

GPS/Postcode information - see detailed map below. All GPS positions in Degrees East and North. In general, the tow path is not suitable for rapid vehicle access.

A. City of Cambridge Rowing Club Boat House, Kimberley Road. CB4 1JH
E: 0.12958; N: 52.21164

B. Churchill College Boat House & Leys School Boat House only, Logan's Way. CB4 1EQ
E: 0.14009; N: 52.21190

C. Vehicle access to western (nearest to Cambridge) tow path (code locked, vehicular access); Also coordinates for Penny Ferry (formerly Pike & Eel Public House) CB4 1PA
E: 0.15052; N:52.21885

D. Vehicle tow path access near railway bridge. Gated, code locked (code available from control), vehicular access to tow path near railway crossing over river Cam.
Pedestrian access.
E: 0.15523; N: 52.22034

E. Car park at Towpath for access to Baites Bite lock & weir, (code locked) (code available from control) eastern section of Tow path and start point. CB24 6AF
Car Park
E: 0.17803; N: 52.23757

F. Vehicle access to Ditton Corner (south, non-tow path side) at end of Long Reach., near Ditton CB5 8ST
E: 0.16779; N: 52.22271

G. Vehicle access to First post corner (east, non-towpath side) north of Fen Ditton
E: 0.17068; N: 52.22795

