



156th Bedford Amateur Regatta – Saturday 9th May 2020

Dear Competitors,

Thank you for your entry for Bedford Amateur Regatta. Details of the draw are enclosed. Please Contact the Regatta Entries Secretary immediately, preferably using e-mail, if there are any problems with your entries.

As you will see we have a very large entry. As such it is imperative that crews are fully briefed and prepared to race at the time of their races. All first-round races will have been scheduled to allow for doubling up of crews and boats if you have put this information into BROE2. Therefore, there is very limited scope for rescheduling these races - crews should expect the rules of racing to be strictly applied and should arrive at the start in good time. **If in later rounds of racing you need to reschedule this MUST be confirmed with Regatta Control situated in the finish tent. To reschedule a race Regatta Control needs a representative of both crews to be present.**

Please read the following notes and ensure that your crew members are aware of them. They will make your day run smoothly, enjoyably and above all safely.

REGATTA CONTROL is located adjacent to the finish line beside the Suspension Bridge.

GETTING TO THE REGATTA Coming from the A1 take the Cardington Road into town, past the Barns Hotel, the pyramid-shaped swimming pool and Tesco, filter into the right-hand lane after the Tesco roundabout for the A5140 signposted towards Cambridge. At the roundabout, take the fourth exit, the A5140 Longholme Way, cross the river, take the first left into the Embankment then immediately left again over the white bridge onto Longholme island.

PARKING Visiting competitors and spectators should park in Mill Meadows just off Cardington Road where there is plenty of available space. The nearest postcode to the Regatta car park is **MK42 OBX**.

BOAT TRAILERS We have had to battle hard to be allowed to use Council-owned land for parking of trailers and towing vehicles on Longholme Island. As you can appreciate, without this facility it would be virtually impossible to run the event. As you can imagine we have a significant number of trailers to park – please listen to the instructions of the trailer parking team to ensure that we can accommodate **ALL** trailers.

No vehicles are allowed to park on the grass between the Embankment and the river. Boats can be left on trestles here, there is very limited parking for trailers on the road so arrive early as it will get busy early on.

It is possible to access the Regatta site via the Embankment on the Friday before the event. However, please note that there will be **NO** physical security available and therefore the Regatta takes no responsibility for damage to trailers or boating equipment.

Please note that the boating area is a public thoroughfare and therefore the paths/roads should be kept clear at all times.



INSPECTION OF BOATS Clubs are responsible for following British Rowing RowSafe best practices and for their own safety should comply with the guidance which relates to them. The latest version of the guidelines is available on both the regatta and British Rowing's websites.

The Control Commission will perform spot checks on boats, any boats failing checks will not be allowed to race.

OAR STORAGE Limited racking for oars is available in the boating area, if not they should be stored in trailers, or similar, when not in use. They should only be brought to the landing stages as you are about to go afloat and should be removed as soon as practical after de-boating.

COXSWAINS Coxswains must weigh in at Regatta Control before their first race. They will be given a ticket which must be available if requested by an umpire. Spot checks will be made to ensure compliance and crews may be requested to call at a landing stage to facilitate this check. Report to the Regatta Control well before your first race. Coxswains should provide their own deadweight where necessary. Appropriate Buoyancy Aids/Life Jackets **MUST** be worn. In "front-loader" boats coxswains must wear manually operated gas inflation life jackets.

SCRATCHINGS Please show consideration to your fellow competitors and inform the entries secretary before the day of the Regatta if you wish to scratch. On the day please inform Regatta Control as soon as is practical to avoid crews unnecessarily boating.

SUBSTITUTIONS may be made online via BROE2 prior to race day or via Regatta Control prior to a crews first race. After the first race only substitutions on medical grounds may be made and these must be authorised by the Chair of the Race Committee via Regatta Control.

RACING LICENCES Crew composition must be accurate at the start of racing. All coaches or crew representatives must check the entry when collecting their race numbers. Random checks maybe made when crews are boating.

REGATTA ENCLOSURE The enclosure can be found adjacent to the Suspension Bridge. Refreshments, toilets and a bar facility are available for competitors and spectators with ample seating available. Competitors will be provided with badges for access, while spectators are required to pay a modest entry fee, which also includes the programme of racing.

PRIZE GIVING if you are lucky enough to have won your event please present your crews British Rowing membership cards at Regatta Control. Once these have been checked you will be given a docket which can be exchanged for your tankards at the Prize tent located in the enclosure.

RACING ORDER Races are rowed where practical in the order shown in the programme. Please assist us by arriving at the start in good time for your race. You should report to the start marshals' area at least TEN minutes before the scheduled time of your race. BYES will NOT be rowed.

NUMBERS paper numbers will be issued to be worn on both the Coxswain's and Bow's racing tops. Numbers and competitor's "enclosure" badges may be collected from Regatta Control from 07:00 on race day. Race numbers will **NOT** be issued until all monies owed have been paid. If you are doubling up in events, please ensure that you have the correct number on display for the relevant event.



ATTACHING TO STAKEBOATS clubs and coaches should ensure that their crews are competent in attaching to stakeboats. Crews may be disqualified if the Umpires consider that a crew is not competent in attaching within a reasonable timeframe.

PHOTOGRAPHY Bedford Amateur Regatta takes place in a public location and crews should be aware that photographs may be taken by amateur and professional photographers or by members of the general public. The Regatta expects anyone taking photographs at the regatta to act within the Safeguarding and Photography policy of British Rowing. Please report any suspected breaches of this policy to the Welfare officer via Regatta Control.

DRONES The use of drones is NOT permitted at the Regatta. You are reminded that there are strict government rules regarding flying drones in built up areas and close to large outdoor gatherings such as Bedford Amateur Regatta.

CAMPING/HOTELS Unfortunately, the Regatta has no camping facilities available for crews. However, the town does have an ample supply of hotels, which can be found online.

TENTS/GAZEBOS An area has been designated for visiting Schools and Clubs to erect their tents/gazebos. Please contact the Regatta entries secretary to book your space. Spaces must be booked and paid for in advance of the regatta. In the interests of health and safety no barbecues are allowed outside of the Regatta Enclosure.

RUBBISH we are very fortunate to have use of the public space for the Regatta. Please ensure that you either dispose of any rubbish in the bins provided or take it home with you.

CANCELLATION POLICY in the event of cancellation we will endeavour to refund entry fees on a pro rata basis once our unavoidable costs have been covered. In the event of a partial cancellation or cancellation of specific events on the day, no refunds will be made.

We hope you all have an enjoyable and successful day.

Hugh Maltby
Hon. Regatta Secretary



SAFETY NOTES

Bedford Amateur Regatta follows the British Rowing Row Safe Guide. All competing clubs and competitors should be familiar with the Guide and for their own safety should comply with the guidance which relate to them. Regatta Control Is situated in the tent adjacent to the Regatta Finish. Regatta Control can be contacted throughout the Regatta weekend on **07787 517480**. Alternatively ask any Regatta Official with a radio to contact Regatta Control if required.

Medical Provision will be provided by Ambulance Response Ltd, based near the enclosure entrance, and can be contacted via Regatta Control. Safety/Rescue Craft Safety/Rescue Craft will be on duty during racing hours. Launches have priority if they are moving. They may be summoned by any Regatta official via Regatta Control. The craft will generally be located downstream of the Town Bridge and near the Start.

Telephone a mobile phone for emergency use is located at Regatta Control near the finish and a telephone for 999 use is located at both Star Club, Schools Boathouse and Bedford Rowing Club.

Vehicles the Regatta Enclosure is designated a pedestrian zone during racing. Competitors should use the signposted car park on Mill Meadows. Disabled persons should contact the Regatta Secretary beforehand to arrange suitable parking arrangements, subject to availability.

Coaching Coaches may use the towpath on the Enclosure side of the river. However, please note that this is a pedestrian footpath and care should be taken at all times.

Warm-up and proceeding to the start the River Great Ouse is narrow in places and great care must be exercised at all times. Crews may warm up on the stretch of river upstream of Star Club. However, crews are advised to warm-up as much as possible on the land before boating.

Crews proceeding upstream towards the start must do so on the Racecourse (starboard) side. Crews must obey umpire and marshals' instructions at all times. In particular, crews should only move when directed by a regatta official. See circulation plan for details.

Racing Bank umpire instructions must be obeyed at all points on the course. Please take extra care when racing through the Town Bridge.

Weather and Water Conditions the Race Committee will monitor the weather and water conditions throughout the Regatta and may suspend, delay or cancel individual races, boat classes or the whole Regatta, if they decide that the conditions are unsuitable for safe and fair racing. These decisions are without appeal. All competitors should dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions. It is always advisable to bring a spare change of clothing in case the British weather does what it does best!

Water Quality Although the River Great Ouse is monitored by the Environment Agency it is impossible to guarantee the cleanliness of the water. All competitors and officials should be aware of the possibility of contracting water borne diseases. The British Rowing Row Safe documentation gives guidance as to how to minimise the risks. In particular anyone who swallows river water is advised to seek medical attention should they subsequently become ill.



River Banks The river banks are high in places, particularly upstream of the Town Bridge. Extreme caution should be exercised when on/near the river banks. The areas around landing stages may be covered in oars and other equipment whilst crews are boating/de-boating. This equipment should be returned removed from the landing stage area as soon as practical after a crew/boat leaves the landing stages.

Useful Contact information:

Regatta Secretary – Hugh Maltby 07787 517480



Local Rules

Bedford Amateur Regatta is held under British Rowing Rules of Racing subject to the following local rules.

1. Crews moving upstream must proceed on the Embankment side (i.e. keep to starboard) and obey all instructions given by umpires and marshals who will stop crews as necessary to keep the course clear for racing.
2. All crews must report to the marshal's above Star Club at least 10 minutes before the times of their respective races. They must remain upstream of the Engineers Bridge (low railway bridge) until they are given clearance by the marshals to proceed to the Start. Crews not arriving on time may be disqualified.
3. The crew first mentioned in each race will take the Embankment station.
4. The course will be buoyed, each boat must keep to its own water and any boat passing on the wrong side of a buoy may be disqualified. Crews whose oars overlap a buoy may be disqualified.
5. In the event of a dead-heat, the race will be rescheduled by Regatta Control.
6. Byes will NOT be rowed.
7. The British Rowing Row Safe guide will be enforced in the interests of the safety of competitors and general public.
8. Coaches may only cycle on the Enclosure Towpath (including coaches and spectators). Any crew being coached from a bicycle maybe disqualified.
9. In the interests of health and safety, only authorised gazebos are permitted.
10. The use of drones is not permitted.