



The Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race

Statement by the Race Directors

Friday 15 January, 2021

It is with regret that we announce the cancellation of the 2021 edition of the DW Canoe Race, as a result of the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

The DW Organisation has been monitoring and reviewing the situation with regard to Covid-19, as illustrated through the information published on 3 November and 22 December 2020. Although we had developed a robust plan to run a Covid-secure version of the race, this was prior to the current national lockdown that has been imposed in response to the escalating situation in the UK.

With expectations set by the Government that this situation could prevail until the end of March, then we have no option but to cancel. There is simply too much uncertainty over if and when we would be able to finalise arrangements for the race. Ultimately our priority is to run a safe race for paddlers, supporters and volunteers alike and, with equal uncertainty over whether the Waterside Series will run, we believe that training and preparation time is likely to be compromised for too many crews.

On this basis the Directors believe that a timely decision to cancel the race for 2021 is in the best interests of all concerned.

All crews with deferred entries will be offered a refund or the option to donate all or part of their entry fee to DW's nominated charity Dorothy House, chosen in support and memory of Kevin Dobson of Devizes CC.

We understand this decision will be a great disappointment to many, as it is to us. But it is the only appropriate course for us to take and ask for your understanding. With Covid vaccines now available and giving us all hope of an end to restrictions, we trust that normal service can be resumed for DW 2022. It is our intention that future races will run the full course from Devizes to Westminster.

The Directors are available for any questions you may have; please feel free to email us at info@dwrace.co.uk