

Notes for All Crews – 26th March 2024

These notes are broken to the following sections:

1. General
2. Reminders
3. Known course issues
4. Stages specific notes
 - a. Newbury start/finish
 - b. Marlow start/finish

In addition to these notes, all Senior Doubles need to make themselves familiar with the Tideway notes, which are in a separate document that will be emailed, and posted on the website.

Remember, all SD paddlers must wear hi-viz hats on the Tideway.

This whole document should be read by all paddlers and support crew.

1. General

Invasive species prevention.

All crews should only bring clean, dry boats to Devizes. This is to help prevent the spread of invasive species. For further information see:

[Invasive species control | Canal & River Trust \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/invasive-species-control)

Any boat presented for use that is not suitably clean will not be allowed to take part in the race.

Nesting Birds

Easter is typically around the time birds are nesting. Every effort must be made to avoid disturbance by both paddlers and support crews.

Noise

Noise must be kept to a minimum, especially at night around moored vessels.

Driving and Parking

Please ensure you drive with care and consideration through the villages and towns along the route.

There is no need to race between support points and then wait ages.

Park legally and make sure you do not block access.

Share the Space

The C&RT mantra around the use of the canal is “slow the pace, share the space”. We need to play our part and keep the towpath clear for other users (cyclists, runners, walkers, etc) particularly at busy support points. Bad behaviour will be penalised.

2. Reminders

GMT

The race will be staying on GMT all weekend. Be aware most mobile phones will automatically update.

Congestion Charge and ULEZ

It is your responsibility to ensure you pay the relevant charges. The race enters both the ULEZ and Congestion Charge zone.

Finish at Westminster

There will be no facilities for paddlers or support crew at the finish.

A condition of the continued permission by St Thomas' Hospital for locating essential safety infrastructure in their grounds is that there is NO parking for DW in the hospital car park.

3. Known Course Issues

These are brief notes to inform paddlers and support crews of the known issues along the course. This list is NOT exhaustive.

High flow rates in places on K&A.

High flow rates on river Thames.

Low bridges (detailed in handbook).

Aggressive swan at Devizes marina.

Nesting swan at Wilcot water.

Semi-aggressive swan near Greenham lock.

Ham lock (2 after Newbury) - eroded get-in. Muddy.

Bulls Lock - muddy get in, possibly underwater.

Widemead lock – get out likely to be underwater.

No parking at Rowbarge pub , Woolhampton.

Theale canal bridge closure Saturday night. Access to Sheffield lock car park from Burghfield side (south) only.

Garston lock – hole on RHS at base of steps to get in. Marked with orange mesh and fencing pins.

Tree down below Burghfield lock. Keep well left.

Tree down below Fobney lock. Keep well left.

Blakes lock get in (steel grating) underwater.

Dreadnought pontoon only just out of water.

Sonning Lock – get in bottom step underwater

Marsh Lock - tree partly blocking access to exit point. Keep well right, turn in once past.

Cookham Bridge – tree blocking an arch. Use others.

Bray lock – get in 50m further along towpath. Immediately opposite footpath to Amerden Lane.

Between Bell lock and Staines – tree across river – passable at edges.

Teddington lock – support crew access on right hand side of lock cut upstream of footbridge. There are EA works vessels moored on left.

Tideway. Senior Doubles paddlers must make themselves familiar with the detailed notes for navigating the tideway. These include which bridge arches to use and how to approach Westminster bridge. They have changed for 2024.

4. Stage Specific Notes

Newbury

The River Kennet weir stream has burst its bank and floodwater is flowing across parts of the Northcroft site. Conditions at Northcroft are unlikely to improve sufficiently before Good Friday to allow us to operate our usual line. The campsite itself is unaffected and will operate as normal.

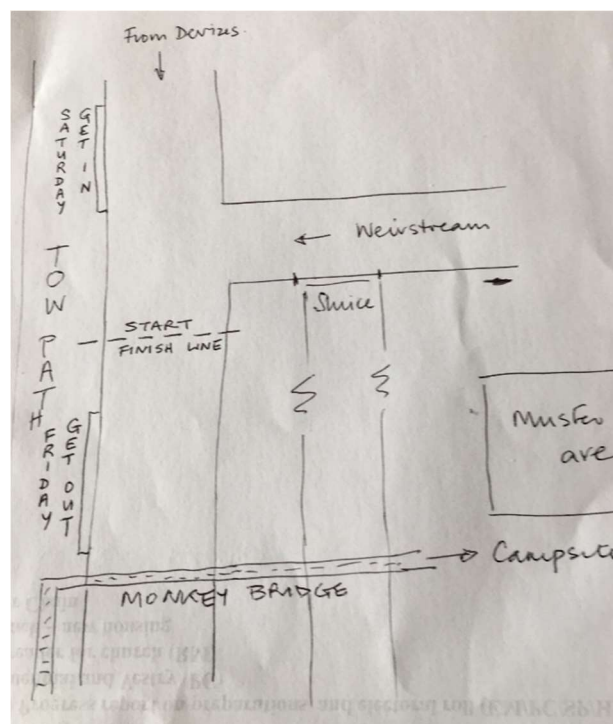
As a result, the **Newbury Finish/Start line for ALL Stages Race paddlers** in 2024 will operate as follows:

- *Location*: line will be downstream of usual location, below where weir stream joins (river left).
- *Good Friday*: egress point will be located downstream of the finish line, river right, above the Monkey Bridge.
- *Saturday morning*: launch point will be upstream of start line, upstream of weir stream, river right.
- *All access* between the towpath and Northcroft campsite for paddlers, boats and support crew will be via the Monkey Bridge.
- There will be no access to the weir stream or field for paddlers or support crews.

See plan below. Note that the Monkey Bridge is not a straightforward portage. Please follow directions provided by marshals, and be considerate of the general public and residents of the liveboard boats in the vicinity of the Monkey Bridge, as well as other paddlers and support crew.

Saturday Morning Start Times

- *Saturday morning starts* operate as normal for all Junior Doubles and slower boats in other Classes, as published in 2024 rules.
- *Faster non-JD crews*: Fastest boats in Sr K1, Jr/Vet and Endeavour classes will be started at 2min intervals from 0915 (based on review of actual Day 1 times). These start times will be published on the website, with all other start times. Please ensure you check start times. With a limited number of crews, the intention is to compress the field into a relatively short finish window at Marlow.



Marlow

The **Marlow Finish/Start line for all paddlers in Sr K1, Jr/Vet and Endeavour classes** will operate as follows:

- *Location:* Higginson Park, Marlow, SL7 1AW, <https://what3words.com/jaws.plans.published>
- *Line:* will be 25M above the park itself (river left) and c. 320M upstream of Marlow bridge.
- *Finisher/Starter:* will be identified by a hi-viz DW tabard, supported by DW marshals in hi-viz.
- *Egress point:* it is anticipated that river levels will allow appropriate egress immediately downstream of finish line. If not, there is a point on riverbank at the very top of the park and immediately downstream of a footbridge the in the park that will be identified by marshal.
- *Sunday morning launch:* will be a reversal of Saturday afternoon.
- *Parking:* There is easy access to a hard path up to the nearest car park, which is Pound Lane car park. This is a pay & display with no height barriers. Some areas of the car park close over night, but still leaves plenty of parking.

Please note this plan may be dynamic in case of unexpected events in the vicinity, so paddlers must be alert on entering Marlow. All arrangements for DW will be river left in this location.

Sunday Morning Start Times

There will be a customised start window for all paddlers in Sr K1, Jr/Vet and Endeavour classes on Sunday morning. These start times will be published on the website, so please ensure you check start times. Similarly to Sunday, the intention is to compress the field into a relatively short finish window at TYM.