



1948-2008 - CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR

April 2008

Still just four weeks after one of the toughest DW events which showed the grit and determination of paddlers in the four day event, and the pain of a 50% drop out rate for the non-stop race. Congratulations to everyone who got to the start line, to those that made it down the course and to those that made it to the finish.

DW2008 Race – What a Race?

Over 300 boats took part in the 60th anniversary race – a big increase on the previous year's 222 – and one we hope to maintain in 2009. Despite the gale force winds, biting cold and sub-zero temperatures the event brought out the strengths in the competitors who battled against icy covered boats, paddles, locks and clothing, standing waves created by headwinds on the Henley Straight and some of the worst conditions for years. Incredibly the drop-out rate overall was around one third. Over half of the non-stop crews retired as the one-tide finish took its toll. Over the four day event, the appalling conditions failed to beat the determined who battled against the elements.

Join The Party And Celebrate DW's 60th Anniversary

Tickets are now available for the **60th Anniversary Party**. It's for anyone who has ever done, or been involved in DW whether it was the very first race or 2008. Bring your partners, and bring your friends. Not everyone has email or access to the internet, so dig out your address book and call your mates from years back and use the party as a reunion. It's at the Corn Exchange in Devizes on 24th May 2008. Starting at 7pm. There's food, drink, music and a guest speaker. All ages welcome so come and celebrate this magnificent occasion. You can buy your tickets through Kim Wetherall at kimbowet@hotmail.com and then send a cheque payable to 'Devizes Westminster Organisation Ltd' for £15 per ticket to Kim Wetherall, 10 Waverley Avenue, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 6DW.

2008 Award Ceremony

This year's Award Ceremony is down in Devizes on the same day as the party starting at 4pm on Saturday 24th May 2008. While many of the prizes have already been claimed, we're looking for **nominations for the Gluckstein Award** for paddlers that have displayed "courage and fortitude". Written applications should be sent to Caroline Barnes (caroline.barnes@ntl.com) as soon as possible. More generally, if you've bagged a trophy, we look forward to seeing you on the 24th in Devizes.

Fundraising Total in 2008

This year's race raised a phenomenal £216,339.78 for charity. This is an incredible figure. For those that raised the funds, many congratulations for two great achievements.

DW2008 – How Was It For You?

Conditions for this year were particularly tough for paddlers. They were also extremely tough for the organizers, volunteers, Marshalls and the 350+ support staff that make each Devizes Westminster possible as well. We'd like to know how was it for you? If you've got any comments or feedbacks, or what to pass on details of any particular incidents we'd like to hear from you. Drop us an email at DevizesWestminster@googlemail.com

DW60 - BEER

If you still haven't tried the DW60 beer that Wadworth brewed, there are still a few cases left (but going fast). We've improved the distribution. You can order over the phone through the Wadworth Visitor Centre on 01380 732277.

Volunteers

The running of this year's race was as much an achievement of the hundreds of volunteers as it was for the participants. We need more volunteers to keep the race running smoothly. From marshals to manning checkpoints, kit checks at Devizes, to crew for the steps at Westminster. And we need cooks, assistants and more for the Westminster Village that appears on Easter Saturday only to be quickly removed on Easter Monday. If you can spare any time – from a few hours to days – then please get in touch with Yvonne Riley (yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com)

Please forward this to friends and organizations that you think might be interested in hearing about the Devizes Westminster International Canoe Race. And as ever, keep an eye on www.dwrace.org.uk for the latest news about next year's event.

You have been sent this email as someone who has either competed in DW or has at some point expressed an interest in the event. If for any reason you no longer wish to receive information about the event, please send us an [email](#).