



1948-2009 - CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR

April 2009

On the eve of DW2009, one last reminder of what this phenomenal event is about. Weather forecast in Devizes is for heavy rain on Friday, sunny intervals on Saturday with winds of 5-7mph. Westminster on Sunday and Monday has sunny intervals, light wind and temperatures of 13-15°C. Please forward this to friends, support crews and anyone you think may be interested.

Safety for paddlers along the course

A reminder. Given the length of the course, paddlers are out of sight of officials, support crews and spectators for the vast majority of the race. Consequently, it is the responsibility of all paddlers to ensure that they are fully trained and competent to deal with any capsize or mishaps that may occur. More information is available on the DW website in [Race Overview](#).

That Finish Line

Paddlers are reminded to paddle towards the right hand bank as they come under the final few bridges on the Tideway. It is particularly important to keep to the right when passing under Lambeth Bridge (the bridge before Westminster Bridge) as it can be very tricky to cross over if there is any wind or swell. Last year many paddlers capsized in the final straight and this can be avoided by paddling river right rather than cutting the corner.

Parking at the Finish

St Thomas's Hospital. Most of the car park is subject to height restrictions. On Easter Monday morning only we have the use of the Festival Hall coach park for high vehicles. All vehicles must leave by 12 noon. This is a change to previous years due to work that is being done at St Thomas's Hospital.

Who's Paddling

648 paddlers have signed up so far, in 348 boats. Senior Doubles total 180, and there will probably be more entries on the day. Good luck to everyone.

Paddlers include Brian Greenham and Tim Cornish (Boat #478) – who set the record in 1979 with a blistering 15 hours 34 minutes 12 seconds set in 1979. Double Olympic gold medallist James Cracknell and Bernie Shrobbree (#337). Eleven people will be celebrating their birthdays while in a boat this weekend – if you're one of them, happy birthday. Youngest paddlers are the Smith twins (#151) at 15, oldest are Chris Mutton (64) and Greg Manning (63) in boat #375. We've got David Waters and Gary Savage (#439), Operations Director from Formula 1's Brawn team (the team that are top after two Melbourne and Malaysia) who is completing a life-long goal to take part in DW.

Hundreds of people will be out supporting crews over the weekend. Good luck to them as well. Tom Parker (reserve rower for the Beijing Olympic Team) and Adam Moffatt (#331) are rowers, have double Olympic medallist Debbie Flood supporting from Reading to Westminster.

International entries come from the USA, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuanian, New Zealand, Poland, Russian, South African and Sweden. Welcome, good luck and tell your friends about DW.

Send news and stories about your team and support crew to [Paddler Info](#). And after the race, we'd like your Paddlers Stories too.

Support Crews – a request and some advice

If you're racing this year, a reminder to your support teams that we'd like you to pass on. Support teams are there to help crews move down the course. While crews move down the course on the river, hundreds of vehicles are moving down the roads alongside. Please be considerate to residents, communities and businesses you meet up with as you support your crews. Your behaviour has an impact on the race. Also, please be considerate to other crews and support teams. While your focus is clearly going to be on your crew, please do your best to avoid blocking or obstructing other crews as they, too, are doing their best to get down the course. Finally remember, in some circumstance your actions could penalise your crews.

Pictures, Stories, Twitters

We're still on the look-out for that quintessential DW picture. The image that sums up DW – the pain, the hope, the pleasure, the satisfaction, the drudgery of the food, and an understanding of why so many people come back for more. Share your snaps on [Flickr](#) in the Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon group, or on **Facebook**, or **YouTube** ([Christine and Kevin's film](#)). Send us the link, and we'll tell everyone else. And if you Twitter, tag your message with #dw2009 and stay in touch with others along the course.

Volunteers for 2010 Please

DW is run entirely by volunteers and we are always looking for people to help with the running of the race. As you take part in DW this weekend at whatever level, please think about the volunteers that are putting in so much time. If you, friends and family are able to give some time next year either in preparations or over race weekend (2-5 April 2010), the please get in touch. Please contact the Course Secretary, Yvonne Riley, either by phone on 01227 276930 or by email on yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com.

Prize giving at Pewsey

After Easter, you get a chance to celebrate with the 2009 prize-giving event. This year it's going to be held at Bouverie Hall on North Street in Pewsey at 2 pm on Saturday 23rd May. Pewsey occupies a special place in the history of the event because it was in the Greyhound Pub that the seeds of the race were sown. We look forward to seeing you there.

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](#).