



1948-2010 - CELEBRATING 62 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR

April 2010

Pass It On

There's important information about this year's Devizes Westminster Canoe Marathon in this newsletter, so please read it, and then send it on to your support crew, friends and family.

Message from the Chief Umpire

With water levels looking high I'd urge everyone to prepare accordingly. We will be checking buoyancy aids, life jackets and boat buoyancy very carefully this year. In the wake of some rule breaches last year we have tightened up in some important areas, most notably on the condition of buoyancy aids/life jackets that we'll accept and in terms of some emergency kit such as survival bags.

Please make sure you read the rules carefully and turn up with all the right gear - don't rely on being able to buy it at Devizes because we won't let you start if you don't have it. Remember that if you're approaching weirs in moderate to high stream, you must keep well clear - be safe rather than sorry. Never paddle too close to or attempt to moor up to stationary large boats when the river's flowing fast, especially on the Tideway. Umpires will be checking boats, kit and paddlers along the course to ensure adherence to the rules. We want to make sure everyone is having a safe race. This applies to those on the bank too. If you're supporting, please remember to park considerately and safely. Don't cause obstructions or access problems. Remember that some pub owners clamp your cars if you didn't buy a drink at their bar but still used their car park!

Finally, please be courteous to the many residents who live by the river and canal and don't cause disturbance - we need their cooperation to continue running the race. Have a safe and successful event.

Best wishes, Guy Dresser

Monday Morning Parking at Westminster

The Royal Festival Hall has kindly agreed to let us use their coach park on Monday morning. This will only be available to vehicles towing tall boat trailers. Limited space available, so first come, first served. We need to vacate it at 1 pm. All other vehicles to use the car park at St Thomas's or local commercial parking.

Important Course Information

Boulters – Following complaints from residents, please note that the police will be vigilant in the area around Boulters Island. Please use the public car park, do not brew up on the pavement and expect to get a parking ticket if you park on the double yellow lines. Also note there is a height restriction on the car park.

Longridge – Please be aware that there is very limited parking at Longridge. For those supporting the Stages Event, please minimise the number of vehicles that go there. There was severe congestion there last year and it caused great inconvenience to local residents. Please avoid if at all possible.

Level crossings – If you park so as to impede the closure of Level Crossing gates, expect the police to take action. If you are seen to cross closed crossings, we will impose a severe time penalty or disqualification on the crew or crews you are supporting.

Sunbury – Do not park in the pub car park unless you are also buying a drink or having a meal. This applies to all pub car parks on the course.

Penton Hook – Supporters of non-stop crews are asked to keep ALL noise to an absolute minimum in this area. It is not fair on residents to repeatedly slam car doors, rev engines wildly and shout down the street at night.

Volunteers – Always Welcome Always Wanted

This weekend is going to be hard work for lots of people on the water. There's a few hundred off the water who are also working extremely hard, preparing and giving up their Easter Weekend to make the event happen. Most of them really enjoy the experience and we hope they'll be back next year (please).

So thank you to our hundreds of volunteers. We hope you'll treasure their contribution.

With the popularity of the race, **we always need new volunteers**. If you enjoy supporting, watching or taking part this Easter Weekend, please do think about volunteering for DW2011 if you can – we do really need more people on the job. That's everything from being out on the course over the weekend, through to the organization of the event that goes on throughout the year. Please email yvonne.riley2@btinternet.com soon after the Easter Weekend. Thanks.

Pictures, Stories, Twitters and your Paddler's Tales

There's a lot to say about DW and a lot being said. When you can't talk to your partner or other crews training, you can share your pictures and stories online. DW Group on [Flickr](#) has some great images of previous races, as does [Paddlepics](#). If you prefer a moving image type Devizes Westminster in [YouTube](#) and you'll find all sorts of creative output, as well as a few tips on technique if you look carefully. On Twitter put [#dwapril2010](#) at the start of your tweets and we can all keep in touch on the move. And of course they'll be chat on [Facebook](#) (look for as well. Talk amongst yourselves, or keep on top of developments at www.dwrace.org.uk. [Email](#) your picture, video, fundraising link or story and we'll post some of them on [Paddler's Tales](#). Send us your links, and we'll share them around.

Waterside 2010 Farewell... and here's to 2011

After another successful Waterside Series, Organiser James Treadgold is stepping down to take on new challenges in [Kakamega](#) in Western Kenya. Knowing James he'll probably be organizing a local kayaking club and event before we know it. The locals don't know what they're in for.

Thanks to James and his team for running such great events over the years. Devizes Westminster benefits incredibly from the course experience and the introduction to paddling that the Waterside (and Thameside) events provide. Good luck in the new job.

And what of Watersides 2011. You'll see the dates for next year up on their website. www.watersides.fsnet.co.uk Those who know James's efficiency would expect nothing less!

Paddling for a charity?

If you're fundraising, could you drop us a note and let us know. We'd like to know who you are, what your charity is and your online charity fundraising page (if you have one).

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](#).