



## **1948-2008 - CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR**

**March 2008**

Another DW newsletter as the weeks, days and hours slowly pass. If you know of anyone who you think might like to receive this or future editions of the newsletter, please forward it and get them to drop us an email so we can add them to the distribution list.

### **Entry Forms now Online**

If you haven't sent in your application form yet, you have to do so by 9<sup>th</sup> March to avoid the late entry fee. It's very easy to complete the whole process with the online entry form and secure online payment. One thing to note - because the form will be filled in by only one person on behalf of any crew, we will require all paddlers to sign up to the standard Limitation of Liability when checking in at Devizes. This is particularly important for Junior Crews who will need to ensure that a suitable adult (parent or guardian) is on hand at the time of check-in. You'll find the form at [www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk). If you need a hard copy, drop the [Competitions Secretary](#) an email and we'll send one out.

### **RULES - Lighting on the Tideway for 4 day Racers**

We'd like to remind entrants to the 4 day events that the early tide time on the Monday will mean that all boats will need to carry appropriate lights. These must be produced for inspection at Devizes, though they need not be carried till the Monday. For full details of lighting rules, see the appropriate class rules on the website.

### **RULES - Support Crews at Westminster**

While the finish line may seem a long way off at this point, we need the help of teams to manage the finish. Can we ask competitors and team managers to point out to support crews that the area at the top of the steps at Westminster is an alcohol free zone. That means no champagne. It's also worth remembering that many finishers will be arriving between 6 and 8 in the morning. It may be the finishing line of your personal challenge and goal, but at the top of the steps there is also a hotel, so keep the celebrations quiet please until your boat and support team get back to St Thomas' Gardens. Every person involved in the race has a responsibility to the future running of the race. Don't be the person, team or organisation that puts DW in a bad light. Thanks.

### **Volunteers**

In short we still need them! From marshalling to manning checkpoints, checking crews, kit, assisting with safety. Down at Westminster there are tens of jobs needed over the Easter Weekend. If you have any time from a few hours to the whole weekend, please consider volunteering to help out. If Easter isn't a great time to give time, volunteering isn't just at race time. Throughout the year the race is planned and organized with a committee who piece together the broad range of support and skills required to make Devizes Westminster happen, as safely and smoothly as possible. And you don't have to be a paddler. We need about 300 volunteers to make DW work, and we need a constant supply of new recruits to learn the skills required and replace some of the old hands who are looking to retrieve their Easter. If you can help, in any capacity, please email [Yvonne Riley](#).

### **Fundraising**

We've had a great response from people who are fundraising. In addition to the great physical and mental effort required to DW, they'll be several charities benefiting from thousands of pounds of fund raising. Please let us know - if you haven't already - if you're raising funds. Drop us an [email](#). Funds being raised so far are over £123,000. Every pound raised is very much appreciated.

If you're still looking for a charity, DW are proud to support the [Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal](#). As part of St Thomas' Hospital, DW has benefitted from the generous use of the river side location for years, and we'd like to give something back if possible. We've also teamed up with [Marie Curie Cancer Care](#). They, like us, are celebrating their 60th anniversary. Both these charities have Just Giving accounts and DW should be added as an event shortly.

### Share Your DW - Facebook, YouTube, Flickr and more...

Sharing your DW experience has never been easier. On Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) there are several groups, create your own or chip in on the largest by members [Devizes To Westminster Canoe Race Survivors](#). YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) is surprisingly empty of DW experiences with four videos, the most recent being a tasteful edit to raise funds by [Mike Baxter and Richard Jelf](#). Film yourself and get it uploaded. Finally Flickr ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)), that well hidden resource for quality photographs has, well, nothing. A [Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon](#) group has been set up. And the challenge? To get some genuinely gritty images that show the bare and painful soul of what DW is about. You've got the images... upload them for the world to see.

### DW60 Commemorative Ale

To celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Devizes based brewer Wadworth are brewing a special commemorative ale called DW60, that was recently launched by local Member of Parliament for Devizes Michael Ancram.

Wadworth head brewer Brian Yorstone describes it as a "classic ale". We're waiting for news of when DW60 will be bottled, and ready for purchase through the Wadworth website ([www.wadworth.co.uk](http://www.wadworth.co.uk)).

Wadworth have entered into the spirit of DW and have a pair deep in training who are entering this year's event.

We hope you'll think the beer makes a great way of celebrating the our 60th anniversary, and for competitors, a fine thank you gift for your hard-working support crews.

Please note that DW60 will only be available to over 18s and that both Wadworth and DW Organisers encourage responsible consumption of alcohol, strongly backing the Drink Aware campaign ([www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk))



### DIARY DATES - Prize Giving & 60<sup>th</sup> Party - or 60<sup>th</sup> Party & Prize Giving

24<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Stick it in your diary because that's when we'll be having the **Devizes to Westminster 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**. It's in the Corn Exchange at Devizes, kindly donated by Devizes Town Council. The party is open to everyone and all ages. We want to get competitors from the last 60 years at the event so please pass on details about the party to as many people as possible. Tickets will be £15 per person. To reserve a ticket please email [Kim Wetherall](#). We'll also be having the **DW 2008 Prize Giving** on the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup> May so put that date in your diary as well.

### Your DW

Finally, there are many sides to DW and whatever your take on the event, or your experience - past or present - we'd like to hear from you if you've got an interesting story, a memorable anecdote, or perhaps a tip for fellow paddlers let us know. If you've got photos, or links to a gallery, send us an [email](#). And you can see the previous newsletter [here](#).

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](#).