



1948-2011 - Celebrating 63 Years of Personal Endeavour

April 2011

NEWS DIARY PLANNING – 22/23 April in Devizes. 24/25 April in Westminster.

Devizes Westminster 2011 – The Canoeist's Everest

As Easter 2011 approaches hundreds of kayakers are putting the finishing touches to six months of training as they set out from Devizes to participate in the UK's toughest, open to all endurance event – the 63rd annual Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon.

The non-stop race covering 125-miles starts on Saturday 23 April. No sleep and no rest. Eating and drink entirely on the move. Non-stop means non-stop. The fastest complete the course in around 17 hours, others will take around 24-hours, happy to have completed one of the toughest, open-to-all endurance races on the planet.

This year's race looks certain to be a big occasion as Ivan Lawler and Ben Brown look to break the 33-year old course record. Five times marathon World Champion Lawler and 2010 marathon World Champion Brown are looking to beat the course record of 15 hours, 34 minutes and 12 seconds and with it one of the longest standing records in serious competition sport.

We're also celebrating our long-standing relationship with military crews by supporting the Royal British Legion in their 90th Anniversary year. From Devizes to Westminster Poppy Teams will be raising funds and awareness for the great work they do helping today's Service men and women providing essential welfare support as injured military personnel fight to overcome the challenges of serious injury.

Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon sets out from Devizes, heading along the Kennet & Avon Canal to Reading, then down the Thames to Teddington ending just downstream of Westminster Bridge.

The event takes canoeists to the limit of mental and physical endurance, battling against the steady and inevitable onset of physical depletion. It is the longest non-stop kayaking marathon in the world.

The four-day race, for juniors, is equally demanding, starting on the 22 April, completing the course over four stages to finish on 25 April, Easter Monday. Open to anyone over 15 years of age – many schools take part – you'll need to train for at least six months if you're new to paddling.

Over 500 people in single and double kayaks are expected to take part in the 2011 race.

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For more information about Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon or to follow the race online over the Easter weekend visit www.dwrace.org.uk

From the Royal British Legion

Talking about the link up the Royal British Legion's Director of National Events and Fundraising Russell Thompson, says: "We are thrilled the Legion is the chosen charity for DW2011. The Legion has taken care of serving and ex-Service people and their families for 90 years and our welfare support is now more important than ever for the Afghanistan generation of the Armed Forces family. Any money raised from this fantastic event will help pay for The Royal British Legion Battle Back Centre, a sports and adventure training facility to rehabilitate seriously injured Service personnel and we are grateful for every single donation received. Without such generous public support over 90 years, The Royal British Legion would not be able to carry out its invaluable work every day and stand shoulder to shoulder with all who serve."

For more information, an interview or photographs contact Peter Hutchison on at peterhutchison24@gmail.com or on 07736 424200.

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