



# Waterside D Briefing

## Devizes Wharf to Newbury

6 April 2025

Event sponsored

**MARSPORT**  
CANOES AND KAYAKS



# Changes for 2025

We are not using the Waterside Centre this year

- **Finish**
  - The finish is under the right arch of the bridge just after last year's finish line, and the same as for Race A
  - The finish team will be on the right bank
  - Exit your boat on the right bank, or past the weir on the left
- **Newbury Canoe Club – access under A339 road bridge**
  - Paddlers food and drink
  - Changing gazebos
  - Hot drinks and cake for support crews £1
- **Toilets**
  - Public toilets, Wharf car park—free for all paddlers and support crew



# Start – Devizes Wharf

## Registration

- 6.00 – 8.15AM

## Start window

- 7.00 – 8.30AM
- If you are unsure or might be on the slow side, please start at 7am





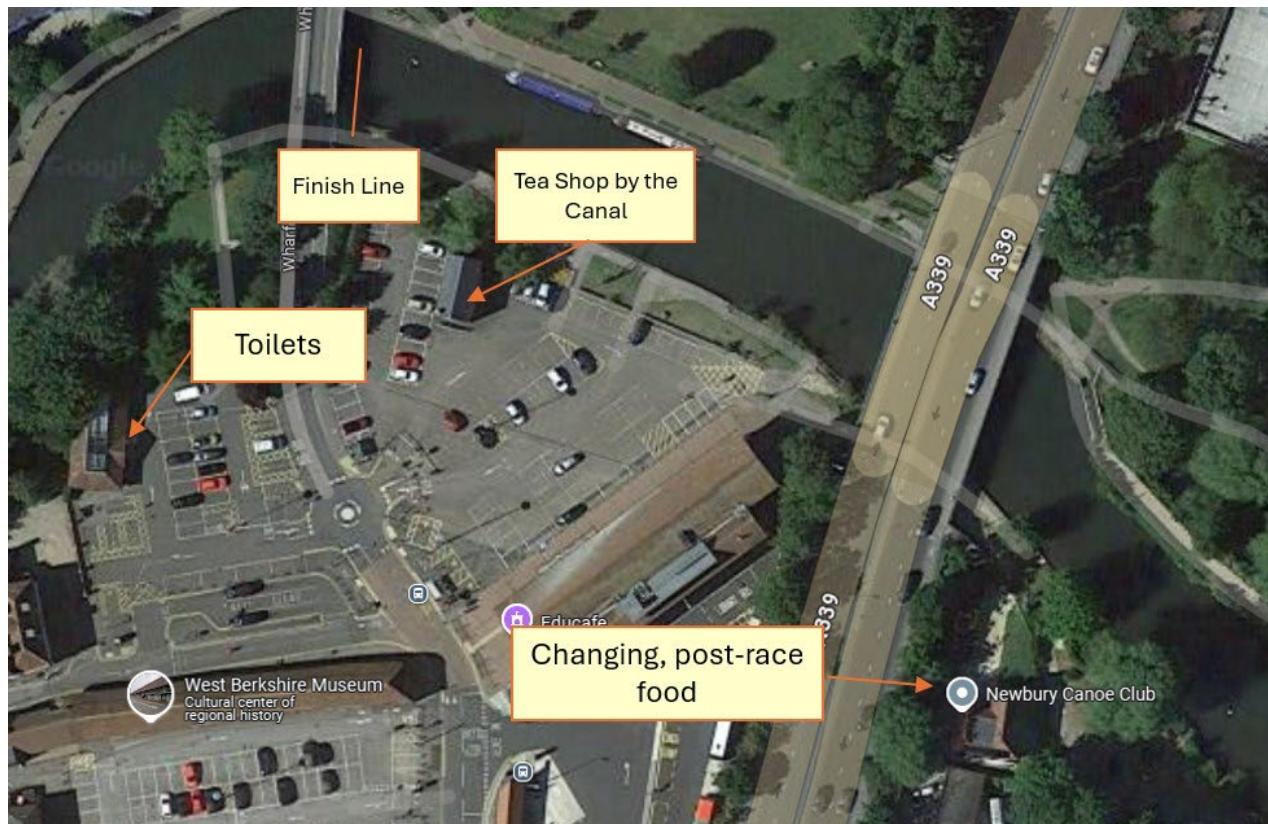
# Finish - Newbury

## Finish window

- 12.30 – 2.30PM
- We will record times if you finish after 2.30PM

## Prize-giving

- 3PM





# Safety

## Clothing

- All juniors must wear buoyancy aids
- Appropriate clothing and footwear should be worn by all competitors
- Don't forget to wear sunscreen

## Race notes

- Keep right or centre downstream
- Look out for inflows / outflows, weirs and fallen / submerged trees
- Watch out for swans, especially in pairs



# Course description 1

**No portages for first 15 miles**

**Swan warning at Devizes marina**

## **WOOTTON RIVERS**

- 3 mile pound from Pewsey to Wootton Rivers, lots of debris in the water
- Portage with a road crossing



# Course description 2

## BRUCE TUNNEL

- 400m long straight tunnel
- Strictly no overtaking – will lead to a penalty or disqualification
- If stopped due to barge traffic, the waiting time will be deducted
- There is a shallow ledge on the right side of the tunnel and a chain to help in case of a capsize. Shout to alert rescue boat at end
- If a boat capsizes ahead of you, check the paddlers are OK before paddling past and alert the safety boat. If you stop to help, time will be deducted



# Course description 3

## LOW BRIDGES

- Hungerford Church – advisory portage
- West Mills swingbridge – compulsory portage
- Head injuries on low bridges are the biggest cause of traumatic injuries on the series and on DW. If in doubt, portage
- If race officials are concerned you have a concussion injury, you may be asked to stop paddling





# Course description 4

## WIERS AND FLOW

- Lock after Kintbury road crossing
  - Keep away from the weir prior to the landing stage
- Cross flow and weir 500m after Hampstead (Marsh Benham) road crossing
  - Keep centre and enter flow with rudder slightly right. Proceed into flow and then maintain centre or right of centre as you pass the weir on left
  - Keep paddling
- Newbury (last lock)
  - Keep centre. Flow will push you from side to side – keep paddling
- After finish
  - Keep away from the weir on the left



# Paddler etiquette

- It is the duty of overtaking paddlers to keep clear of those being overtaken. This applies on the water, at portages and on the towpath. You are the more capable paddler.
- Do not block portages. Go to the side to eat and drink.
- The public have right of way on the course. Please be considerate to all other users of the course.



# Support crews

- Please park legally and considerately
- Support crew parking is our most significant organisational issue. It is a major risk to us being allowed to run the races
- Do not park where we have placed yellow NO WAITING cones or red/white cones or signs
- Do not block rail level crossings
- Never cross a closed level crossing
- Crews can be penalised because of support crew behaviour



# Support crews

## LOCATIONS

- No support access at Little Bedwyn
- Froxfield—maintain passing places
- No access to Dunmill via the A4
- Go through Hungerford town centre and across the common
- Parking at Kintbury is limited to rail car parks
- Support crews for juniors only at Marsh Benham

## PARKING IN NEWBURY

- There is a football match starting at 2pm at the Faraday Road football pitch that will make the Faraday Road car park busier than usual.



**Thank you**

**Have a good race and have fun!**

*Event sponsored by*

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