

RIPPLES

HAMBLE RIVER ROWING NEWS



LONDON GREAT RIVER RACE.
'TRIUMPHANT SUCCESS FOR HAMBLE RIVER ROWERS.'
READ ALL ABOUT IT INSIDE.



The Great River Race

London's River Marathon



Starting from scratch in 1988 the first Great River Race was run, 72 entrants chose more than 20 boat types representing six countries, including a Hawaiian outrigger war canoe, Viking longboat, Norwegian scow, Canadian C-8 canoe, Chinese dragon boat, and numerous Cornish pilot and other gigs, skiffs, cutters, ASC, naval whalers and the like to take on the Watermen's shallop.

All were propelled by a bunch of enthusiasts ranging from barely-teenage Sea Scouts to hardened offshore rowing veterans more used to racing anywhere from the south coast to the south seas and entered by such diverse outfits as museums, rowing clubs, pubs, youth organisations, police, fire brigades, the armed services, boating societies and groups just out take part and beat the course.

Since then the Race has gone from strength to strength. While quadrupling in size, it has attracted such fascinating entries as a magnificent replica 54' bronze age Greek galley; canvas and tar Irish naomhogs of the type reputed to have crossed the Atlantic in the eighth century; a new shallop and Thames wherry (both constructed along traditional lines especially for the Race) and the world's oldest racing rowing boat, the 'Royal Oak' built in Co. Down, Northern Ireland, at the beginning of 1800s. Not to mention the organisers very own Thames Watermen Cutters and the Great River Race Jolly Boat.

Along the way, it has attracted a stellar cast of celebrity starters who have come along to fire the cannon to get the Race under way. This has included Sting, Jerry Hall, Sir Steven Redgrave, June Brown (EastEnders' Dot Cotton), Sir Trevor MacDonald, Jane Horrocks, Virginia Bottomley MP, William Franklin, Tony Banks MP and many more.

Furthermore it really has become a truly international event with crews coming from America, Canada, Croatia, Holland, Italy, Sweden, France, Germany, Ireland, and the Channel Islands, as well as all over the UK.

With entries now nudging 300 boats carrying some 2,000-odd competitors racing for 35 trophies, The Great River Race has become the biggest and most prestigious event of its kind in Europe.

This September 2009 saw 6 Bursledon Gigs take to the motorway and head up to London to join the fray, See over for the results:

THE GREAT RIVER RACE 2009
BURSLEDON GIG
PROVISIONAL RESULTS

OVER ALL OUT OF 276 BOATS

POS	TEAM & BOAT	TIME
17th	Hamble Sea Scouts 'A' TEAM 'Exocet'	02.56.17
24th	Hamble Sea Scouts 'B' TEAM 'Schmidt'	02.58.16
40th	Hand Family 'Mistress'	03.04.16
129th	Hamble Sea Scouts 'U18' 'Point Source'	03.19.00
130th	Hamble Sea Scouts 'U16' 'Sea Dart'	03.19.15
149th	Team Skill 'Beryl C'	03.22.23

CLASS RESULTS

UNDER 16 JUNIORS : FIRST PLACE Hamble Sea Scouts

UNDER 18 JUNIORS : THIRD PLACE Hamble Sea Scouts

SCOUT AFFILIATED CLASS

FIRST Hamble Sea Scouts 'A' TEAM 'EXOCET'
SECOND Hamble Sea Scouts 'B' TEAM 'SCHMIDT'
THIRD Hamble Sea Scouts 'U18' TEAM 'POINT SOURCE'

SEA SCOUT CLASS

FIRST Hamble Sea Scouts 'A' TEAM 'EXOCET'
SECOND Hamble Sea Scouts 'B' TEAM 'SCHMIDT'
THIRD Hamble Sea Scouts 'U18' TEAM 'POINT SOURCE'

HAMBLE SEA SCOUTS ENTERED FOUR BOATS, ORGANISED BY JOHN DYKE.

The teams comprised of;

'Hamble Sea Scouts A' racing in 'Exocet'. Lent by Annette Dyke

John Dyke Owen Williams
Gordon Richards Martyn Williams
Cox - Gerald Fenn Passenger - Henry Taunton.

(Towed to London by Ian Dyke)

Hamble Sea Scouts Under 16 racing in 'Sea Dart' Lent by Graham Moody

David Akhurst Lewis West
Billy Brook Matt Henderson
Cox - Luke Akhurst Passenger - Conner West.

(Towed to London by Brian Hoey)

Hamble Sea Scouts Under 18 racing in 'Point Source'

Billy Halligan *Doing the work of two in the middle 'What a guy!'*
Max James James Shawcroft
Cox - Nikki Williams Passenger - TBA

(Towed to London by Eliot)

Hamble Sea Scouts B, racing in 'Schmidt'

Chris Akhurst Andrew Richards
Alex Cunningham Duncan McManus
Cox - Carina Hoey Passenger - Matt Cherry

(Towed to London by Andy Cunningham)

A lot of work was put in to gathering up and organising the teams by John, Ian and Annette Dyke.

They gathered in the trailers to be used, checked over and replaced wheel bearings, Built trailers where required as well as preparing the boats.

We all thank them.

The Hamble Sea Scouts would also like to thank, Graham Moody for the loan of his boat, David Gorrod for the loan of his, although in the end they used Martin Burtinshaw's boat which recently became available. David's trailer and rudder were gratefully pressed into use.

All the Hamble Bursledon Gig teams benefited from their shore side support and drivers. After seeing the 'off', a hasty traverse across London towing empty trailers bouncing along behind was made.

With 'hands free' telephones we were kept informed by families back home who were able to track the teams on the internet via www.greatriverrace.co.uk and the GPS units the organisers had issued to each entry.

Other supporters dashed from appropriate bridge to bridge via tube to cheer on and eventually all the Hamble Rowers and supporters were reunited back at Ham for the finish and resulting celebrations.

This event is a truly great and fun spectacular. If you row you have to do this once in your life.