

Scottish Schools' Rowing Council

Scottish Schools' Head of the Canal Races 2015

Saturday 28th March on the Forth & Clyde Canal from Banknock to Dullatur with boating from Auchinstarry Basin

Division 1 Events

(Race for single-school crews)

Schoolboys (SB)

SB Open 4+

SB Under-16 4+

SB Under-15 4+

SB Under-14 4x+

Schoolgirls (SG)

SG Open 4+

SG Under-16 4+

SG Under-15 4+

SG Under-14 4x+

Race Start time for Division 1 will be 12:00 noon

Division 2 Events

(Race for single-club crews)

Open Junior (OJ)

OJ Under-18 4+

OJ Under-16 4+

OJ Under-15 4+

OJ Under-14 4x+

Women's Junior (WJ)

WJ Under-18 4+

WJ Under-16 4+

WJ Under-15 4+

WJ Under-14 4x+

Race Start time for Division 2 will be 3:00pm

Entries

Please email your entries (with the details listed in Rule 5) to Peter Rankin (Event Coordinator) by **6:00pm on Saturday 21st March**

Scottish.Schools@gmail.com Tel: 0131 447 3092 (h) or 07801 795 108 (m)

Entry fee is £25 per crew per event, plus a £5 per crew per event deposit for bow numbers. Cash or cheque (made payable to "Scottish Schools' Rowing Council") and handed in on race day.

Enquiries

Please contact Peter Rankin (as above) or Bob Neill on 0131 667 5389 (h) or 07928 644 546 (m)

Rules

1. All age-categories are based on 1st September 2014, as per Scottish Rowing Rules of Racing.
2. In Division 1, all competitors in a crew must be pupils at the same Scottish school and must each hold a Scottish Rowing licence.
3. In Division 2, all competitors in a crew must be Juniors and must hold a Scottish Rowing Licence for the same registered Club or School.
4. No composite entries are allowed
5. The email entry lodged by a School or Club must provide the Name, Date of Birth, Scottish Rowing Licence Number and (where applicable) the Scottish School attended for each competitor.
6. Competitors who are eligible to participate in both divisions may do so.
7. It is a condition of entry that all those taking part are competent swimmers. The SSRC Race Committee takes every precaution to ensure the safety of competitors but is not to be held responsible for any accidents that may occur.
8. Coxes in all events must satisfy Rule 1, but boys may cox girls' crews and girls may cox boys' crews.
9. In accordance with the Scottish Rowing Rules of Racing, coxes must wear suitable lifejackets and all boats must comply with the Scottish Rowing Water Safety Code as regards buoyancy, heel restraints, bow balls, etc. Spot checks will be made before boating.
10. Coaches are encouraged to cycle, carrying throw ropes, with their crews. Giving "words of encouragement" is acceptable, but coaching or referring to other competing crews during racing is not allowed

Pennants

Pennants will be awarded to every member of the winning crew in each event in each division, provided that at least two crews race in the event.

Trophies

The Peter Grieve Memorial School Team Trophy

In memory of the late Peter Grieve, a school team trophy is contested annually.

In each event in Division 1, 15 points will be awarded to the first crew, 10 points to the second crew and 5 points to the third crew. To obtain points, however, a crew must have beaten at least one other crew in their event. The totals awarded to a school will be based on their three highest scores. In the case of a tie, the competition will be decided by the four highest scores, and if necessary the five highest, etc.

The Scottish Junior (Club) Team Trophy, donated by Bryan Steel

In each event in Division 2, 15 points will be awarded to the first crew, 10 points to the second crew and 5 points to the third crew. To obtain points, however, a crew must have beaten at least one other crew in their event. The totals awarded to a club will be based on their three highest scores. In the case of a tie, the competition will be decided by the four highest scores, and if necessary the five highest, etc.

As previously, there will be trophies in Division 1 for the fastest Schoolboys' crew (The St Mungo Cup) and the fastest Schoolgirls' crew (The Bob Neill Quaich).

Clubs and schools that won these trophies in 2014 are asked to return them (well-polished please) to Peter Rankin before the Division 2 race.

Race Instructions

- Race numbers should be collected from Mr Neill in the Auchinstarry parking area well before boating. It is recommended that one person collects all the required numbers for a given Club or School. At the end of each division, please return all race numbers to Mr Neill's car, which will be parked at the Boathouse restaurant.
- Boats should be checked thoroughly by crew coaches or organisers **before** their crews head off for the landing stages. In accordance with Scottish Rowing rules, particular attention should be paid to ensuring effective heel restraints, secure race-number placement in bow-slots, and acceptable bow-balls on all boats. Coxes must wear suitable life jackets. Scottish Rowing umpires and their assistants will be monitoring all of the above at the landing stages.
- Crews must leave plenty of time to reach the start, which is about 5000 metres along the canal from Auchinstarry Basin. A boating time will be given for each crew. Crews will be boating from the landing stages **in reverse racing order** so that younger and less experienced crews have more time to get to the start, which is near the Wyndford Lock close to Banknock. Please take your oars down to the landing stage in advance of boating as this saves a great deal of time.
- Crews must be warmly clad when going on the water. This is particularly important in wintry conditions.
- On their way to the start, crews must keep to the **non-towpath** side of the canal.
- Upon reaching the race start-area, crews must follow the instructions of the Joint Race Controller, Mr Jim Ferguson, with regard to lining-up and other race-start procedures, which may vary according to the weather and water conditions on the day. Care should be taken to ensure that the bow-numbers do not get dislodged due to careless boat manoeuvres before, during or after racing. A charge of £5 will be made for each race number not returned to Mr Neill after each division.
- During racing, crews must keep to the **towpath side** of the canal except when being overtaken, in which case they must move towards the **non-towpath side**, leaving sufficient room for the overtaking crew(s) to pass without obstruction. Crews failing to do so will risk disqualification.
- Coaches are welcome to accompany their crews by running or cycling along the towpath on the north side of the canal. If possible, they should carry throw-ropes for added safety. They can lend encouragement to their crews, but **COACHING IS NOT ALLOWED**. References to other competing crews should only be made on grounds of safety. Please be aware that the towpath will also be used by members of the public, pets, umpires, start and finish timers and rowing supporters. Runners and cyclists should be very careful not to upset them in any way.
- The finish line will be several hundred metres northeast of the Craigmarnock Bridge which leads up to Dullatur Village. There is a small car park beside this bridge, but it is often quite busy. Roadside parking should be avoided, as the road to Dullatur is very narrow.
- After racing, crews should move from the finish line to the stretch where the canal widens. This may be used as a recovery area, but only for a short time, so that boats return in time to the boating area.
- To allow others off the water, crews must not obstruct the area around the landing stages with boats.

George Watson's College Catering Facility

We are very fortunate to be able to call upon the GWCBC Parents and Friends Team to set up another fantastic food stall for us. They will be selling a truly marvellous range of food and non-alcoholic beverages including tea; coffee; homemade soup; bacon, beef burger and filled rolls; and a host of delicious home baking. Our thanks goes to them all, especially Mrs Rowan Stevenson, who masterminds the operation. They will be on duty from 10-ish until the end of prize giving, so do not miss the chance to sample lots of their culinary delights.

Medical and Safety Cover

The rowing fraternity has kindly agreed to provide medical cover for our event. If you need to contact the medical team, please ask one of the Umpires or Organisers to make mobile or radio contact for you. For emergencies, the nearest hospital is Monklands District General Hospital, Airdrie, ML6 0JS. Tel: 01236 748 748 Detailed instructions on how to get there are available from Mr Neill.

A rescue boat will follow the races.

Coaches and Buses

There is no parking space available for buses or coaches on the Auchinstarry site, but there is suitable parking on the outskirts of nearby Croy village. Bus and coach drivers are asked to use Auchinstarry only for dropping off and picking up passengers.

Toilets and Changing Arrangements

Scottish Canals have kindly allowed us to use their toilet block which is at the north-east end of the site. Please keep this clean and tidy. As there is very limited changing space, competitors should arrive and leave in their rowing kit, and/or change in minibuses.

Umpires

Our thanks goes out to Mr Neil Macfarlane (Chief Umpire) and his large team of Scottish Rowing Umpires for volunteering to give up their Saturday to ensure that our racing programme operates smoothly. Our thanks also goes to the Scottish Rowing Race Control Committee for allowing us to hire all the technical equipment required to run the races properly (race numbers, megaphones, throw-ropes, etc.)

Prize-Giving

Prize-Giving takes place as soon as possible after racing and boat loading, and is usually between 4:45pm and 5:15pm. The Peter Grieve, the Bryan Steel, the Bob Neill, and the St Mungo trophies will also be presented. Last year's winners are asked to return them, cleaned and polished, to Mr Peter Rankin before the Division 2 race starts.

Scottish Canals

We could not run this event without the goodwill and constructive advice of Scottish Canals, which is the organisation responsible for the Forth & Clyde Canal. In particular, we wish to record our thanks to David Lockhart (Scottish Canals Events Coordinator) and Chris O'Dell (Scottish Canals on-site Operative) for all their valued assistance. They have asked us to minimise the use of the south-side towpath, which passes alongside the moored craft. Spectators are asked to use the public north-side towpath instead. We are very sorry to learn that Helen Rowbotham has retired from Scottish Canals, and we thank her for all her willing and helpful assistance over many years.