



1948-2010 - Celebrating 62 Years of Personal Endeavour

March 2010

Devizes Westminster 2010 – The Canoeist's Everest

Over Easter 2010, hundreds of kayakers will set out from Devizes having completed months of training to participate in the UK's toughest, open to all endurance event – the 62nd annual Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon.

The non-stop race covering 125-miles starts on Saturday 3 April. No sleep, no rest, eating and drinking 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.

The course 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 2 April, completing the course over four stages to finish on 5 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.

After the extended winter, double Olympic gold medallist James Cracknell reflects on his race last year. "I'm glad I did it in a balmy year. The Devizes to Westminster is as tough a 24 hours as I've ever had but the bacon butty at Westminster makes it worthwhile," says Cracknell.

Close to 450 people in single and double kayaks are expected to take part in the 2010 race.

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

For more information, an interview or photographs contact Peter Hutchison on peter.hutchison@ukonline.co.uk or 07736 424200.

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