



## **1948-2013 - Celebrating 65 Years of Personal Endeavour**

15 March 2013

NEWS DIARY PLANNING – 29/30 March in Devizes. 31 March / 1 April in Westminster

### **Devizes to Westminster 2013 – The Ultimate Boat Race this Easter**

At Easter hundreds of kayakers will paddle 125-miles on the canal from Devizes in Wiltshire to finish on the River Thames in central London on Easter Sunday in the 65<sup>th</sup> annual Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon.

DW is the UK's toughest, open to all endurance event. Up to one third of entries fail to finish. Retirees in 2012 included Sir Steve Redgrave and fellow Olympians Ben Hart-Davis, Sarah Winckless and Kate MacKenzie.

2013 has the potential to be record breaking with Richard Hendron and James King looking to be the first Senior Doubles crew in the 65 year history of the race to win the race four years in a row.

Other quality crews are looking to win the race, possibly trashing the Hendron / King celebrations. Veteran DW commentator Paul Ralph thinks the race is wide open. "Race favourites this year look like Matt Enoch & Adam Norfolk from Nottingham," comments Ralph, "they've done great over the course."

Crews aside, Ralph thinks DW2013 is going to be a quick event. "It will be a fast race even if we don't get any more rain with the groundwater keeping the flow going." The mix of competition and conditions could combine to produce a time to break the course record of 15 hours 34 minutes and 12 seconds set in 1979, one of the longest standing records in modern sport.

Away from the podium, entrants include a couple on their honeymoon, a husband and wife team, military and junior crews, all looking to test themselves against the unique physical and mental demands of DW.

The non-stop race over 125-miles starts on Saturday 30 March. Non-stop means non-stop. No sleep and no rest. Eating and drink entirely on the move. 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.

Devizes to 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.

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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 Friday 29 March, 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.

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For more information about Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon or to follow the race online over the Easter weekend visit [www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk)

For more information, details about crews, an interview or photographs contact Peter Hutchison on at [peterhutchison24@gmail.com](mailto:peterhutchison24@gmail.com) or on 07736 424200.

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