



1948-2014 - Celebrating 66 Years of Personal Endeavour

8 April 2014

Event Dates - 18/19 April in Devizes. 20 /21 April in Westminster

Race Website – www.dwrace.org.uk

Tough Teams Tackle DW2014 After Wettest Winter on Record

Over 600 people have entered the 2014 Devizes Westminster International Canoe Marathon to paddle 125 miles from Devizes to Westminster over the Easter weekend (18-21 April) overcoming the demands of training in some of the toughest conditions over the winter. Crews that have put in the preparation could be in great shape to complete the 125-mile course in single and double kayaks and canoes.

DW2014 may be lacking some of the rivalry of competing elite crews seen in recent years, but it leaves the tantalising space for new crews to make their mark and push for the podium places. But for everyone taking part a key challenge has been overcoming extremely demanding training conditions in what the Met office confirmed has been the wettest winter in England and Wales since records began in 1766.

For paddlers, flood conditions on rivers, canals and local stretches of water can lead to very hazardous conditions. The Kennet & Avon Canal has suffered greatly from the increased flow, and much of the River Thames has been unnavigable from December through to late February.

Only when the rain stopped falling and the conditions started to improve did race entries to Devizes Westminster 2014 start to come in and with the deadline on Sunday 6 April – 12 days before the start of the race on Good Friday – it looks like entry numbers will be close to record figures.

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.

The annual event is one of the toughest endurance events in the world. The non-stop race over 125-miles starts on Saturday 19 April. Non-stop means non-stop. No sleep, 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. The event takes canoeists to the limit of mental and physical endurance, battling against the steady and inevitable onset of physical depletion.

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With the entry list yet to be released, it's not known if any well-known people are setting themselves the challenge. It's a very public challenge, which 5-times gold Olympic medallist Sir Steve Redgrave discovered when he entered in 2012, only to be forced to retire around the 80-mile mark.

Junior, Senior, Veteran Doubles and Senior Singles take on the course over four-days, starting on the Friday 18 April, completing the course over four stages to finish on 21 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.

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

Additional press releases and information will be released in the days leading up to the start of the race. See <http://www.dwrace.org.uk/news.html> for details.

To film, photograph or record the film at any point along the course, details about crews, an interview or photographs please contact Peter Hutchison on at peterhutchison24@gmail.com or on 07736 424200.

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