DART TOTNES AUTUMN HEAD
SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

(HW Totnes 3.18pm)

First, we are delighted to be welcoming you to Totnes for our re-scheduled Autumn Head. A large number of clubs have been able to enter again and it should be a great day's racing, BUT we need ALL clubs and crews to work together to ensure that waiting times on the water are minimised for the safety and enjoyment of all concerned. Boating may take up to just over an hour, so please be prepared for when you are on the water, with lots of layers.

There will be no formal briefing so please read this document carefully beforehand and share the Race Information with your crews.

Should you require any further information please contact the entries secretary, Ian Piercy, on entries@darttotnes.co.uk. On the day, please raise any queries with Ian or with Will Hawkyard.

Trailers
We have access to the Long Marsh car park from Friday late afternoon onwards, so if you want to bring your trailer down the day before to reduce congestion, just let us know. There will be a trailer plan on the day.

Parking
Only towing vehicles will be allowed in the main Long Marsh car park and please follow the Marshals' instructions. There will be some parking in the area behind the Clubhouse, and visitors have the use of the small car park just back up towards town, which is free of charge, but parking is limited so please share transport wherever you can. There is another long-stay car park further back towards the main road, though this will carry a charge, and this is also the one for coaches. There is free on-road parking up in the housing estate on the hill above the Clubhouse.

Refreshments
The DTARC kitchen elves will be serving hot and cold food from 08:00 onwards and the bar will be open from 12 noon. There will be bacon rolls, etc for breakfast, and pasties, sausage roils, soup, and sandwiches from lunchtime. Not to mention cake.

Toilets & Showers
There are toilets and showers at the back of the main boatshed, and toilets on the first floor in the Clubroom. There is also a disabled toilet at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the Clubroom.

Gazebos
Clubs may wish to bring gazebos in case of inclement weather. These can be erected on the grass camping area at the far end of the car park.

First Aid
The first aiders will be stationed inside the Clubhouse, upstairs in the Club Room.

The Public
The pathway along the river past the Clubhouse is a public right of way, so please ensure that there is access through at all times, please be courteous, and please don't decapitate a passing pedestrian – they don't like it!

Dart Totnes Amateur Rowing Club

RACING INFORMATION

Racing is scheduled to start at 10:00am, with Division 2 at 12:30pm and Division 3 at 2:45pm. The tide will have turned for Division 3, but it's a very slack one.

Race Numbers
Race numbers can be collected at race control on the balcony from 0800 and those clubs competing in Division 1 MUST collect them by 08:45. Clubs paying on the day must have race fees or no number given. There is only one number, for the Empacher slot.

Safety Checks
All clubs are responsible for ensuring that their boats are race-worthy. Random safety checks may be carried out prior to boating.

Footwear
We boat from a slipway and steps, so make sure you bring suitable footwear as you will get wet! All footwear, inc. wellies, MUST be taken in the boat with you as there will not be time to find kit when getting off the water. Bare feet are not permitted for safety reasons and will not be allowed to race.

Blades/Sculls
Please bring your blades/sculls to the launching points as you head to the waiting area trestles. This will avoid delays and confusion when boating.

IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY:
COMPETITORS WILL BE PREVENTED FROM BOATING UNLESS SUITABLY DRESSED FOR THE CONDITIONS.

LAUNCHING

Boating Order
We are boating in race order so lowest numbers first, using both the slipway (singles and doubles), and steps (all boats). Please review the boating schedule to see both your time and location. If the slipway is clear at times, doubles may be asked to boat from there. Crews must adhere to Marshals' directions in order to get all boats afloat as quickly as possible.

Waiting Area
There will be two sets of waiting trestles before the launching points. Please approach the first of these 5-6 minutes before your boating time and certainly no later. If a backlog does form, we will make an announcement so that crews are not standing holding boats unnecessarily.

Boating Direction
Boating will take place with bow facing downstream, and Feet MUST be done on the water. DTARC Marshals will help you get in and push off, though visiting club assistance to pass down blades, hold riggers, etc is welcomed. Please follow Marshals' instructions at all times and move away from the boating area before stopping to sort feet.

Grandmother and Eggs Alert! If you are not familiar with boating from steps, in a sweep boat shoreside handles will be facing towards the stern, and be held by the riverside rowers in front, who then pass back as pushing off. – in quads, all shoreside handles will be towards the bow except bow's handle which will be facing the stern, with 2 holding both handles, until bow can reach. **

Please make a note of the boating numbers around your slot as these will not always be sequential. However, we will also boat faster if possible, and will make announcements as necessary. Please ensure that you are ready to come to boating if we are running ahead of schedule.

Boating Instructions Both Divisions

Division 1 has 60 boats entered so the first crews/scullers must be ready to launch from 08:45am.

Division 2 has 33 boats entered so the first crews/scullers must be ready to launch from 11:30am.

Division 3 has 63 boats entered so the first crews/scullers must be ready to launch from 01:30pm.

* Please review the attached boating schedule carefully before you approach the launch area.
* All boats must approach the steps/slip with bow facing downstream.
* Oars/sculls MUST be brought to the launch area FIRST.
* Please secure feet and adjust **away from the shore.**
* The tide will be quite low for Division 1 so DO NOT go too close to the bank, and DO NOT cut any corners.

ON THE WATER

Once feet are sorted, head over to the far side of the river and proceed downstream keeping to the righthandside looking downstream.

NB: There is a floating pontoon above Double Bends on the east bank (so on the right handside as boats come back up) – this will float out a bit as the tide rises so please be aware as you race up, keep clear of the hazard, and take this into account if you are being overtaken.

Bigger boats, you **must** keep to the channel as you go downstream and follow the buoyage system, leaving red buoys to bowside/starboard/cox's righthandside, green to strokeside/port/cox's lefthandside.

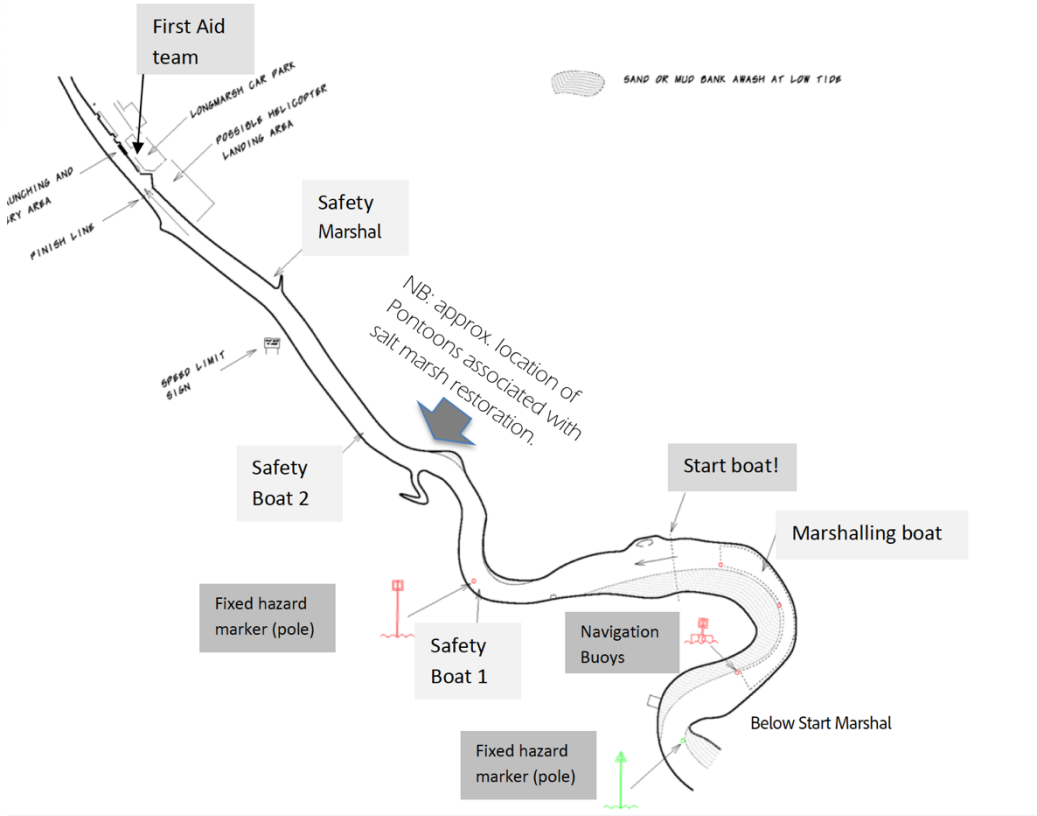
Marshalling

8s and 4s: Proceed downstream beyond the Start towards Sharpham Boathouse. You may circulate downstream towards Duncannon, staying to right of the channel by the bank going downstream and to the right of the channel coming back up. Stay in the channel, don't cut inside the green buoy at Sharpham Boathouse, and be aware of any Marshal instructions. You must be back up towards the Start by 09:45am and line up around the outside of the bend in number order from 100 metres below the red buoy near the Start line, bows facing downstream if necessary (there's not a lot of tide). Please leave space for boats with numbers lower than you.

2s and 1s: Once through double bends, keep towards the right towards Stone Quay, leaving the channel to the left looking downstream, and head straight down into the middle area. As soon as the last boat coming down clears the Course we'll start racing to avoid crews getting cold. Marshall in that central area between Stone Quay and the bottom of that straight in number order, bows facing downstream.

Once race time is approaching, be ready to spin (if need be) and go. We will give a 5 minute warning before starting racing to allow for de-layering. Once racing starts, please keep tapping up and be ready to follow boats across the line at approx. 15-20 sec intervals. This will help minimise delays.

Appendix A: Course Map



DURING THE RACE

Overtaking - if you are being overtaken, please move over either to the left or right, whichever is quickest, to allow to the overtaking boat through. If you are overtaking, please bear in mind that safety is paramount. There will be Marshals stationed on safety boats at points on the course. Please follow their instructions if you are asked to do so.

FINISH

The finish is the downstream shoulder of the Turning Bay (see map). Please continue to row upstream on the far side (opposite side to the clubhouse) and round the buoy to approach the steps in a downstream direction. If there is space, scullers may go straight to the slipway. Please listen for instructions.

RESULTS

Prizegiving will be held as quickly as possible after the end of Division 3. Pots will be awarded for all events contested by two crews or more for juniors, three crews for seniors and masters.

Row hard, stay safe, and enjoy the day!