

THE WINGFIELD SCULLS

BRITISH AMATEUR SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES

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2010 Championships

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Anna Watkins (LC)	4.46*	8.29*	13.43	19.03	23.07
Beth Rodford (Gloucester)	4.52*	8.34*	13.52	19.08	23.12
Sophie Hosking (LRC)	4.52*	8.38*	14.05	19.31	23.44
Ro Bradbury (LC)	4.55	8.47	14.41	20.04	24.25
Umpire Rorie Henderson (1990 Champion)		*beats old record			
Aligner Phil Bourguignon (LRC)					

This year's summer date did not help much with the conditions as several river boats were out on the course, the best conditions were up to Hammersmith hence the new records. Sophie Hosking took full advantage of the umpire's leniency at the start, got half a stroke in on the "are you ready" and another full stroke before anyone else moved getting her out to clear water on the field. Watkins and Bradbury gave chase while Rodford was very tentative. By LRC Watkins was through Hosking, moving strongly away and Bradbury had drawn level. The champion did not look herself but rallied to hold Bradbury, while Rodford finally found her feet and started to come back, first coming level with Bradbury then Hosking, these two then sculling level to Harrods, which closed them up on Watkins. Kingwood cut its speed under Hammersmith but its swell combined with a heavy rain squall and coming into the headwind meant all the scullers cut close under the bank at St Pauls and followed line astern up the Eyot. The umpire was forced to overtake Bradbury as Rodford closing on Watkins. As she challenged for a second time after Barnes Rodford looked like she could win but Watkins rallied through a cruiser wash and held onto her five second lead. For a non Tideway sculler Watkins really dominated the race in tricky, varied conditions and demonstrated what a racer she is.

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Alan Campbell (TSS)	4.34	8.07	13.16	18.38	22.34
Marcus Bateman (LC)	4.41	8.19	13.37	19.07	23.25
Brendan Crean (Agecroft)	4.49	8.32	13.59	20.04	24.12
Umpire Rorie Henderson (1990 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Rowley (TSS)					

The huge range in conditions over the course meant while times were comparable to Hammersmith with last year's race by the finish the race was two minutes slower. In the better conditions to Harrods it looked as though Bateman and Crean would be able to put Alan Campbell under pressure. Bateman did. Not quite as quick on the first few strokes he was level and pushing Campbell hard up to the boats. He caught a blade which just allowed Campbell half a length which he drew out to one length at LRC. Bateman was not going to let the race go and hung onto Campbell with Crean three lengths back. Off Fulham a wash, out of nowhere, caught Bateman and Campbell spurred giving him a two length lead. Once passed a cruiser at Barn Elms Campbell got a good rhythm going and attacked the race. He never let up this aggressive approach for the rest of the course, conditions permitting. Three cruisers up the Eyot plus strong wind against tide meant the water was atrocious. All scullers hugged the bank with the umpire overtaking Crean to ensure the safety of the leaders. Both Crean and Bateman did the best they could in the water but it was a matter of survival for them while Campbell stayed racing. Campbell finished with a flourish and claimed the highest finishing rate in the race's history, 43, a claim Mr Haining is likely to dispute.

Jurgen Groebler joined nine former champions and the Wingfield Family society at Tideway Scullers afterwards where he presented Anna Watkins with her medal and Alan Campbell with his third date bar. The silver sculls were presented by senior champion Doug Melvin (1955, 1958) at the former champions' dinner hosted by London RC to mark the event's 180th year.

Record times		
Mile post	4.52	E.Laverick 2007
Hammersmith	8.39	E.Laverick 2007
Chiswick Steps	13.30	E.Laverick 2007
Barnes Bridge	18.11	E.Laverick 2007
Finish	21.53	E.Laverick 2007

Record times		
Mile post	4.12	M.W.Wells 2005
Hammersmith	7.32	M.W.Wells 2005
Chiswick Steps	12.21	R.Henderson 1990
Barnes Bridge	16.45	I.J.Lawson 2003
Finish	19.58	P.M.Haining 1994