

# THE WINGFIELD SCULLS

## BRITISH AMATEUR SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES

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### 2011 Championships

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Anna Watkins (LC)	4.44*	8.03*	12.48*	17.28*	20.55*
Beth Rodford (Gloucester)	4.49	8.10*	12.58*	17.37*	21.01*
Umpire Elise Sherwell (2007 Champion)		*beats old record			
Aligner Tony Larkman (Thames)					

A grey non-descript day that couldn't decide if it wanted to rain or not greeted the scullers with not enough wind to lift the flags at Putney. The two scullers quibbled about their stations as they had practised the other way around yesterday, but aligned on station minus Ro Bradbury who had withdrawn with a fever. There was nothing non-descript about the reigning Champion's start. She pointed out there have been two World Championships since she last raced the Wingfields and she has gained confidence from each. Off at 43 to Rodford's 36 she was able to cut across in front of Rodford by LRC where she was at 34 to Rodford's 30. After a steering wobble from both off the Black Buoy their courses were good and similar as they were steered from the same launch. The conditions were fast allowing both scullers to break the records at each marker thereafter. Rodford continued to under rate Watkins and looked as though she was expecting her boat to be faster and have more run. Watkins looked ready to race the single on the World stage, her time would have broken Redgrave's 1988 record in the men's race.

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Adam Freeman-Pask (IC)	4.24	7.33	12.06*	16.27*	19.41*
Tom Solesbury (LC)	4.27	7.34	12.07*	16.34*	19.52*
Henry Pelly (LRC)	4.25	7.37	12.20*		20.16
Umpire Elise Sherwell (2007 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Bourguignon (LRC)					

As the heavy, mid and lightweight challengers lined up without a Champion, withdrawn injured, no one in the launch was prepared to make a bet. The water had picked up since the women's race and was quite bouncy. This chop unnerved Solesbury who stayed at half slide and 38 up the boats, the others either side of him got off sharply with Freeman-Pask at 43. All three drifted to Middlesex and at the Black Buoy Pelly and Freeman-Pask were level with Solesbury clear water behind. Despite all the scullers having steerers each tried each station passing Fulham with two lengths between them all. Sherwell constantly warning them all, Freeman-Pask pushed Pelly onto the navigation buoy at the Mile. As it calmed after the Mile Solesbury started to scull well and came up on Pelly's stern catching it and slewing him across the course. Freeman-Pask was lucky to be clear of this tussling. Shooting Hammersmith Solesbury was hounding Freeman-Pask and despite being close in and out of the stream got his nose in front by the Eyot. Here they met the EA launch and its swell took the edge off Solesbury's challenge. He held on and the umpire was forced to overtake Pelly who was bleeding profusely from his knuckles, because the leaders were so close approaching Chiswick Pier. Finally Freeman-Pask's better course and slightly higher rate began to tell and Solesbury flagged, by the Bandstand Freeman-Pask got clear water. Both cut Barnes bridge very fine but Freeman-Pask continued to scull well to complete a memorable race, with both inside the old record, Freeman-Pask took a huge 17 seconds off the 1994 record.

The Wingfield Family Society had invited the Lord Mayor of London elect David Wootton to attend the races and present the trophies. He remembered a headline as a schoolboy rower announcing a "disastrous fortnight for Barry" as he lost the Wingfields. He drew attention to the races' and his position's long histories using two quotes from the race's archives to illustrate how times have changed; the refusal of W.Scott's entry as he held a menial position not consistent with being a gentleman amateur and Jenkin's refusing Chapman's offer of a £50 wager on the race but would accept a cup of the same value. The secretary thanked the WFS, London RC, TSS and Rosemary Thom for the catering and Bill Barry (Champion 1963-66) thanked the secretary and treasurer for their work.

Old Record times		
Mile post	4.46	A.Watkins 2010
Hammersmith	8.29	A.Watkins 2010
Chiswick Steps	13.30	E.Laverick 2007
Barnes Bridge	18.11	E.Laverick 2007
Finish	21.53	E.Laverick 2007

Old 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