

THE WINGFIELD SCULLS

BRITISH AMATEUR SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES

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2012 Championships

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Alan Campbell (TSS)	4.40	8.47	-	19.46	24.00
Umpire Sophie Hosking (2008,9 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Bourguignon (London)					

With the withdrawal of Adam Freeman-Pask ill after the Armada cup and Mahe Drysdale struck down with gastroenteritis on his return from Sri Lanka promoting rowing, Alan Campbell had a row over. The umpire asked all the competitors if they could switch the races around to give the women the faster water and wider river to accommodate them, land water and spring tides combined for a slow turn of the tide. She also warned them of the very obvious signs of the Olympic legacy with several junior crews out on the water. Alan set off at a great rate on his own despite some bumpy water on the start line, he was still at 40 at the boats and passed LRC still at 39, by the Black Buoy he smoothed out and reduced his rate to 34. After the Mile post he dropped his rate and paddled over to claim the title Champion of the Thames for the fourth time.

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Beth Rodford (Gloucester)	5.08	8.51	14.18	19.15	23.32
Debbie Flood (LC)	5.01	8.49	14.24	19.22	23.43
Imogen Walsh (LRC)	5.10	8.54	14.35	19.33	24.02
Jess Eddie (ULWBC)	5.16	9.16	-	-	25.30
Umpire Sophie Hosking (2008,9 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Rowley (TSS)					

The morning sunshine gave way to hailstorms and a striking rainbow but that did not improve the water for the women, the spring tide against the wind and land water made for very uncomfortable water along the Putney reach. The new champion today was the most consistent performer in a wide variety of conditions, a champion of all the Thames could throw at her. None of the scullers got off at a very high rate but Debbie Flood was most determined and got clear. Jess Eddie went for shelter under the Fulham wall and never recovered from that decision, whilst Imogen Walsh and Beth Rodford battled it out level all at 31 except Rodford at 27 along the boats. At the Black Buoy Flood set off to join Eddie under Fulham and Rodford just got through Walsh. All the scullers were cheered on vigorously at Barn Elms by their juniors, Rodford at 25 was half a length up on Walsh at 29 while Flood led and Eddie began to come back into the stream. It was calm at the Mile post which Flood passed first. Rodford and Walsh were still very close but line astern. Rodford steered better past Harrods and closed on Flood so at Hammersmith Bridge Flood's lead was much reduced but Walsh was still in touch. Conditions turned considerably worse after St Pauls which had favoured Flood earlier but as all the scullers tucked into the Surrey shore, Rodford drew level with Flood at the Ship then led along the Eyot where Flood maintained contact. At Chiswick pier the water flattened out again and Rodford began to draw away at 26 to Flood's 28 and Walsh's 29. Both Rodford and Flood tried to hit the PLA's navigation buoys at the crossover and after Barnes Bridge where once again the water picked up nastily. Rodford maintained her steady rate and Flood dropped back. Several of the scullers raced with poppies on their all-in-ones, today's race will not be one they forget in a hurry. All of the scullers deserve credit for finishing a truly tough trial by the Thames.

The Wingfield Family Society continues to support the championships and were represented by Clare Morton, Henry Wingfield's closest living relative. The silver sculls were presented by two of the committee's Olympic Champions, Alan received the silver sculls and date bar for his medal from Sophie Hosking (Olympic champion in LW2x) and Beth Rodford received her silver sculls and medal from Mahe Drysdale (Olympic champion in M1x). The secretary thanked all the competitors and hoped those unable to race will return, TSS and LRC for their hospitality and above all Max for services beyond the call of duty flagging the markers recovering from a severe crash following Alan to return and flag all the female scullers.

Record times		
Mile post	4.44	A.Watkins 2011
Hammersmith	8.29	A.Watkins 2011
Chiswick Steps	13.30	A.Watkins 2011
Barnes Bridge	18.11	A.Watkins 2011
Finish	21.53	A.Watkins 2011

Record times		
Mile post	4.12	M.W.Wells 2005
Hammersmith	7.32	M.W.Wells 2005
Chiswick Steps	12.06	A.Freeman-Pask 2011
Barnes Bridge	16.45	A.Freeman-Pask 2011
Finish	19.58	A.Freeman-Pask 2011

