

# THE WINGFIELD SCULLS

BRITISH AMATEUR SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES

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## 2014 Championships

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Mel Wilson (IC)	4.28*	7.58*	12:48	17.32	21.15
Imogen Walsh (LRC)	4.37*	8.08	13.04	17.45	21.32
Emily Craig (UL)	4.40*	8.12	13.12	17.55	21.44
Vicky Thornley (LC)	4.33*	8.04	12.58		NRO

Umpire Sophie Hosking (2008-9 Champion)

Aligner Phil Bourguignon (Molesey)

\*inside old record

It was a beautifully sunny day that greeted the scullers and they took full advantage of the excellent conditions to all break the old record to the Mile Post. Thornley challenged Wilson's lead all down the boats only letting her get out to a length after the football ground. Walsh and Craig had been stroke for stroke from the start until a slight blade clash at the same point. A PLA launch created a rolling swell up the whole Fulham reach. By Harrods the scullers were line astern very evenly spaced. Craig stayed in the stream past Dove pier and gained on the whole field as Walsh closed on Thornley. Up the Eyot the three chasers closed into a tight group who were then confronted by the Driftwood barge on the move. The times show how the wind now affected the scullers. After Chiswick Pier Thornley struggled to breathe and dropped out, leaving Wilson clear but Walsh under constant pressure from Craig. Wilson showed she is ready to make her mark on the national team again after her break for her medical studies. Craig's performance belied her age and her resolution showed she will be a force to be reckoned with in years to come.

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Tim Richards (IC)	4.32	7.58	12.40	17.28	21.06
Matt Bedford (UL)	4.38	8.03	12.46	17.42	21.20
Mike Ewing (Quintin)	4.33	8.04	12.51	17.47	21.22
Wilf Kimberley (IC)	4.36	8.06	12.53	17.46	21.23

Umpire Sophie Hosking (2008-9 Champion)

Aligner Phil Rowley (TSS)

The temperature dropped and the wind rose in between the races so despite the extra tidal flow the men were no faster than the women to Hammersmith. The four scullers undaunted by the awkward water kept their rates over 40 until LRC where Richards already had his nose ahead. Ewing pushed all the chasing scullers over to the boats resulting in a clash between Bedford and Kimberley which left Bedford trailing. Ewing then took a better line from the Black Buoy allowing him to close up on Richards. They were a stark contrast in styles with Richards much calmer and Ewing giving it his all. From the Mile positions changed and it was Bedford who took the better line up the inside and pulled all the way through to second by Hammersmith. Bedford maintained his challenge all the way up the Eyot until they hit the headwind at Chiswick Pier. Richards continued calmly while the other scullers closed up into a fraught tussle. At this point the race was confronted by a tug towing an enormous pontoon coming through the centre arch of Barnes Bridge. Luckily the skipper had been warned and tucked in close by the Bandstand and Kimberley got his nose in front of Ewing. Richards remained serene as the rest of the field closed up to be separated by a length at the finish. It was a close fought contest won by the better sculler on the day.

Two great races, two new champions, two new records and a new generation of scullers stepping up to the challenge of the Wingfields. Without Alan Campbell's presence the races provided a platform for new talent to shine. It was Imperial's day. Their athletes were prepared to fight it out on their home water. Sophie Hosking presented the new champions with their silver sculls. They will also receive their silver medals first presented in 1848 to compensate the winner for not taking all the entry fees. Tim Richards' grandmother was at the finish to celebrate success for the third generation of Richards' oarsmen. The race is indebted to Paul Thompson for his continued support and promoting the event to his athletes and TSS and LRC for hosting us.

Record times		
Mile post	4.44	A.Watkins 2011
Hammersmith	8.03	A.Watkins 2011
Chiswick Steps	12.48	A.Watkins 2011
Barnes Bridge	17.28	A.Watkins 2011
Finish	20.55	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	16.27	A.Freeman-Pask 2011
Finish	19.41	A.Freeman-Pask 2011