

# THE WINGFIELD SCULLS

## BRITISH AMATEUR SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES

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### 2016 Championships

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Jess Leyden (Leander)	5:05	8:45	13:54	18:45	22:32
Georgia Francis (Imperial)	5:01	8:50	14:01	18:54	22:45
Pippa Whittaker (Imperial)	5:10	8:59	14:10	19:08	23:01
Amelia Carlton (Tideway Scullers)	5:13	9:06	14:19	19:19	23:20
Umpire Greg Searle (1998-9, 2000 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Bourguignon (Molesey)					

Phil did a good job bringing all four scullers through the centre arch level and the umpire got them under way quickly. Despite the near perfect conditions it was a tentative start from all the scullers. Georgia Francis steered by Stuart Whitelaw got her rate highest and showed first but Leyden level with Whitaker looked ominous. Francis took a length along the boats at 33 while Leyden steered a good line close to the boats. Francis was a length up at the Black Buoy while Leyden had half a length on Whittaker and Carlton another length back rating highest. Francis drifted over to Fulham which allowed Leyden on a better line to come back to overlap. Francis responded to her steerer cut back to Surrey and regained her length lead still over rating Leyden by 3-4 pips. Francis had attacked the race but Leyden had remained calm and confident as their rates came to match so Leyden pulled level after the Mile Post. Francis never let Leyden relax and nor did Carlton let Whittaker but they settled into a line astern after Hammersmith very close to the Surrey shore where Leyden narrowly missed a double scull. Leyden started the day as favourite and sculled like one but none of the challengers backed off and all sculled hard.

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Jamie Kirkwood (Leander)	4:45	8:29	12:40	17:27	20:56
Dan Boddington (Griffen)	4:50	8:41	13:26	18:01	21:36
Tim Richards (Imperial)	4:47	8:40	13:29	18:04	21:40
Frazier Christie (Leander)	4:56	8:44	13:31	18:09	21:41
Nick Middleton (Leander)	4:48				NTT
Umpire Greg Searle (1998-9, 2000 Champion)					
Aligner Graeme Mulcahy (Champion 1976)					

With the tide higher the water was more disturbed for the start of the men's race. The water undoubtedly negated Christie and Middleton's power off the start and the lighter men were able to go over the top of the conditions. Richards started well and took the lead over 40. By LRC Richards led at 34 but Kirkwood out on Middlesex steered by Josh Butler had a clear untroubled line and threatened at 35. At the Black Buoy Richards led by half a length but the first three were very close. Richards led a drift across to Fulham FC. As the scullers came into a headwind passing Craven Cottage Kirkwood took the lead. Once he had clear water he cut sharply across to Surrey. At this point Christie looked to be dropping back but Boddington had steered well and was closing up on the first three. It was a tight bunch passed the Mile Post which allowed for little room to manoeuvre. Middleton was challenging as Richards appeared to fade once Kirkwood passed. Middleton and Richards blades clipped and Middleton's blade got caught in. The umpire had been active in controlling the race and now had to stop Boddington and Christie to prevent them hitting the capsizing Middleton. This drama allowed Kirkwood to slip away unchallenged. Thereafter a humdinger of a race ensued between Richards, Boddington and Christie. Paul Stannard and Henry Fieldman steering Middleton were able to get him back into his scull so he completed the course. Boddington took the lead in the challengers' pack at Latymer steered well by Teddy Previtte. By sheer guts and determination Christie got himself back into contention and threatened both scullers close to him. Despite warning them earlier the RNLI put up a huge swell returning to Chiswick Pier, the umpire warned the scullers but again the lighter scullers rode it better. Richards came back on Boddington and drew away from Christie. Christie was not finished after Barnes he fought right back up to last year's Champion. Richards finished in exactly the same time as last year but with two scullers ahead this time and another hot on his heels.

Two clear winners and two new Champions of the Thames but despite the margins both were hard fought races for all the challengers. There was a good crowd at Tideway Scullers for bacon sandwiches and the presentations. The secretary thanked them for their support along with the PLA, LRC, TSS and Clive Cooper for managing to flag each sculler at every marker for both races, quite a feat with the towpath shut at Hammersmith. The Wingfield Family Society continue to support and attend the event their Vice President Steven Chanko was over from Vienna along with regular Ian Wingfield.

Peter Laverick brought his launch Verity to Tideway Scullers to collect umpire and press almost in the dark. He had made a new flagpole for the launch especially for the Wingfield's flag, at speed it trailed its full eight foot behind the stern. Elise Sherwell (2007) steerer both races, working closely with Greg Searle (1998-9,2000) the umpire to keep the flotilla in touch with their scullers without overtaking as the races never dropped the last sculler.

Record times			Record times		
Mile post	4:28	M.Wilson 2014	Mile post	4:12	M.W.Wells 2005
Hammersmith	7:58	M.Wilson 2014	Hammersmith	7:32	M.W.Wells 2005
Chiswick Steps	12:48	A.Watkins 2011	Chiswick Steps	12:06	A.Freeman-Pask 2011
Barnes Bridge	17:28	A.Watkins 2011	Barnes Bridge	16:27	A.Freeman-Pask 2011
Finish	20:55	A.Watkins 2011	Finish	19:41	A.Freeman-Pask 2011