

THE WINGFIELD SCULLS

BRITISH AMATEUR SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES

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2017 Championships

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Francesca Rawlins (Tideway Scullers)	4:51	8:38	NTT	18:53	22:54
Charlotte Hodgkins-Bryne (UL)	4:47	8:38	NTT	19:05	23:09
Suzi Perry (Thames)	4:58	8:52	NTT	NTT	27:24
Umpire Graeme Mulcahy (1976 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Rowley (TSS)					

Fran Rawlins sculled an excellent lightweight race, even paced, maintaining her speed and showing that her victory at GB Trials was no fluke. It was disappointing to lose the world silver medal sculler Vicky Thornley to illness on the morning of the race but none of the other challengers let that distract them from racing well. Hodgkins-Bryne got out well with the aim of dominating the race. Rawlins maintained a higher rate along the boats and by the Black Buoy had just drawn out to a length on Perry but was two lengths down on Hodgkins-Bryne, who led a drift across to Fulham, as she corrected and let her rate come down Rawlins began to close and pull away from Perry. Hodgkins-Bryne maintained a clear water lead past the milepost, but after that marker Rawlins started to reduce the lead. By Hammersmith Rawlins drew level and their sculls touched but Rawlins had the momentum and kept it out of the clash. The Hodgkins-Bryne was stuck in the middle with Rawlins drawing away and Perry dropping back. As they passed the Bandstand Rawlins led by over five lengths while Perry fell back and was over taken by the Umpire. Rawlins kept tapping it along and drew out a fifteen second lead by the end.

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Richard Clarke (UL)	4:51	8:28	NTT	18:16	22:03
Nathan O'Reilly (Tideway Scullers)	4:48	8:28	NTT	18:24	22:13
Sean Blake (Tideway Scullers)	4:48	8:30	NTT	18:22	22:15
Laurence Joss (Tideway Scullers)	4:48	8:27	NTT	18:44	23:01
Jamie Kirkwood (Leander)	4:38	8:30	NTT	NTT	NTT
Umpire Graeme Mulcahy (1976 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Rowley (TSS)					

Kirkwood leapt out to a length lead on Sean Blake by LRC, while another length covered all three of the Tideway Scullers, it looked like the heavyweight in the race was going to be dropped out the back. Kirkwood reached the Milepost ten seconds up on his time from last year and the three Tideway Scullers who appeared glued together with Clarke a length back. Kirkwood looked to be in a position to retain his title but the Tideway had other plans, at Harrods he appeared to falter, subsequently it became clear he had ridden over some driftwood and half dislodged his fin, this dragged her back to the chasing pack. Kirkwood took drastic action to dislodge the debris he thought was caught on his fin, stopped, backed down and lost his fin all together. Joss, the only junior we believe to have challenged for the Wingfields took up the baton and led through Hammersmith, pursued by O'Reilly and Clarke. The race got its third leader when unfortunately Joss crabbed. O'Reilly's lead was relatively short lived as Clarke came through and then perennial second placer Blake followed. A real tussle developed between the club mates while Clarke drew clear and Joss dropped back. Five lengths separated Clarke from Blake while O'Reilly overlapped. O'Reilly got the better of Blake on the Barnes bend but Clarke was the clear winner in an exciting and varied race. Joss demonstrated his talent and we hope to see more of him.

Two proud new Champions of the Thames were created in two races where the early leader failed to dominate. The Tideway Scullers pack made for an exciting race for the men but UL claimed their second ever Champion after Matt Wells (2004-5). Tamesis smiled on the event and the water was good for both races even if Fortuna did not smile on all the competitors. Phil Rowley back from coaching in China returned to old role and aligned both races, while Graeme Mulcahy took up his umpiring flags again under the supervision of BR qualified umpire David Biddulph.

There was a good crowd at Tideway Scullers for bacon sandwiches and the presentations. The secretary thanked the Tideway community for their support along with the PLA. They had all rallied around to make their Championship happen. Our umpire's launch Peter Laverick's Verity was stuck upstream of Staines lock yesterday. The PLA stepped in with Crane and the assistant harbour master Darren Knight driving at very short notice. The Wingfield Family Society continue to support and attend the event with Edward Wingfield over from Ireland along with regular Ian Wingfield, keen to discuss how we might mark the bicentenary of Henry C Wingfield founding the event.

Record times		
Mile post	4:28	M.Wilson 2014
Hammersmith	7:58	M.Wilson 2014
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