

# THE WINGFIELD SCULLS

## BRITISH AMATEUR SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES

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### 2018 Championships

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Ruth Siddorn (LC)	5:04	8:51	13:45	18:45	22:29
Meghann Jackson (LRC)	5:11	9:07	14:20	19:24.	23:07
Umpire Greg Searle (1998-9, 2000 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Bourguignon (Molesey)					

Unfortunately we lost our reigning Champion on the morning of the race, Fran Rawlins was taken ill. Not the only thing we managed to lose. Verity the Laverick's umpire launch lost its propellor grounding at TSS before the races. Rob Dauncey and LRC stepped in a provided us with a suitable replacement launch.

All of this meant the race got off a little late in blazing sunshine and an uncomfortable swell. Meghann steered by Rob Dauncey threw herself at the race stealing an early lead at over 40. In her first single race on the Tideway Ruth was understandably less certain off the start but both scullers were soon at 38 with Meghann passing her clubhouse a length up. Ruth hugged the boats up the Embankment and looked ominously calm at the Black Buoy sculling two pips lower and closed the gap to half a length. Despite Meghann maintaining her aggressive sculling, Ruth drew out to a length clear at Barn Elms. Both scullers passed the Mile post at 30 but Ruth continued to draw out and allowed her rate to drop to 28 under Hammersmith. Meghann kept attacking as the water improved but Ruth drew away despite going very wide around Barnes. For her first Tideway race Ruth showed great composure and under Ross Hunter guidance could be an exciting prospect for the future.

	Mile Post	Hammersmith Bridge	Chiswick Steps	Barnes Bridge	Finish
Charles Cousins (Griffen)	4:58	8:43	NTT.	18:12	21:57
Jamie Copus (OBUBC)	5:09	8:54	NTT	18:27	22:15
Sam Tuck (Molesey)	5:12	8:58	NTT	18:49	22:36
Ashley Cowley (Molesey)	5:05	8:57	NTT	19:10	22:55
Umpire Graeme Mulcahy (1976 Champion)					
Aligner Phil Rowley (TSS)					

This start was delayed as well as a cruiser came up the middle of the river against the tide as the scullers lined up. If the water had been bouncy and full of debris before the cruiser it most certainly was after. However the scullers lined up well and got away together. At a lower rate Charles dug in and got his nose ahead straight away. Ashley steered by Mark Chapman of Quintin kept out of trouble on the Middlesex station and sculled up the boats really well keeping on Cousins tale. Jamie and Sam battled the conditions and each other along the boats with Sam holding his own under rating.. At the Black Buoy Charles was two lengths clear but the others were a close pack that could push each other back onto him. At Barn Elms Charles suddenly listened to Josh Butler and Jamie Kirkwood his steerers and changed course abruptly and after the Milepost lurched alarmingly as one blade got stuck on driftwood. The chasing pack was all overlapping each other by now. Jamie used the others to push off and set off to chase Charles but he was well clear. Up the Eyot the field spread out. No one let up. Approaching Barnes bride Charles made a very sudden change of course going from Surrey to Middlesex to go through the inside arch of Barnes bridge, not even he was very sure why afterwards. The water was flatter from Barnes to the finish and nothing was going to upset the order. We hope this will be the start of a winning streak that will take Charles to Tokyo.

Everyone gathered at TSS for the presentations where the Wingfield Family we're thanked for their continued support in their absence unfortunately this year. Thanks were offered to TSS for the cakes and LRC for hosting the briefing at launches, but most of all to all the competitions and supporters for maintaining their passion for the sport and choosing to challenge themselves on the Championship course in pursuit of the silver Sculls. Graeme Mulcahy as the Senior Champion presented the trophies.

Record times			Record times		
Mile post	4.44	A.Watkins 2011	Mile post	4.12	M.W.Wells 2005
Hammersmith	8.03	A.Watkins 2011	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