

## **GLOUCESTER HEAD SAFETY PLAN 2009** **(Broken Bridge to Sims Bridge 4Km approx.)**

Police, Fire and Ambulance Services have been notified about the Event. They have been informed of trailer parking arrangements at Protyre (next to the Boathouse), the course (including a map) and access to the canal / towpath at Site of Hardwicke Bridge (aka Broken Bridge), Sellar's Bridge (aka Pilot), Rea Bridge, Sim's Bridge, Netheridge Bridge, the Gloucester Rowing Club Boat House and Hempsted Bridge (foot only).



Bridge from Club	Access Points	Set your Sat Nav on Following Coordinates	Bridge Contact Number
-2	Llanthany Bridge	Latitude 51°51'41.63"N, Longitude 2°15'13.67"W	01452 312143
-1	Hempstead Bridge	Latitude 51°50'45.18"N, Longitude 2°15'50.18"W	01452 521880
0	Club House	Latitude 51°50'41.54"N, Longitude 2°15'52.11"W	01452 523795
1	Netheridge Bridge ( New Bridge)	Latitude 51°50'18.66"N, Longitude 2°16'24.15"W	01452 507318
2	Sims Bridge (First Bridge)	Latitude 51°50'17.02"N, Longitude 2°16'46.00"W	01452 501994
3	Rea Bridge	Latitude 51°50'01.87"N, Longitude 2°17'00.78"W	01452 723638
4	Sellers Bridge (Pilot)	Latitude 51°49'11.54"N, Longitude 2°17'49.63"W	01452 720251
5	Broken Bridge	Latitude 51°48'44.68"N, Longitude 2°18'21.53"W	
6	Parkend Bridge (Castle)	Latitude 51°47'39.64"N, Longitude 2°19'28.11"W	01452 720016
7	Saul Junction Bridge (Wycliffe Sculling Centre)	Latitude 51°46'56.21"N, Longitude 2°21'18.39"W	01452 740444
	Saul Junction Marina (Slip Way)	Latitude 51°46'45.45"N, Longitude 2°21'15.33"W	01452 521880

It has been requested by the Ambulance Service that in the event that their services should be required, somebody competent should meet them at the designated access to direct them to the incident. It would seem obvious that the same should apply if the other services are called. The casualties would normally be transported back to the nearest bridge, wherever possible, but only if deemed safe to do so. If spinal injuries are suspected then if possible the casualty should be left where they are and the Fire Service called so that they can be placed onto a spinal board. If the situation is deemed too dangerous for this to occur then every effort must be made to keep the casualty's spine straight and still whilst a rescue is undertaken. This should preferably be undertaken by or under the supervision of the Emergency Services. (See incident procedure below)

Safety Instructions will be issued to all competitors, including a reminder that they must abide by the ARA Water Safety Code and Rules of Racing. A safety briefing will be given to coxswains, steersmen/women and launch drivers, prior to the start of racing.

Parking marshals will be in place to help trailer parking at Protyre.

Landing stage marshals will be in place to supervise embarking and disembarking from boats. Safety spot checks will be carried out on boats and equipment before launching. Clubs and coaches are responsible for ensuring that boats, lifejackets and other equipment are safe to use.

It is the responsibility of clubs and coaches to ensure that a coach accompanies inexperienced crews on the towpath. **The towpath is out of sight of the canal between Broken Bridge and Sellar's Bridge, a safety launch will be in position to cover this stretch.**

Marshals and ARA approved umpires will be in place along the course to ensure safe and fair racing. Bends, bridges and major deviations in the bank will be supervised by one marshal or umpire who will be in radio contact with the Safety Adviser and safety boats and have megaphones to communicate with all canal traffic. Emergency Services will be summoned by mobile phone if required. Race marshals will be positioned at Site of Hardwicke Bridge (Broken Bridge), Sellar's Bridge (Pilot), Rea Bridge, Sim's Bridge, Netheridge Bridge, the Gloucester Rowing Club Boat House, Hempsted Bridge as well as at Pilot Turning Bay & Big Bend.

As race marshals cannot observe the entire course in this unique event, **competing crews are required to offer assistance** to any crew in distress or danger and inform race marshals of incidents.

- Any crew withdrawing from the race must inform the nearest race marshal.
- First Aid facilities will be provided at Sellar's Bridge (Pilot) & at the Gloucester Rowing Club Boat House with assistance available via race marshals stationed throughout the course.
- You must take, in the boat, (at your own risk) a working, charged mobile phone with the assistance number as noted below, in a watertight container. (This will be checked for, in the pre-boating safety check)
- A pay phone is situated at the boathouse in Gloucester – free for 999 calls.

- Support/safety boats are stationed along the course and can be summoned via the race marshals.
- A launch will follow the last boat home.
- Remember to take liquids, sunblock and blister kits.

### Safety instructions

If assistance is required follow the following steps:

1. If possible contact a race marshal
2. If not, ring the Chief Marshal - Stephen Rose (07790 918149)
3. Backup phone number - Rupert Charley (07745 471135)
4. Second backup number - Mark Pollard (0796 9805578)
5. Seek assistance from another crew.

Safety boats will be situated at intervals along the course and in the marshalling area at the start. (Four in total). Safety boats will inspect the course and clear any debris before each division. Safety boats will patrol an area and will not be stationary. First aid and rescue kits will be located in each launch as well as in the Club House.

### **Procedures in place in the event of an Incident:**

If an incident occurs e.g. collision, capsized, injury, person in water, the nearest Umpire/Race marshal will take charge until the Safety Adviser or other member of the Race Committee arrives at the scene and takes charge

The person in charge will alert other Umpire/Marshals and safety boats, and advise whether racing should be stopped. Umpires/Marshals closer to the start of the race will warn/stop approaching crews as appropriate.

The nearest safety boat should attend the incident; other safety boats should remain on station unless a second safety boat is called for. If the incident is serious and there is need to call the Emergency Services, racing must be stopped immediately. Safety boats not involved in the incident must ensure that all other crews return to the Boat House safely.

The person in charge will arrange for the Emergency Services to be called and agree the bridge at which they will access the canal towpath. The Umpire/Marshal on that bridge will be responsible for meeting the Emergency Services and directing them to the incident.

### **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE: THE NEAREST IS LOCATED IN THE CLUB HOUSE HOWEVER MOST MARSHALS AND SAFETY BOAT CREWS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH MOBILE PHONES.**

### **Procedures in place to cancel the event in case of adverse/unsafe weather conditions:**

If it is clear on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009** that conditions will not be suitable to race on the Sunday, then a decision will be made at noon to cancel the event and clubs informed so that they do not travel unnecessarily. If weather conditions are bad at 7.00am on the morning of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, then the nominated organiser will consult other officials by phone and if they agree take the decision to cancel. Clubs will be contacted as soon as possible to prevent

unnecessary travel. In the event of inclement weather conditions before the start of a division, a safety boat shall travel the course and marshalling areas to assess conditions with at least two experienced members of the Organising Committee on board. They should review the wind and wave conditions and advise the Race Committee to take one of the following options

1. Cancel the event
2. Restrict racing to more experienced crews and/or large boat types
3. Allow racing to continue
4. Shorten the course and allow racing to continue.

The Race Committee (at a minimum the Chairman and Safety Advisor) will make a decision at least one hour before the start of a division.

If conditions deteriorate while boats are on the water, any marshals or safety boats may request racing be suspended / halted. They should convey the information to the starter, other marshals and safety boats. The Safety Adviser (or their nominated deputy) will coordinate safety boat movement to ensure that all boats return safely to the Boat House.