



Notice to all competitors of the 2016 Boston Rowing Marathon...

The Safety Officer and Race Committee Chairman undertook a full course assessment yesterday. The Race Organising Chairman rowed the last 15k in a single, as there was concerns over the weed on that stretch. We can assure you that although the weed appears to be thick and does stretch across the river in places it is "Duck Weed", most of which is only lying just on the surface. There is one patch, for a stretch of 1200m that does represent a real challenge, there is no problem if you keep going, but if a crew stops, the thickness of the weed will be a challenge for anyone in a single who is inexperienced or lacking confidence.

They forecast rain for Friday and Saturday, and lower temperatures coupled with the knowledge that there will be 2 weed cutters operating on both days in the area of worst weed gives us confidence that the conditions on Sunday will be better than Thursday.

The result of our assessment is as follows: Compared to previous years the weed represents less of an issue for crewed boats as the weed is less likely to foul fins.

For singles who are experienced it is currently no worse than recent years in terms of overall inconvenience.

For inexperienced singles we have a concern as there is still likely to be a stretch of water which may need very precise blade-work and confidence, and any sculler who stops will find it a challenge to restart, for those lacking confidence this may be very difficult. We are mindful that crews will be tired by that stage.

We have additional safety launch deployed appropriately to the conditions on the day. So whilst we are doing every possible to reduce any risk, a sculler/crew undertakes the event at their own risk - if you don't feel confident then please don't do it.

We are therefore offering singles who are inexperienced the option to scratch free of charge if they feel that this represents too much of a challenge.

We hope that all participants enjoy the event.

Kind regards,
Boston Rowing Club



BEFORE

Thursday 15th September - 9:30am
Before the Weed Cutters began work for the day



24hrs LATER

Friday 16th September - 9:30am
After the Weed Cutters have finished for Thursday

As you can see, the conditions are changing constantly. We have assurances that the Weed Cutters will continue to fully support our event through to race day on Sunday. In addition, the Environment Agency, The Canals and River Trust, Lincoln Rowing Centre, members of Boston Rowing Club and all of our friends are working tirelessly to make this years event as successful as those that have gone before.