# **Summary**

Sunday 12th November 2023

* Course: distance 16 miles+, 10 portages. See course map. Start and finish at Mytchett Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Rd, Mytchett, Camberley GU16 6DD.
* Check-in: 10-11am.
* Starts:
  + From 11:00 Canoes and schools
  + From 11:30 Divisions 9-4
  + From 12:00 Divisions 3-1
* Finish window: 13:30 – 15:30 (time your starts according to your ability).
* Support: from the clubhouse, from towpath via bicycle or on foot, by car for extrication of retired crews only.

# **Detailed Rules**

| Course | Approximately 16 miles+. See diagram below. Open to all classes: Veterans, Seniors & Juniors  The basic course is intended to be as follows:   * Start at the Canal Centre * Paddle to Turn A and turn anti-clockwise (two portages – Lock 29 out and back) * Return back to the clubhouse (option to finish or relay) * Paddle down the Deepcut flight of locks to lock 24 (turn B) and turn anti-clockwise (4 portages) * Paddle back up the flight of locks (4 portages) to the finish at the clubhouse. * Racing may be in K1, K2, C1 or C2. |
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| Briefing Notes | Briefing notes will be separately published. Additionally, these Race Rules and the Briefing Notes will be available at the check-in desk. ALL entrants MUST have read both documents prior to starting.  There will be no formal pre-race briefing presentation. |
|  | Paddlers in non-racing craft should seek permission from the [Race Organiser](mailto:b3c.secretary@gmail.com) prior to entry. |
| Portages | There are 10 portages (see briefing notes). A proportion of the Deepcut flight of locks is included in the race (both out and back).  Assistance will be available for Para-canoe. Please indicate on entry form. |
| Start & Finish Venue | Basingstoke Canal Visitors Centre  Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, GU16 6DD  (OS ref: SU 893552)  Toilets, café, showers, paddler’s food. Race control will be based here. |
| Check-in | 10:00 – 11:00 |
| Starts | From 11:00 Canoes and schools  From 11:30 Divisions 9-4  From 12:00 Divisions 3-1  Crews may start once checked-in.  Timings may be varied to reduce congestion depending on the size of the entry. Please check the [BCCC website](http://www.b3c.org.uk/home/index.html) or the [BCCC Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/basingstokecanalcanoeclub) for any changes prior to travelling. |
| Finishes | The finish window is 13:30 to 15:30.  Crews should time their starts to finish within the above window.  Paddler’s food will be available at the clubhouse upon handing in the number board. |
| Cut-off time | The organisers reserve the right to apply a cut-off time to crews arriving back at the club from Turn A.  Any crew affected will be directed **not** to continue on to Deepcut but to finish immediately. A time will be given for this shortened course. Failure to obey such a request will hold BCCC harmless of any and all subsequent incident or accident.  There is an option to relay at this point. |
| Intervals | Competitors will be set off in groups of up to 3 at 30 minimum second intervals. |
| Entry | All entries must be pre-booked via the BC Racing website. All entrants must demonstrate membership of BC or an affiliated club’s youth section or will have to purchase an event ticket at £5.  Every crew must have completed an official entry form, paid the appropriate entry fee and read these rules and the Paddler’s Brief before starting. |
| Support | Due to the sensitive nature of the environment and lack of parking there is **no vehicle based support** for any crew except as required to rescue a retired crew. The nature of the course also means that there is no safe parking for cars that gives access to the towpath. Please do not use the race as a test of vehicle based support for crews entering the Devises to Westminster race.  Any support crew breaching this rule will cause immediate disqualification for their paddlers.  Support may be provided by bicycle from the towpath (see Safety below).  Cyclists are advised to use a mountain bike or equivalent. Road bikes are unlikely to be suitable.  Support cyclists must be courteous, considerate and give way to all other canal users at all times. This includes fishermen, dog walkers, portaging paddlers, other cyclists and pedestrians.  Any complaints about support crew behaviour may result in disqualification of their paddlers. |
| Safety | The canal, the towpath and the grounds at the finish are all open to and used by the general public. Please be considerate towards other users and take great care when portaging with your boat.  Paddlers should be prepared for a delay of up to an hour or more if they retire. All crews are strongly advised to carry appropriate safety and survival equipment.  Inexperienced crews who are not registered or cannot show evidence of having raced in the past 24 months MUST carry appropriate emergency equipment. This must be provided for inspection when booking in.  The minimum inventory is as follows:   * sleeved thermal underwear to fit or complete tracksuit * hat * survival bag or foil blanket * energy drink and bar of chocolate/energy bar   In addition, it is *recommended* that *all* crews carry the above emergency equipment.  Crews training for the Devises to Westminster race may want to use this race to practise carrying the mandatory race kit.  Competitors must ensure their boat has adequate buoyancy before starting.  All competitors are advised to wear footwear suitable for portaging over rough ground.  **All competitors must offer to assist any other competitor that appears to require help. Never pass such a crew without asking if assistance is required and receiving an adequate response that the crew is OK.**  Time credits will be given to crews that stop to render assistance.  Buoyancy aids are recommended for all paddlers and MUST be worn by ALL paddlers other than those ranked in marathon racing divisions 1 to 6.  A drinking system is recommended for all paddlers.  Canal barges will be operating at the finish out of Mytchett during the race and the Canal Centre will be open to other users.  Extreme care must be taken by crews/supporters at the Canal Centre both on the water and on land. Cars must park where directed if parking marshals are deployed..  Inappropriate or discourteous behaviour will lead to disqualification. |
| Passing Protocol | Paddlers will be paddling and portaging in both directions during the course of the race. It is inevitable that paddlers will have to pass on-coming paddlers. Please adopt the following protocol whenever possible:   * Pass to the right on the towpath * Paddlers going DOWN the Deepcut flight of locks (away from Start/Finish) MUST GIVE WAY to paddlers coming UP (towards the START/FINISH). * Paddlers going DOWN the Deepcut flight of locks (away from Start/Finish) must exit long and enter long at portages, wherever possible. * Paddlers going UP the Deepcut flight of locks (towards Start/Finish) must exit short and enter short at portages, wherever possible. * This protocol will be used when reviewing complaints or protests.   See diagram below. |
| Cancellation | This event may be cancelled at little or no notice at the organiser’s discretion if conditions are deemed unsafe. Entry fees will be returned if the event is cancelled. |
| Entry numbers | The organisers reserve the right to limit the number of entries. Entries will be processed in the order received. Entry fees will be returned if an entry cannot be accepted. |
| BC Membership | All entrants must prove BC membership or that they are a registered member of their club’s Youth Section. Otherwise the entrant(s) will be required to purchase an event ticket at the specified price given above. |
| Retiring | Any crew retiring from the race must inform race control on:  07946 758754. |
| Marshals | All competitors are required to follow marshals’ instructions at all times. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.  Marshals may apply time penalties/credits at their discretion. |
| Decisions | The decision of the Race Organiser on all matters is final.  The race organiser on this occasion is Bill Hansell or his nominee. |
| Ages | Age categories are as follows:  - Juniors must be aged under 18 on 1st January preceding the race.  - Veterans must be aged over 35 on 1st January preceding the race. |
| Race Numbers and Number Boards | Competitors must obtain their race number from Race Control at the start of the race. They must be secured to the boat using a split pin or waterproof tape. The race number must be mounted vertically on the boat throughout the race. Any boat which is not displaying a number when it crosses the finishing line may not be timed. Race numbers must be returned to Race Control at the finish of each race or on retirement. |
| Prizes | All competitors completing the course will be awarded a prize. There is no separate prize giving. Results will be posted on the BCCC website after the event. |
| Inappropriate behaviour | BCCC, the Race Organiser and their marshals and support staff will have zero tolerance to inappropriate behaviour of any form. Anybody associated with the event behaving inappropriately towards public, official or competitor will be disqualified as appropriate and asked to leave the premises immediately. There will be no refund of entry fees. |