**Thames Alive Risk Assessment**

**Event:** The Boat Race Day Flotilla & Oxbridge Watermen’s Challenge.

**Location:** River Thames – Putney Pier to University of London Boathouse, Chiswick

**Date:** 3rd April 2022 11:00-16:00

**Brief:** The Queen’s Row Barge ‘Gloriana’ with an escort of ten traditional rowed craft will row over the Boat Race course from Putney to Chiswick Bridge. They will be followed by the four divisions of the Watermen’s Challenge who will start upstream of the Boat Race stake boats and finish at Chiswick Bridge. All craft, except ‘Gloriana’, will start and finish the events at UL Boathouse Chiswick. Gloriana will start and finish at Chiswick Pier.

**The Queen’s Row Barge ‘Gloriana’:** QRB is fully classified Class V passenger boat by the MCA with suitably certified skipper and crew (2) plus 18 experienced oarsmen/women who regularly row on the River Thames.

**Watermen’s Cutters:** The Cutters have been built to specification set by the Great River Race since 1987. They have a GRP or wooden hull with inbuilt buoyancy sections and carry life rings, life jackets for all the crew with the coxswain and passengers wearing lifejackets. They are regularly rowed on the tidal Thames.

**Shallops & Pilot Gigs:** Large wooden hulled craft built for the River Thames and UK coastal waters.

**Rowers:** A mixture of experienced Watermen and those who row regularly on the tidal and non-tidal Thames.

**Safety/Control boats:** Safety ribs from Northern Exposure Rescue and Ahoy Centre - all coded and equipped with VHF radio, lifejackets, life rings, throw lines and First Aid kits.

**Skippers & Crew:** The crews of all ribs are holders of RYA certification, first aid trained and are experienced watermen on the River Thames.

# Event Organisers:

Malcolm KNIGHT, Thames Alive – rowed on River Thames, UK coastal waters and European waterways.

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| **Activity** | **Hazards** | **Persons at risk** | **Control measures** | **Risk level / Competent person.** |
| Rowing on the tideway | Collision with fixed object/grounding | Boat crew & support crew | PLA informed. Navigation Woolwich Radio via Ch.14. Qualified experienced skippers on support boats. Full briefing given to all Coxswains and Boat skippers before commencement of event. (Non- attendance = non-participation) Lifejackets to be available in all boats for rowers & worn by Coxswains and passengers. Lifejackets to be worn by all support/safety boat crews.  Communication via VHF radio, mobile or walkie-talkie. Control/safety boats will be capable of rescuing the rowers & taking to safe landing place.  Further Emergency services of the local  RNLI to be sought if required | Low.  Coxswain of all rowing craft Skippers of all launches |
|  | Collision with other craft (participants and other river users) | Participating Boats & Control/Support Craft | PLA informed. Navigation Woolwich Radio via Ch. 14. Qualified experienced skippers on support boats.  Full briefing given to all Coxswains and Boat skippers before commencement of event. (Non-attendance=non- participation)  NTM issued to other river users and broadcast via VHF by Woolwich Radio. Lifejackets to be available in all boats for rowers & worn by Coxswains and passengers. Lifejackets to be worn by all support/safety boat crews.  Communication via VHF radio, mobile or walkie-talkie. Control/safety boats will be capable of rescuing the rowers & taking to safe landing place.  Further Emergency services of the local  RNLI to be sought if required | Low.  Coxswain of all rowing craft Skippers of all launches |
|  | Man overboard. | Boat crews & support crew | Lifejackets to be available in the rowing boats for all crew. Lifejackets to be worn by safety/control boat crew.  Control/safety boats capable of MOB recovery. Communication via VHF radio. Life rings/lights and throw lines.  Ref: sinking instructions. | Low.  Skippers of all launches |

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|  | Sinking | Rowing boat crews | 1.Safety/Control boat skipper takes overall command of rescue operations. 2.Crew captain (coxswain) to take control of the craft.   1. Rowers to put on lifejacket and inflate them and hold onto craft (fitted with buoyancy) and/or oars. 2. Priority will be to get rowers out of the water asap. Any problems Mayday call. 3. Recover boat and arrange tow to clear the course | Medium.  Skippers & crew of the Support/Safety launches |
|  | Injury/Illness | Boat crew & support crew | Injuries/illness will be assessed and appropriate Mayday call or 999 call made before being transferred to the bank for road transport. Qualified Firstaiders in the safety boat crews. First Aid and resuscitation equipment carried.  CLP of The Boat Race to be utilised if required | Low  Skippers of both launches. |
|  | Bad weather/ Flood conditions | Boat crews & support crew | Met. Office weather forecasts obtained 24hrs prior to event and on the day.  Event Organisers to make final assessment on arrival at ULBC before commencement of crew briefing as to conditions (e.g. wind over tide).  Event only carried out if the weather conditions are suitable and considered safe (rowed craft able to make good headway).  Increased flow rate – Briefing to include additional warning to Coxswains  ‘Ebb Tide Flag Warning’ to be consulted  Fog – visibility <1/2 mile = No Go  Wind – wind over tide (creating waves); 10 knots+ – flags/canopies stowed  20 knots+ - Consider No Go Chairman or Sec. TTRA and/or Thames Alive have authority to cancel event at any stage. | Medium to High  Event Organisers (Chairman or Sec. TTRA & Thames Alive) |

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|  | Cold water shock/ Hypothermia | Anyone in the water | Safety/Control boat on standby to remove anyone from the water asap. Survival bags on safety/control boat. Qualified Firstaiders in crews. VHF radio & mobile phone for emergencies  CLP of The Boat Race to be utilised if required | Low to medium.  Crews of safety/support launches |
|  | Navigation along a busy waterway | Boat crew & support crew | Navigation Woolwich Radio via Ch 14 or mobile phone.  River closure in place.  Qualified skipper on all support boats. Abide by navigation rules of the river and agreed Passage Plan. | Low  Skippers of all launches. |
|  | Engine failure on safety/support craft | Boat crew & support crew | Boat to anchor and contact Woolwich radio. Communication via VHF radio or mobile. Assessment made by Skipper of other launches to establish if it is safe to be towed to the nearest safe mooring above Chiswick Bridge  Seven safety boats will be engaged on the event – three flotilla, four OWC. | Low  Skippers of all powered launches. |