



M32-24 & U08-24

CROSS DEEP TO LAMBETH REACH 2024 DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER INTERNATIONAL CANOE RACE

Mariners are advised that the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race will take place on the tidal Thames on **Sunday 31st March 2024** (Easter Sunday). This event is competed by a mixture of kayaks and canoes, covering a 125-mile course from Devizes in Wiltshire to the finish at Westminster Bridge, opposite the Houses of Parliament.

The 2024 event composes of two main parts:

1. a non-stop race that finishes at Westminster Bridge
2. a staged race that finishes at Thames Young Mariners.

Competitors of the non-stop race will start passing through Teddington Lock between 0630 and 0900 on Sunday 31st March 2024 and will continue down river to arrive at Westminster from around 0830. Competitors are expected to arrive at Westminster until approximately 1200.

Competitors of the staged race will finish their race at Thames Young Mariners on Sunday 31st March, between the hours of 1400 and 1800.

Event safety assets will be deployed throughout the event area on the tidal Thames, which will be maintaining a listening watch on **VHF Channel 14**.

Vessels navigating in the area during these times should take note that:

- Whilst participants will be racing, the kayaks and canoes are required to navigate in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGS).
- River users should be aware that owing to the marathon nature of the race competitors on the Tideway may be fatigued and should be treated with due consideration.
- Competitors will be in racing paddle craft 6.5m long. These are by their nature vulnerable to the effect of wash and are **not** quickly manoeuvrable to meet wash head-on.

Furthermore, vessels not involved in the event should note:

- Rowers and other small leisure craft not involved in the race are asked to avoid obstructing competitors if possible.
- Motor vessels in the area are to be aware of the race, ensure **they maintain a proper lookout and navigate with extreme caution, keeping wash to a minimum.**
- Where safe and practicable, motor vessels should reduce speed to the minimum at which they can maintain their course when passing competitors.

Further details will be broadcast by London VTS on **VHF Channel 14**.

22/03/2024

Port of London Authority
London River House, Royal Pier Road,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

SOPHIE WILLIAMS
Deputy Harbour Master

EXPIRY DATE: 08/04/2024

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Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the
VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich



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