

Monkton Bluefriars Small Boats Head Race

Advice for visitors coming to Saltford for the first time

We hope you enjoy your visit to Saltford. These notes are intended to help you before you travel. They are not comprehensive, so do please let us know (sbh@bluefriars.org.uk) if we have got anything wrong or if something else useful need adding. (e.g. Time taken to drive from Marlow.)

The Starting Order should be available on the website well in advance of the race. We hope that the printed version available on the day will contain more information, crews ordered by class, scratched crews and other last-minute changes.

Cancellation. In the 47 years of the event we have had to call off only 4 races because of bad weather or river conditions. Please consult our website if there are doubts. Decisions about cancellation or limitation of the race to particular classes will be made as early as possible, and club coaches and entries secretaries will be phoned.

We consult <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels?location=saltford>

Traffic in the area can be very heavy. Allow plenty of time.

Parking : Assuming that you are coming from the East along the A4, you will go through a roundabout with a pub (The Globe). After nearly a mile you will see a car sales business ahead on the LEFT. The spectators' car park is on the RIGHT of the road just BEFORE the cars on the LEFT. If you miss it you will have to drive on quite a long way to turn.

If coming from the West, go through Saltford village, down the hill at the far end, past the boat trailer field. A The Spectators' car park is about 100m further on, on the LEFT, opposite car sales on the right.

Event Site : When you leave the car park, turn right and walk along to the boat trailer field. **Take care – traffic can be heavy and the footpath is narrow.** Turn right into the trailer field **Beware boats from now on.** Keep right in the field and walk through the tunnel under the railway line.

When you get through, you will find two essentials – Portaloos and excellent catering facilities provided by Avon County Rowing Club. To the left of the large building ahead of you are the main Saltford Rowing Centre boathouses and boatyard area. There will be lots of boat movements at various times, so take care.

To the right, past the catering tent is a short path to the river. Turn right there to get to the course.

The River : The finish of the course is about 100m upstream of the boathouses. It is **NOT** possible view racing from the area of the finish, or downstream of it. After a further 100m you will see the long 1000m straight part of the course. Views of the course from the path along this stretch are patchy, but much improved after clearance of undergrowth by volunteers recently. At the top of the 1000m straight watching racing becomes much easier, and you can walk about 2000m further towards the start. Take care if you reach Newbridge, where you can cross the river. The footpath on the bridge is narrow. The bridge is about 250m into the race. There is a pub at the bridge.

Officials will be happy to help you. Please don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it.

We regret that **indoor facilities are NOT available** to visitors. They are needed by the race organisers.

First Aid services are provided by St John's Ambulance. They will be based with their vehicle outside the clubhouse. The local hospital is about 10 minutes away by car.

Wet Weather If the ground is wet, conditions can be very muddy along the river-side path. Boots and warm clothes advised.

Local Facilities

There are several pubs including The Globe, halfway down the course; The Riverside Inn about 200m walk downstream of the Rowing Centre, etc.

Shops about half a mile away towards Bristol. Garage in the Village.