



2025 Race Briefing Notes

- **Divisional Courses**

- **Start:** All divisions start about 400m upstream from the club. We will set up a sign on the bank indicating the start line. There will be marshalls with yellow or orange vests on the river and/or on the bank to assist. Start facing downstream in batches which will be announced later in the briefing. Please ensure you are on the river a fair bit before 11 and paddle upstream of the start so you are not in the way as the earlier divisions set off.
- **Div 1-3:** 21km lap with four portages. Head downstream, past the club, go over Mill Pond portage onto the middle river, over Jesus Lock portage and onto the lower river. Keep going past the Green Dragon Bridge with the hanging buoy and on to Baits Bite Lock, where you turn just before the lock. Head back upstream, over both portages, past the clubhouse and onwards towards Grantchester. Paddle past the Geoff Sanders buoy and turn around the buoy near Grantchester. Paddle back to the club and finish facing downstream.
- **Div 4-6:** 14km lap with four portages. Head downstream, past the club, go over Mill Pond portage onto the middle river, over Jesus Lock portage and onto the lower river. Turn at the Green Dragon Bridge, which is approximately 5km downstream of the club. **THE BUOY WILL BE HANGING FROM THE BRIDGE.** Head back upstream, over both portages, past the clubhouse and onwards towards Grantchester. Paddle past the Geoff Sanders buoy and turn around the buoy near Grantchester. Paddle back to the club and finish facing downstream.
- **Div 7-10:** 7km loop with no portages. Head downstream, past the club, turn at Crusoe Island about 300m below the club. **This turn is narrow and clashes are often reported here, please enter this turn sensibly.** Head back up past the clubhouse and onwards towards Grantchester. Paddle past the Geoff Sanders buoy and turn around the buoy near Grantchester. Paddle back to the club and finish facing downstream.
- **Geoff Sanders:** Start facing upstream about 200m from the club. You will wait for the divisional racers to start in the river chute that comes off the river just downstream from the start line. This chute can be entered from near the bridge between the car park and the club. Head upstream towards Grantchester, turn around the first buoy and come back down, finishing facing downstream outside the clubhouse.
- **Turns:** All turns to be anticlockwise around the buoys unless instructed by the marshall. There should be marshalls at every turn. All the buoys will be on the river, except the one hanging from the Green Dragon Bridge.



- **Course notes:**

- The Cam is quite narrow towards Grantchester. We have done our best to remove any obstacles, but still expect branches and submerged obstacles. Stay river right, but do not hug the river bank too closely.
- The portage around Jesus Lock has been tricky for a few years, but this year it needs **additional caution**. The footpath along the bank is being resurfaced, this is not yet complete. As part of this work, there is a new curb along the side of the path that will need to be stepped over carefully, it is a few inches high. The soil on the riverside of the curb is soft. The stairs back down to the river may be slippery. Lastly, the concrete section along the bank downstream of the lock is falling away from the bank and into the water.

- **Safety and river etiquette:**

- The Cam is a busy river, and punts can represent a hazard. Other river users should be aware and considerate, but may not be. There will be at least one narrow boat operating some Mother's Day cruises on the lower river. Please be alert and follow the rules of the river (**keep river right**) if you encounter another boat. Punts are most commonly encountered on the middle river (between Mill Pond and Jesus Lock portages), but may also be on the upper river, between the clubhouse and Grantchester.
- When portaging please be aware of pedestrians and cyclists, of which there are many at both portages. There will be marshalls to direct you and warn pedestrians, but the responsibility is on the paddler to avoid contact with pedestrians. The portages are uneven and there may be stones and glass, so wearing shoes is recommended. The portage exits and entrances back can be slippery.
- Clothing recommendations - weather dependent. If cold, consider wearing thermals and cags.
- Kayaking is an 'assumed risk' sport that may carry attendant risks. Participants should be aware of, and accept, these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

- **Environment:** Pennywort, largely eradicated from the upper river, but still present on the lower river. Please take precautions with boats (wash / sponge out before paddling elsewhere), especially if there is a risk of transferring the pennywort to sensitive waterways.