

GUIDANCE FOR OVERSEAS CREWS

ABOUT THE REGATTA

Reading Town Regatta is a friendly and intimate one-day regatta that takes place on the River Thames a few miles upstream of Henley-on-Thames. Over many years we have welcomed overseas crews who are in the UK for the Henley Royal Regatta or Women's Regatta. A day at Reading is an excellent way to escape the Henley 'bubble' and enjoy some racing practice on another stretch of this wonderful river.

Racing is three-abreast over a sprint course of 800m, with pewter tankards for the winners of senior events. Umpiring is from traditional 30-foot Thames launches, giving the opportunity for supporters to follow a race, subject to availability.

Many overseas clubs make Reading Town part of their Henley routine, and we'd be pleased to put you in touch with one from your part of the world if you'd like to hear their views of what the regatta is like.

The regatta takes place on the day after the Henley Royal Regatta qualifying races, and we are usually able to arrange a trailer to get your boats over to Reading in time to race. There is a bus service from Henley to within 300m of the regatta site, or you can travel by train to Reading station, which is a 20-minute walk away. An alternative is to row up-river from Henley, through three locks and some beautiful countryside. Boats can be left on our racks at the regatta site, but this is entirely at your own risk.

Away from the racing, we have an all-day food and drink service including sandwiches, cakes, burgers, soft drinks, hot drinks – plus our traditional warm English beer!

MAKING AN ENTRY

Our entries are processed through BROE, the online entries system run by our national governing body, British Rowing (www.britishrowing.org). To use this system you need to make a one-time (free) registration by emailing onlineentry@britishrowing.org who will send you a club code and instructions to use the system.

You can pay by credit card via BROE, or we can arrange for cash payment on the day.

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WHICH EVENT?

We want to ensure overseas crews are placed in the right racing category so they – and their competition – have a fair chance of doing well. As a guide, here's how the Henley Royal Regatta events generally map to British Rowing's standard categories.

If you're entering...	Such as...	At Reading you should enter...
Open or Intermediate events	Grand, Ladies 8+ Stewards', Visitors' 4- Queen Mother, Prince of Wales 4x Doubles, Pairs or Single Sculls	Elite category
Club or Student events	Thames, Temple 8+ Wyfold 4- Britannia, Prince Albert 4+	Senior category
Junior events	Princess Elizabeth 8+ Fawley, Diamond Jubilee 4x	School / Junior category or, if the crew is over 19, Intermediate 1.

Of course, you don't have to enter the same boat type as you're racing at Henley, and there's scope to enter more than one event. Please email rtrtvp@btinternet.com if you'd like specific advice on your crews' racing category.

But we hope you'll want to come and race at Reading, and we all look forward to welcoming you.