

# 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. When possible 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 would be pleased to put you in touch with a club 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 play "matchmaker" with UK clubs who have space to get transfer your boats over after qualifying to Reading in time for racing.

It is possible to travel by train to Reading station, which is a 20-minute walk away or a bus service runs to Thames Valley Park. 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.

The post code and address for the location is  
Thames Valley Park Drive,  
Earley, Reading, RG6 1PQ

**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A DIFFERENT LOCATION FOR READING AMATEUR REGATTA - ENSURE YOU ASK FOR THAMES VALLEY BUSINESS PARK.**

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

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### **REGISTERING ONLINE**

Our entries are processed through BROE, the British Rowing Online Entries system run by our national governing body. Before you can use it, you need to make a one-time (free) registration by emailing [competitions@britishrowing.org](mailto:competitions@britishrowing.org). They will validate your identity and set you up on the system with a club code and instructions for use. Further information is available from <https://www.britishrowing.org/events/entering-competitions/overseas-entry/>

The next step is to register your crew(s) as members of your club on the BR system. You can do this as one process, or ask each competitor to sign up themselves. The annual fee for overseas BR membership is £10 per person, payable when you register.

Please allow time to set this all up before you proceed to make your entries. Registration allows you to race as much as you like at any British Rowing competition for a year.

### **MAKING AN ENTRY**

Once you're registered you can sign on to BROE, select our regatta and the events you want to enter, and add in the names of your (registered) competitors. We'd prefer that you pay your entry fee(s) by credit card via BROE, but we will accept payment by bank transfer in advance (please contact us for details via [rtrtvp@btinternet.com](mailto:rtrtvp@btinternet.com)) or in cash on the day.

### **WHICH EVENT?**

British Rowing has a new competition structure that gives competitors Ranking Points every time they win a race. Regattas then divide the entry in a particular boat type into bands, based on the crews' Ranking Points:

the idea is that everyone gets some good racing against crews of similar standard.

To ensure overseas crews are placed in the right band, we need any data you can give us about their racing performance, especially in the last year. If you're also racing at Henley Royal or Womens' Regattas, you've probably given them the same information already, but let us know if you're using a different line up to your Henley crews. Remember 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. We have events for 8+ and 4+, so you can compete in the morning and afternoon. We try to adjust the banding for these so you're not racing the same people in both events.

We may have to reject an entry if there is no comparable crew for them to race. Please email [rtrtvp@btinternet.com](mailto:rtrtvp@btinternet.com) if you'd like specific advice on your crews' racing category.

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