



Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018

stroudrafttrace.org.uk

01453 756745

stroud.raft.race@cotswoldcanals.com

## Useful Information for Volunteers and Competitors (Post Registration)

These Instructions must be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- **Safety Information For Competitors 2018 (Including Welfare Plan and Course Map)**

The Organising Team of the Stroud Raft Race believes the health and wellbeing of all participants is paramount.

The following instructions are distributed to all race participants and their supporters and Race Officials (Race Director, Event Coordinators, umpires, safety personnel and marshals).

### Race Safety

All competitors should have read and be familiar with all the Safety Information for Competitors prior to taking part in the race.

### Parking

The nearest car park to the site is Cheapside car park (GL5 3BN). Alternative car parks are located in The Brunel Mall, London Road (GL5 2AU) and Parliament Street (GL5 2HL). Check the Stroud District Council website for car parking charges (<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/streets-travel/parking/where-to-park-in-the-district/car-parking-charges>).

### Approach

The general location of the Cheapside carpark and directions from Bell House (near the start of the race) are shown in the figure below. You may approach the carpark from the A419 (Cainscross Road or Dr Newton's Way) or from the A46 Bath Road. There is no direct connection from Dr Newton's Way to the Bell House (access via Cainscross Road and Rowcroft).

### Trailers

Participants will need to unload their raft at Bell House and park their vehicle and/or trailer at Cheapside carpark. There is no available parking for trailers along Wallbridge, which will be closed to general traffic. Waiting raft will be stored at the bottom of the road by Travis Perkins.

### Participants, supporters and visitors

Please park in one of the nearby car parks. Please do not park on grass verges or in residential areas. The approximate walking times from each car park to Bell House is presented below. There are many viewing opportunities along the towpath between Bell House and Capel's Mill.

Cheapside carpark	Allow 5 minutes
Brunel Mall carpark	Allow 10 minutes
Parliament Street carpark	Allow 10 minutes

The Wallbridge launch site is also easily accessible from the Stroud Train Station and the bus stops at Merrywalks (A46).



The Door: Reg Charity 1131919  
Cotswold Canal Trust Reg Charity: 269721



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## Registration

Registration will be open from 10.00am.

On arrival please crews must report to the Crew Registration tent situated opposite Travis Perkins.

Please bring confirmation of your registration with you. Please register early to ease congestion.

## Race Numbers

Crews will be issued with their race numbers when they register.

Large numbers must be pinned to each side of the raft using string (provided) for each corner. If not all corners are secured, the number may fold in half making it difficult to make out and this could lead to no time being recorded.

**If race numbers are not visible, no time will be taken or recorded.**

## Practice Outings

Practice outings are not permitted.

## Launch Programme

Individual crew boating times will be shown on the Start Order Board (example below) as crews register for the event. The first raft will be launched at 11:00am.

Raft Number	Crew Name	Assembly Time	Launch Time
01	Wallbridge	10:40am	11:00am

The launch point is from the Wallbridge Upper Lock, near Bell House. Crews are to assemble in the launch area 20 minutes prior to their launch time to ensure the programme runs according to schedule.

During assembly, the rafts will be checked by the Chief Umpire/marshals. All rafts must display their Race Numbers. Please make sure you carry water with you.

Marshals will be on the bank to help you launch and exit the canal in a safe and quick manner, please listen to their instructions.

Rafts will be launched every 5 minutes and are to position themselves in the canal as directed prior to approaching the start of the race.

## Course

The start and finish is located just upstream of the Wallbridge Upper Lock. Competitors will paddle to Capel's Mill (~600 m upstream) on the left hand side of the canal, upon reaching Capel's Mill each raft will need to turn around and paddle back to towards the start/finish line. The total length is estimated to be 1.2 km.



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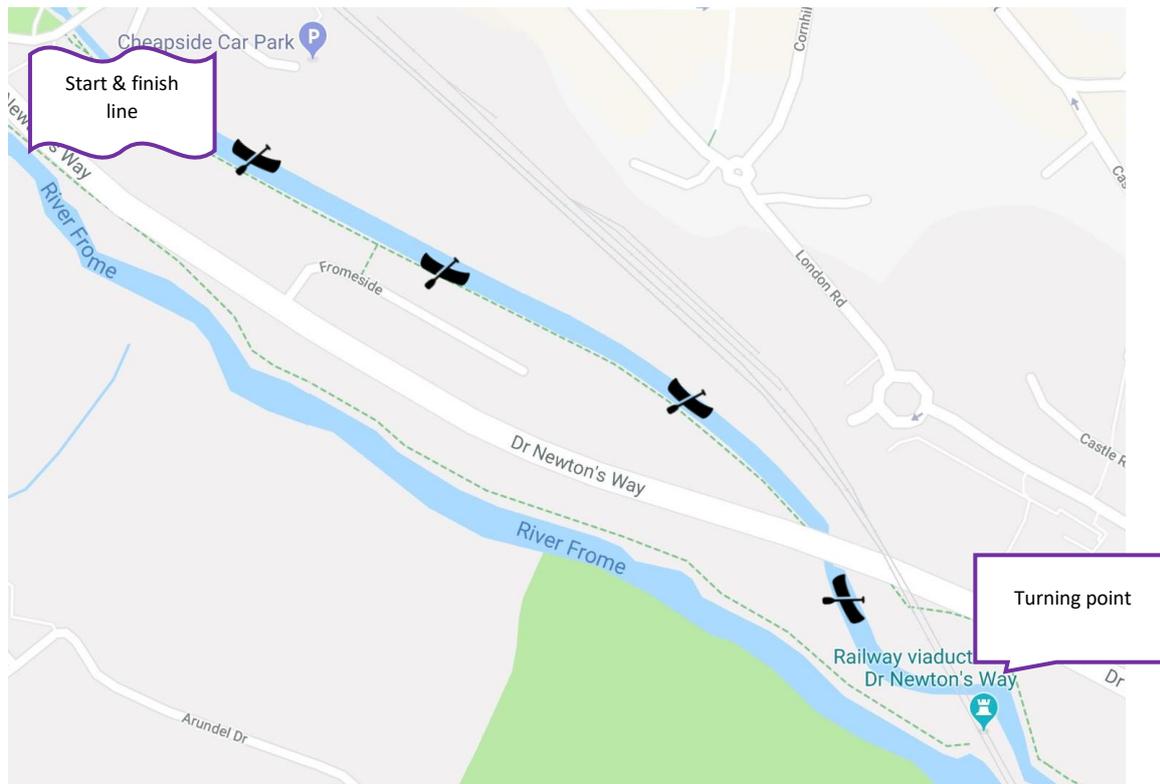
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As the canal is narrow along most of this section from Wallbridge to Capel's Mill, the race will be restricted to one raft (width) on each side of the canal.

The straight section leading up to Capel's Mill has been recently dredged. However, officials will survey the course prior to the race and any hazards will be identified with buoys.

All competitors need to make take care if overtaking.

Floating or submerged water weeds will not be considered a hazard and rafters should take care to avoid tangling their paddles or rafts.



### **Start Arrangements**

Each raft crew will assemble near the race start at the direction of race officials. Each raft will commence racing at five minute intervals. Timing will commence once the raft crosses the Start Line.

### **Marshalling Positions**

There will be marshals on the towpath and afloat to help you find your position. Whilst waiting to start you should point your bows upstream (i.e. towards Capel's Mill).

### **Proper Racing Line**

Throughout the race you must keep to the left-hand half of the canal (closest to the off-side bank when paddling towards Capel's Mill and closest to the towpath when paddling towards Wallbridge). Please try to keep the start/finish line clear at the completion of the race.



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## **Overtaking**

The principle is always that the fastest boat should be given the clearest run up the course. However, the overtaking boat does have a responsibility to not to force a slower boat off the course, or into the bank. Marshals will give instructions to help overtaking, but safety is their first priority and you may be stopped from overtaking.

Good steering is essential, as is compliance with the following requirements in order to overtake safely.

If being overtaken, move over to allow the overtaking boat to follow the faster line by moving to the centre of the canal or if on a bend to the outside of the bend.

If being overtaken on the turn at Capel's Mill, you are required to move towards the outside of the turn to allow space between you and the buoy for the faster boat to pass (i.e. the shortest line).

If several rafts come together, i.e. a third raft is trying to overtake the two rafts in front, then the two front rafts must move to the centre of the canal to allow the third raft to pass. The second raft can then overtake the first (slowest) raft.

If there are any conflicts, there will be a marshal on hand to provide direction. All competitors are required to follow the marshal's instructions.

## **Time Penalties**

You may be given time penalties for failing to comply with the marshal's instructions, for being late at the start, for passing the turn point buoy on the wrong side, for failing to give way to the faster raft, or for any use of language or gestures likely to bring the event into disrepute.

Individual penalties will be added together, but the size of any penalty awarded will not be disclosed. In extreme cases, disqualification may be the required penalty.

Remember that this event is held in a public place to raise funds for the Cotswold Canals Trust and The Door. We expect the highest standards from all competitors.

## **Refreshments**

Vendors will also be present on site from which refreshments can be purchased.

## **Toilets**

There are toilets in the Cotswold Canals Visitor Centre for competitors only, the Upper Lock Café is also have public facilities available.

## **Results and Prize giving**

The race results will be announced at the end of the day. Prizes will be presented outside The Bell House.



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## Fundraising Tools

The Raft Race is the perfect opportunity to raise money for a cause close to your heart through sponsorship.

We would like to encourage you to fundraise for The Door and the Cotswold Canal Trust - but you are welcome to raise funds for any cause

We recommend BT MyDonate as it has the highest return for charities from donations and they handle the gift aid for you!

[https://mydonate.bt.com/event/secure/charity-search.html?journey=create\\_my\\_challenge](https://mydonate.bt.com/event/secure/charity-search.html?journey=create_my_challenge)

Simply register or sign in to BT MyDonate, create your raft race challenge and choose which charities you want to support. Don't forget you can also raise funds offline just make sure to let the charities you are raising funds for, know so they can help you sort out any gift aid and paying in arrangements. Any questions email the team: stroud.raft.race@cotswoldcanals.com.



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