

# Harefield Summer Series Canoe Races

A series of flat water races on the Grand Union Canal, starting and finishing at [Copper Mill Lock \(Coy Carp\)](#) near Harefield, on Tuesday evenings in the Summer months. Location on [Google Maps](#), for Sat Nav users the post code is: UB6 6HZ.

Races take place on the first Tuesday of each month from April through to September starting at 7:00pm, this maybe moved to 6:30pm in September due to daylight restrictions. Cost £1.00 per seat per race or £5 for the series.

The races are to promote the sport, help improve paddlers' fitness and for fun. We want to encourage people new to the sport the opportunity to compete in a friendly series of races to help them gain experience and hopefully move into ranking competitions, whilst at the same time offering experienced paddlers the opportunity to race in a competitive mid-week event.

April's race will be run as a time trial with paddlers setting off in pairs at minute intervals (if paddlers give an estimated time, they will be set off with this handicap). The idea of the handicap is to give an exciting finish to the race and to give paddlers a challenge, either to catch up the paddler if front, or not to be caught up.

All subsequent races, paddlers will be started in time order. Paddlers start after the initial race and who have no estimate of time will be started first and time used as handicap for subsequent races. Handicaps will be adjusted throughout the series, to keep the finishes competitive.

Car parking is available in the car park of the [Coy Carp](#), please be considerate and protect the good will we have with this establishment. Please park at the far end of the car park so as to enable patrons to park near the building. There are no changing facilities at the site so please be discreet. Feel free to patronise the [Coy Carp](#) after the race.

## Courses

### Senior, Racing Boats 6.4 Miles 5 portages

The Start is between Copper Mill Lock and Coppermill Lane bridge, going down the Canal.

First portage is Black Jacks Lock (0.6 miles), portage on the right hand side going down.

The second Portage is another 1.2 miles further down the canal at Denham, again portage on the right.

Continue down the Canal under the railway bridge to a footbridge (1.4 miles from lock) which carries the tow path over the canal to the other side. Portage out of the canal on the right side, run over the bridge and get back in on other bank facing up the canal and return to start.

### **Slalom and GP Boats 3.6 miles 2 portages**

The Start is between Copper Mill Lock and Coppermill Lane bridge, going down the Canal.

Portage Black Jacks Lock on the right hand side (0.6 miles).

The turn for slalom boats is above the lock at Denham (1.2 miles from Black Jacks), paddle back to start.

### **Slalom and GP Boats Under 12 – 1.2 miles no portages**

Start is between Copper Mill Lock and Coppermill Lane bridge, going down the Canal.

This course is also available to people of all ages who have never completed a ranking Marathon, Wild Water Race or are below Division 3 in Slalom.

## **Rules**

Standard BCU Marathon Racing safety rules apply. All under 18s must wear a buoyancy aid whilst racing.

Paddlers should either be BCU members or members of an affiliated Club.

Paddlers must start and finish upright in their boats and have completed the course for times to count.

The Organisers decision is final on any matters of dispute. This is a development series to promote the sport and fitness and fun, please take part with this in mind.

Paddlers may change class between races, but each change will constitute a first paddle for handicap purposes.

## **Prizes**

All competitors will receive a certificate listing their times

There will be a number of prizes depending on entries and at the discretion of the organisers; if any Club, individual or organisation wants to sponsor a particular prize please contact the organiser:

Fastest paddle in each category (age groups male and female – depending on numbers)  
Most improved paddler (percentage improvement on time from first and last race).

## **Team Trophy**

Points will be awarded to all finishers 1 point for last place in each class; 2 for second last etc so first place will get the number of points of the number of finishers; the idea of this trophy is to encourage clubs to enter as many paddlers as they can; it should reward both ability and development; i.e. good paddlers earn more points and clubs with a good

development programme will have more paddlers finishing and therefore earn extra points.

## **Cost**

£1.00 per seat per race of £5 for the series, entries can be transferred so if a person enters for the series they can swap between classes (i.e. K1 and K2) without any additional cost.

## **Contact**

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