

DRAFT

British Rowing Tour 2016

Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th September

**Leeds Rowing Club to Mexborough
via
Aire & Calder Navigation, New Junction Canal
and Don Navigation**

Safety Plan

Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Plan is to ensure the safety of all involved in the event, in particular participants, the support team, other water users and the public. It should be read in conjunction with the Risk Assessment for the tour.

About the British Rowing Tour

Each year a tour is organised on different waterways to promote recreational rowing for adults of all ages for fitness and fun in new areas around the country. Touring rowing appeals to all who love the water and is a great way to keep fit at any age, as it is low impact, exercises the whole body and is very social. It is not a competition.

It is expected that some 60-80 people from clubs all around the country will take part in the Tour. They are all adults, typically in the age range 40-70. Boats are typically stable coxed quadruple sculled - see Annex A. These have proved very safe in a wide range of river and canal conditions and in locks.

Organisation

This year's event is being organised by Weyfarers Rowing Club, under the auspices of the BR Recreational Rowing Committee, with assistance from local rowing clubs (Pennine RC, Leeds RC and Doncaster RC) and in collaboration with the Canal & River Trust (NE).

The organisers have considerable experience gained over some 20 years of touring rowing around the UK and abroad including regularly planning major events.

As a British Rowing event, the tour will follow BR Safety guidance for touring (Annex B) and is covered by third party liability insurance under British Rowing's policy, which provides indemnity up to £5m.

The Tour and Safety Coordinator is John Turnbull, Chairman of the British Rowing Recreational Rowing Committee and of Weyfarers Rowing Club, contact details:

Email: Chairman@Weyfarers.org.uk

Tel: 01932 340108

Mob: 07771 807993

A team will be formed to provide tour support.

DRAFT

The Route

The tour will have 3 stages:

- Leeds RC to Knottingley
Aire & Calder Navigation
- Knottingley to Long Sandall lock
Aire & Calder Navigation / New Junction Canal / Don Navigation
- Long Sandall lock to The Pastures hotel, Mexborough
Don Navigation / River Don

The proposed itinerary is attached at Annex C.

Navigational information such as approaches to locks, location of hazards and rules of the river will be collated and included on maps to be issued to crews (Annex D)

Passage through locks

The type of boats to be used have all been taken through locks safely with their crews on board many times on various waterways. Examples include:

- Trent and Fossdyke Navigations between Nottingham and Lincoln (C&RT)
- Severn and Sharpness Canal between Stourport and Gloucester (C&RT)
- Ripon Canal and Yorks Ouse between Ripon MBC and Naburn (C&RT)
- Great Ouse between St Neots and Ely (EA)
- Thames - whole length (EA)
- Medway between Tonbridge and Maidstone (EA)
- Wey Navigation between Weybridge and Guildford (NT)

The size of the boats, height of banks and landing stages at locks, usually set for motor craft, makes portage impractical and potentially hazardous compared with taking the boats into the lock.

Boats are equipped with canoe paddles to assist manoeuvring where the sculls cannot be easily used. Where several boats are in the lock together they can be rafted up for extra stability. Crews remain seated and there is no risk of falling out. There have been no instances of capsizing in locks or on open water with these types of boats during any previous touring event.

To assist with lock operation a bank party will be present to supervise entry and exit and monitor safety. They will be equipped with throw lines and life jackets.

Boat Captains

The Organisers will appoint appropriately experienced participants as Boat Captains. Each will be responsible for a nominated boat during the Tour. They will be required to:

- ensure that their boat is in a safe condition at all times
- determine the crew order
- manage crew welfare during rowing by ensuring provision of water, suitable rest periods and checking for injuries

DRAFT

- ensure whoever is coxing navigates the boat in accordance with the local navigation rules and with due regard to hazards and conditions
- communicate with the designated Tour Coordinator in the event of emergencies afloat
- attend briefings daily or as circumstances dictate to receive guidance from the Tour Coordinator on the itinerary, route, hazards and other safety matters.

Captains will be issued with a set of laminated maps for each stage of the tour route, showing waterway information and land access points together with a laminated summary Emergency Procedure and Contact Number card, for use in the boat.

All boats will carry mobile phones and emergency numbers

Captains will be provided with a summary of their duties and emergency procedures (see Annex E)

Participants

All participants will be required to:

- be members of British Rowing with related third party insurance cover
- certify that they are fit to cover the distances involved and are competent rowers - verified as appropriate by their Club Captain
- declare any medical conditions that might affect them or require attention
- sign a waiver in relation to any injuries or damage arising from participation

All participants will be provided with joining instructions detailing location of accommodation and boating venues together with a list of personal items and safety equipment they should bring with them.

Emergency Procedures

A Safety and Emergency Handbook will be issued to the Tour Support Team and will include the following:

- the itinerary
- list of participants and crews with mobile phone contact numbers
- navigation information and maps
- contact numbers and location information for local medical services
- emergency service contact numbers
- the Risk Assessment

Any accident or emergency on land or on water should be reported to the Tour Coordinator without delay who will liaise with the C&RT, bank support team and emergency services as appropriate. In the event of a serious medical problem the emergency services can be called directly.

Transport

Participants are responsible for their own transport to the hotel accommodation

Transport to and from boating points will be by locally hired coach and land party cars.

Risk Assessment and Safety Management

The risk assessment will be carried out in accordance with British Rowing and C&RT requirements. The BR Row Safe methodology is attached at Annex F

A draft Risk Assessment is attached at Annex G

From this it is concluded that with the identified barriers and controls all risk areas can be maintained at a safe level.