



# TONBRIDGE MARATHON RACE

Sunday 15th August 2021

## Briefing Document

### POINTS TO NOTE FOR ALL COMPETITORS AND SUPPORTERS:

Parking will be at Tonbridge Swimming Pool car park TN9 1HR

This car park is large, but also busy on hot summer weekends. If there are no parking spaces you may need to drop your boats off by the river, and use one of the many other town centre car parks within 500m of the club. If you are struggling there are numerous car parks behind Waitrose. Check where you park, but all council pay and display should be free on Sundays.

**There is no parking available at the canoe club building, but you may drop off boats there if you have to park somewhere away from the river.**

**COVID: If you have any symptoms of Covid 19, or are required to self isolate, or have had a positive test, then please do not travel to the event.**

Our clubhouse and surrounding area are quite small and get very congested with boats and people on race days. To minimize crowding and maintain social distancing there will be NO BRIEFINGS and NO PRIZEGIVING / PRIZES (with a reduced entry fee). There is a large public park area adjacent to the club where you can congregate safely away from the clubhouse, if you wish to.

There will be competitor food and limited light refreshments at the clubhouse as usual, where results will be displayed, but we are not encouraging people to congregate to socialize or spectate at the club. Tonbridge High Street with its many food outlets is only 200yds from our clubhouse, for those wanting more substantial food.

We would suggest you use the public toilets in the park 75yds from the canoe club. There are limited toilet facilities at the canoe club, and access will be available. However, to keep our volunteers safe, please sanitise your hands before entering, and wear a face mask while inside the clubhouse building.

There will not be any changing facilities or showers available at the clubhouse.

**TIMETABLE: Race control for number collection and any last minute changes (for team leaders only) opens 9.30am.**

<b>Divisions 7,8,9 K1 &amp; K2</b>	Starts from 10:30 am
<b>Divisions 1 to 6 K1 &amp; K2</b>	Starts from 12:30 pm

**Please collect your race numbers from the grass area behind the clubhouse when you arrive. Please use the split pins provided to secure the number on your boat. When you return your number after your race you will be given your competitors food.**

Please note that the starts for the Div 1-6 races will be from below Town Lock, so you will need to portage the lock to get to the start line. Allow c.15 minutes to do this, as it will get congested if everyone leaves it until the last minute.

**RESULTS:** Will be displayed at the clubhouse after the races, and then published on [www.tonbridgecanoecub.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgecanoecub.org.uk) and <http://canoeracing.org.uk/marathon/> websites

**COURSES:** Please familiarize themselves with the course for your race before you arrive.

River conditions should be fine with no significant flow. However the river is small, and likely to be busy with SUP's, inflatables and other canoe / kayaks, especially around the Island. Please be courteous to other river users at all times. We have no entries in the Geoff Sanders classes.

**4 mile course – Divs 7, 8 & 9: Will be the same as previous years for Hastings & Tonbridge races**

The river is quite narrow and twisty in some places, so you will need to look out for other river users, and racers coming in the opposite direction – keep right whenever passing other river traffic.



Start just downstream of Canoe Club as usual. Then 1 LONG LAP – to long lap turn and then back around the island anticlockwise. When you get to the canoe club junction turn LEFT (beware it is shallow on the corner) to do 1 SHORT LAP around the island anticlockwise. When you get to the canoe club junction on this lap, turn RIGHT to go 100m to the finish.

**8 mile course – Divs 4, 5 & 6: The start is not in the same place as normal.** It will be 400m downstream of Town Lock at the Old Boathouse. Please allow enough time to portage over Town Lock to warm up and reach the start in time for your race (allow 15 mins). The race will then paddle downstream over Eldridges & Porters Locks, then turning anticlockwise just in front of East Lock. Paddlers then return upstream over Porters, Eldridges and Town Locks, do an anticlockwise lap of the island, then turn right at canoe club junction to finish near Town Bridge as usual. 8 miles, 5 portages.

**12 mile course – Divs 7, 8 & 9: The start is not in the same place as usual.** The start will be 400m downstream of Town Lock at the Old Boathouse. Please allow enough time to portage over Town Lock to warm up and reach the start in time for your race (allow 15 mins). The race will then paddle downstream over Eldridges, Porters, East & Oak Locks, then turning anticlockwise just before Sluice Weir Lock. Paddlers then return upstream over the same locks, and then also portage over Town Lock, and do an anticlockwise lap of the island, then turn right at canoe club junction to finish near Town Bridge as usual. 12.5 miles, 9 portages.

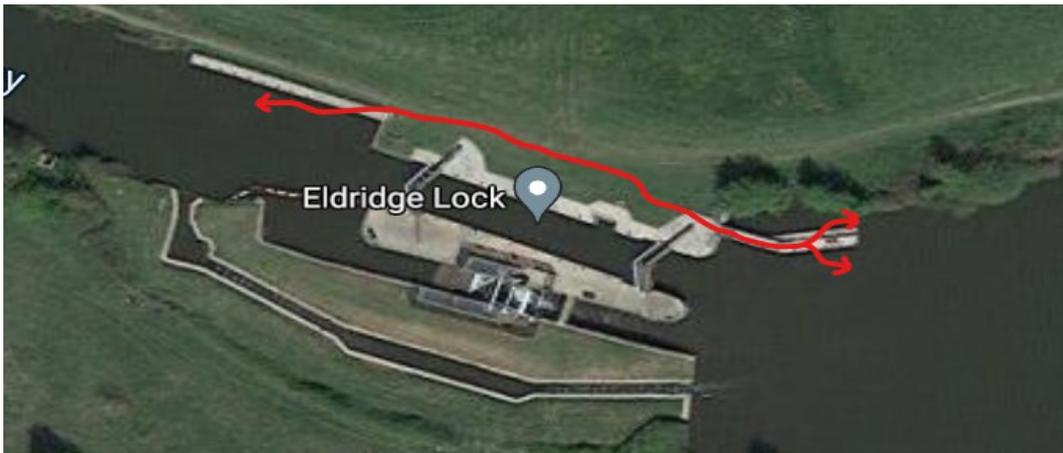
Portages are all on easy low purpose built canoe landing stages, although you can also portage in to the locks if they are open. Landing stages & steps can be slippery when wet. Mostly the river is wide and open on the downstream section, with few other river users. However you are likely to encounter traffic at the portages, and on the final lap of the island. Please be polite and considerate to other river users at all times. Competitors must portage the locks, and not use the canoe shoots in either direction (although you may portage the canoe shoot and Town Lock when paddling to the start).

# Portage Maps

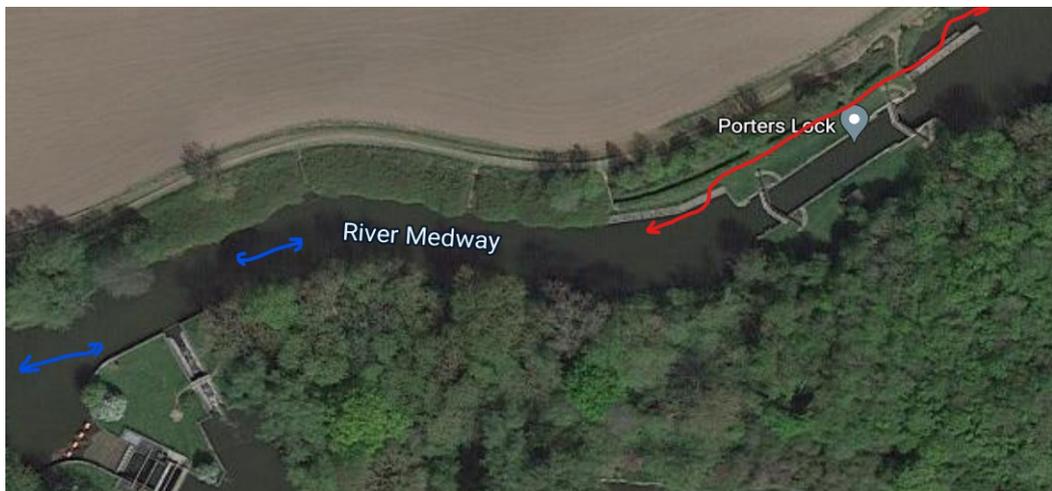
## Tonbridge Town Lock



## Eldridges Lock



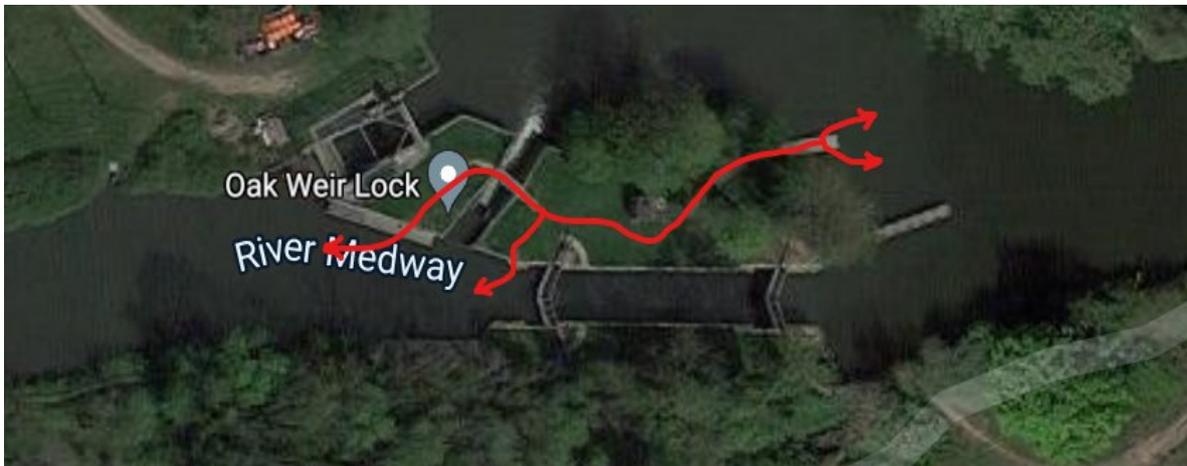
## Porters Lock



## East Lock portage and 8 mile turn



## Oak Weir Lock



## Sluice Weir 12 mile turn

