**Rotary Club Of Ely Aquafest 6 July 2025**



BRIEFING NOTES FOR RAFT RACES

The Raft Race is on the River Great Ouse in Ely

The Start Line is at Lavender Green; the course runs to a marker buoy opposite the Cutter Inn and back to the Start. The Raft that completes the course in the quickest time is the winner.

The rules are simple: -

Manpower only. NO engine of any sort

No ramming or pulling attempts on other Rafts

No solid or powder objects may be thrown at other Rafts.

**ON THE DAY**

Please register by 11.a.m at the Start on Lavender Green, as shown on the map. It will be signposted on the day.

Please bring the form with the name of your raft and its crew’s names entered on it. This will speed up the registration and get you afloat, more quickly.

Raft numbers will be allocated to each team in order of their registration. Please attach it to your raft or team members.

AFTER registration report to the Steward on the slipway by Babylon Bridge. Remember there will be a lot of rafts to launch. I suggest you aim to be at the Lavender Green mooring site at last half an hour before the races start. Gives you a chance for a picnic beforehand!

When the raft is launched turn left under the bridge to ‘moor up’ above the Starting Line at Lavender Green to await the races.

There are no parking places at the riverside for cars and trailers; these will have to be parked in the car park. This can, unfortunately, cause you more delay getting on the river.

The races start at 12.45p.m, in groups of three (3) at five (5) minute intervals. (This is subject to change.)

The Starter will call forward each group three (3) minutes before the start of their race.

The Start will be: Ready; Steady; Go; over the loud hailer.

The team’s time will be taken as all members of the crew and their craft cross the start line at the end of the race. The judges’ decision will be final.

The cups and prizes will be presented to the winners at approximately 14.15 -14.30 on the riverbank by Lavender Green.

After the races, please take your rafts, including wrecked or scuttled, away from the river.

**Buoyancy Aids must be worn at ALL times.**

**We are unable to close the navigation during the races. BE aware of other craft on the river.**

**Boats going down river (towards the railway bridge) should be Marina side of the river. Boats coming up river should be on the Lavender Green side of the river.**

**DO NOT swim for fun, larger boats cannot see you.**

There will be Safety Boats on the river. If necessary obey the Captain’s instructions. If you need help raise your

**RIGHT** hand in the air.

**DO NOT RAM OTHER RAFTS. YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**

**DO NOT APPROACH the rescue boat from the rear where the propeller presents a DANGER.**

Water can be a **dangerous environment**.Please follow the above so that we all may have a great day.

**GET WET AND ENJOY THE DAY!!**

If you require any buoyancy aids for your team please contact me before the 20 April and I will put them aside for you on a first come first served basis. After that date, I am sorry to say, you will have to find your own buoyancy aids.

**If you do not have buoyancy aids (life jackets) on the day you will not be allowed to race.**

We have a number of paddles, to be issued in the above basis, first come first served.

After your race **please return the buoyancy aids and paddles** to the registration tent. Many thanks.

If you have any queries please contact me: -

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**DEFINITION OF A RAFT**

A flat structure, typically made of planks, logs or barrels, that floats on water and is used as a platform for rowers/oarsmen.

Other forms of boats will be allowed but will not be in the main race.

**Confirmation from the rowers that they have read the instructions**

Team leader ……………………………………………………………….

Rower 1 ………………………………………………………………..

Rower 2 ………………………………………………………………..

Rower 3 ………………………………………………………………..