



Devizes Wharf on Friday morning.



Junior winners Prins-Mills/Teeuwen leave before the crowds.

Freeman helps Sharpe to another win

Devizes-Westminster Race

This was always going to be a difficult year, not least because of the wet winter weather. Both Thameside Races were lost because of levels in the Thames and some coaches of school crews wanted to finish at Reading because their paddlers had not been on the river in race conditions, perhaps not taken on the river in any conditions, even outside races. The senior singles were to finish at Thames Young Mariners below Teddington Lock, the head of the Tideway, and the senior doubles to go to Westminster, where DW crew were to be placed on the bridges of some Clippers to see the issues from the ferries' point of view.

Three separate finish locations and their facilities made for an expensive race while entries were limited by many people not being able to afford to take part or disappointed at not going to Westminster. It costs £80,000 to run the race, not covered by the entries. An appeal

for £30,000 of donations was exceeded although £5,000 from PUK carried conditions, the longterm success of the race being put down to its independence from that body.

As it happened, the water level on the Tideway resulted in a last minute change to all seniors finishing above Teddington Lock. This avoided any conflict with the University Boat Race, which still took place on the Tideway, but now took vehicles into the expanded ULEZ, where drivers reduce pollution by paying an extra tax. The whole race was run to GMT despite the hour change during the course of the race.

Problems were not just on the Thames. The EA were supposed to have cleared the Kennet of trees but didn't. In one place a large tree in the middle of the river could be bypassed on either side in daylight but it was an obstacle in the dark and to powered craft. Chief official Guy Dresser had been out with a saw to deal with some of the worst offending trees.



Third placed mixed juniors Jackson/Wright at Honeystreet.



Under 17 winners Barrett/Brown at Honeystreet.



Second placed junior ladies Jardine/Matthew at Honeystreet.



Second placed juniors Davies/Davies at Honeystreet.



Poon/Lam at Honeystreet.



Okoli/Isom at Honeystreet.



Rawlings-Watts/Foot-Tapping.