

THAMESMEAD WILD WATER RACE | **BECOME THE LEGACY!**

Date: Thursday 4th September 2025 / **Location:** Southmere Watersports Centre, Bazalgette Way, Thamesmead, SE2 9AN | **Distance:** Approx. 500m (Estimated 5 – 8 minutes racing time) | **Format:** Sprint – Fastest time wins | **Entry Fee:** £6 (Juniors & Seniors) | www.thesharks.org.uk



We're making waves in Thamesmead! The first ever Paddlesport Race on Southmere Lake – and you're invited to take part in what promises to be a roaring, game-changing celebration of Wild Water Racing.

Whether you're **just dipping your paddle in for the first time**, stepping up for your **first race**, or sharpening your form as a developing competitor – this event is all about you.

It's more than racing – it's about:

- Challenging your **personal best**
- Explore **new experiences** and disciplines
- Building your **confidence on the water**
- Creating **long-term connections**, and community ties through paddlesport.

Together, lets put: Thamesmead on the UK Paddlesport Map.

The Race Format:

Starting from **Cygnets Square**, paddlers will charge anti-clockwise around the iconic **Southmere Wild Water Fountain**, surge past the Lakeside Café, and power to the finish at **Southmere Watersports Centre** – the home of the **Thamesmead Sharks**.



Sprint Format – multiple runs welcome!

Fastest run counts towards your final time

Your **two fastest runs** will be submitted to the Wild Water Racing Committee

Distance: Approx. 500m (Estimated 5 – 8 minutes racing time)

C2 Wild Water Racers welcome – and encouraged – and if you haven't raced one before, this is your chance to try! It's fast, it's exciting, and it's a brilliant experience. Grab your teammates, rally your club, and get ready for some Wild Water **ACTION!**

Event Starts: 16:00 | Safety Briefing: 17:30 | First Runs: 18:00

All Craft Welcome!

You don't need to be an expert or own a top-tear boat. We've got you covered:

- **Wild Water Racers & Wavehoppers**
- **Slalom Boats**
- **General Purpose Canoes & Kayaks**
- **SUPs**

All equipment can be borrowed on the day – just turn up and paddle!

Team Runs – Assemble Your Dream Team of Three!

Grab two mates, **OR** three C2s, and go head-to-head in the **Team Sprint Challenge!** It's fast. It's wild. It's seriously good fun.

- To qualify, all three paddlers/craft must finish within 15 seconds of each other.
- Time based on the last team member across the line.
- **Not in a team?** Don't worry. Speak to one of our coaches on the day – we'll help you join or create a team, matching paddlers with different levels of experience. One beginner, one developing paddler, one experienced racer. Everyone gets a chance to learn and shine.

🏆 Win the **Team Trophy** – or just enjoy the ride and soak in the cheers.

Who Can Enter?

Everyone. From complete beginners to confident competitors. This is an open, inclusive event designed to **welcome, challenge, and support** paddlers at every level.

Race Categories:

- **Kayak:** K1 Men / Women / None-binary
- **Canoe:** C1 Men / Women / None-binary
- **C2 (Doubles):** Men / Women / Mixed / None-binary
- **Wavehoppers / None-Composite Crafts.**
- **Stand Up Paddle Boards (SUPs)**
- **Team Runs**
- **The Thamesmead Community Shield Challenge** - (see below)

Age Categories

Junior 8 | J10 | J12 | J16 | J18 | Under 23's
Seniors | Masters 35 | M40 | M45 | M50 | M55 | M60s
Vets 60s | V70 | V80 | V90 | V100+

This is based on your age, from **1st of January** each year.

The Thamesmead Community Shield

Challenge & Celebrate Your Community

This is more than just a race – it's a celebration of the people and places that make Thamesmead thrive.

We're inviting local schools, community groups, organisations, sporting hubs, fitness collectives, libraries, cafes, restaurants, youth initiatives, and council teams to come together and represent their corner of the community in a fast, fun, and friendly race on the water.

Form a team of 3 and race in any combination of boats – from a sleek K1 to playful C2s, or a fun-filled trio in general-purpose craft. Whether you're here to compete or just enjoy the experience, this is your chance to represent your community, try something new, and share the water with others.

Not got three people? No problem. We'll help build your team on the day.

This is your chance to:

- Show your team spirit
- Celebrate what you bring to Thamesmead
- Take on a new challenge and enjoy a shared adventure

Which team will claim the 2025 Thamesmead Community Shield?

Prizes & Awards



Medals will be awarded to the fastest paddlers in each **age category and craft**.



Trophies for the overall fastest Men's, Women's, and Non-Binary paddlers in:

Kayak (K1) | Canoe (C1) | Canoe Doubles (C2) | SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard) | Team Event



Certificates for all finishers, including your fastest recorded race time.



The **Thamesmead Community Shield** will be awarded to the top-performing **community organisation**.



Special shoutout for the **coolest team name** – so get creative!

Entry & Payment

- **Entry Fee:** £6 per paddler (includes all classes – enter as many as you like!)
- **Payment:** Cash or Direct Debit on the day
- Pre-registration & Questions: thamesmead@thesharks.org.uk

Bank Details

Account Name: The Sharks Sports Group CIC

Account Number: 67417911

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Facilities & Refreshments

- **Showers, changing rooms, and toilets** are available onsite at Southmere Watersports Centre.
 - Need a warm drink or a delicious post-race bite? **The Thamesmead Social**, right next door, serves excellent teas, coffees, cakes, and food – all while overlooking the beauty of the lake and the action of the race.
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Organiser Details

Club: The Sharks

Name: Grant Underwood

Email: canoeing@thesharks.org.uk

Phone: 07951 770241

Address: 3 Nettleton Drive, Upper Heyford, Bicester, OX25 5TP

Let's Begin the Legacy

The **Thamesmead Wild Water Race 2025** is more than a one-day event. It's the beginning of something bigger.

Together, we're laying the foundations for **a new paddling hub in the heart of Thamesmead** — a space where newcomers, families, athletes, and communities can come together on the water, year after year.

By taking part in this first race, you're not just competing.
You're shaping the future of paddlesport in London.

So whether you're racing to win, trying something for the first time, or cheering from the bank — this is your moment.

Be bold.
Shape the story.
Become the legacy.

www.thesharks.org.uk