

Dart National Sprint and Classic Wild Water Event.

1. Overview

This event is broken down into two races, Classic and Sprint.

The Dart National Classic is a wild water paddle sport race over approximately 4.8km. Starting just below Newbridge and following the river along the course of the dart loop down to Holne bridge.

The Dart National Sprint is approximately 350 meters, starting above triple drop in the middle of the loop and finishing at the bottom of triple drop.

The race is run under the rules of the Paddle UK WWR Committee and is governed by Paddle UK (formally British Canoeing) WWR Committee. The race is run on an Individual time trial start format.

The race is open to all Paddle UK members and clubs, affiliated club members or participants with a single event membership of paddler UK. We anticipate up to 30 competitors. Starting individually at 60sec intervals for both sprint and classic. This is not a mass start.

The racing rules are set out in the Paddle UK WWR [Racing Rules](#) Published 2023. Each paddler must agree that they are competent and fit to enter the race.

This Safety plan to be read in conjunction with the event Risk Assessment.

The Classic involves paddling the dart loop navigating Rapids and twisting river. There are 5 main Rapids, play wave, washing machine, lovers leap, triple drop and spin dryer. The river has a fast runoff time so often runs low; at low levels the river still runs fast although more rocks and obstacles appear. As the river rises it becomes faster although remaining technical and requiring some skill to navigate rocks and features effectively.

For the Sprint paddlers compete on the same section of water. Triple drop has three main drops flowing through a steeper section of the river. At lower levels there is a deeper channel through the centre with rock shelves on either side of the river. As the river rises this section becomes deeper although begins to flow with increased speed.

2. Event Details

The event is run over a weekend in February; dates can be found on the WWR website.

Venue – The Dart Loop, River Dart

Classic:

Check in and race briefings are conducted in new bridge car park. Newbridge, Riv Dart, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NT

Classic Race Start – Below the bridge at Newbridge, which can be accessed from the get on under said bridge. (///ghosts.limped.fells)

Classic Race Finish – Under the bridge at Holne Bridge (Holne Bridge, Unnamed Road, Newton Abbot, Ashburton, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NR) (///clutches.count.remodels)

- The course is approximately 4.8km and can take up to 30minutes to complete. Faster paddlers will complete in around 16 minutes depending on water levels.

Sprint:

Check in and race briefings are conducted in new bridge car park. Newbridge, Riv Dart, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NT

Sprint Race Start – Above Triple Drop, access to this can be achieved by paddling from the top of the classic course. (///defensive.shadow.jetliner)

Sprint Race Finish – Below Triple Drop (///terribly.sneezing.polite)

3. Event Timing

Saturday – Sprint Race

- Check in from 0930 (car park Newbridge)
- 1030 Briefing for both days (Newbridge car park)
- 1200 Sprint Run 1
- 1300 Sprint Run 2
- 1430 Competitors leave

Sunday – Classic race

- 1000 Additional Briefing if required
- 1100 Classic Start
- 1230 Prize Giving
- 1400 Competitors Leave

4. Key Contacts (at time of writing)

Race Organisers – Toby Peyton-Jones

Event Safety – Toby Peyton-Jones

Safeguarding – Toby Peyton-Jones

First Aid – Toby Peyton-Jones

All staff can be contacted easily at the event

5. Briefing

A safety and general information briefing will be held prior to the race. The briefing will be given by the race or organiser or designated official. The briefing will take place before any competitor gets onto the

water. It is compulsory for all participants and or team leaders to attend the race briefing and pass on all relevant safety information to their team members / competitors. All competitors are advised to attend the briefing

The briefing will clarify the following safety items

Course description and on the day conditions.

Use of PFD, and boat buoyancy.

If any competitor capsizes, is in distress or requires any other safety related assistance during the race any other competitor that can help must do so. Competitors aiding others will receive a rerun.

All boats must have enough buoyancy to keep the boat and paddler afloat in the event of a capsize or swamping of the boat. It is the responsibility of the paddler to ensure that their boat is not put into danger.

Any race withdrawal or missing person to be notified to the timekeeper.

Any competitors that are racing for the first time on this river should be advised to hang back at the end of the briefing and extra information will be given to these participants regarding how the race works and their safety responsibilities. These paddlers will also be shadowed during practice runs by the race organised and if deemed unsafe will not be allowed to race.

Remind participants about water quality and washing after the event

The penalty of infringing a safety rule is disqualification.

6. Race Map & Course

A map and description of the river can be found on the Go Paddling website
<https://gopaddling.info/rivers/river-dart/>

8. PPE

All competitors will wear a suitable personal buoyancy aid, spray deck and helmet. Suitable close toed water shoes must also be worn.

9. Boat Buoyancy

All boats must have enough buoyancy to keep the boat and paddler afloat in the event of a capsize and swamping of the boat. It is the responsibility of the Paddlers, team leader, parent or guardian to check that all their competitors comply with this. The Wild Water Racing Committee do not accept that foam in the laminate or any other laminate composition alone will provide sufficient buoyancy. Additional fixed buoyancy or watertight bulkheads are required.

10. Spray Covers

Spray decks or spray covers are compulsory for kayaks and decked craft

11. Self-Rescue

All competitors must be able to swim adequately wearing their paddle sport kit in grade 2-3 water. It is the responsibility of the paddler, team leader, parent or guardian to ensure that all the competitors are sufficiently strong swimmers. Competitors will be expected to self-rescue.

12. Existing Medical Conditions.

It is the responsibility of the competitor to inform their team leader of any medical conditions that may affect their safety. The team leader must inform the race organiser of any medical issue they think appropriate.

13. Race Communication.

All race officials will have mobile phones.

The Event Safety Adviser will act as coordination point for any incident on the water. Any water-based incident which is part of a bigger overall emergency, will be coordinated by the emergency services.

14. Welfare and Safeguarding

Toby Peyton-Jones will be the safeguarding lead, they will be located at the finish line on each day. The event will follow paddle UK's safeguarding policies.

15. Emergency Services

Nearest Hospital with A&E is Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Emergency Department, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Barrack Rd, Exeter EX2 5DW. The race officials will maintain clear access for emergency vehicles at race control.

16. Access and egress

Launching will take place under the bridge at Newbridge on river left and exit from the river will take place below Holne bridge above Holne weir on the river left at the "British Canoeing Places to Paddle Site: Holne Weir"

Once the individual's race is complete, they must remain on the water and wait for the new 2 finisher to finish before leaving the river.

17. Other water users

The River Dart is used by other leisure users.

18. Record of participating boats/paddlers

Entries will be via the WWR or Paddle UK event entry system web site. The results officer will have a full list of race entrants. On the day of the race every paddler, team leader, parent or guardian will account for their members and inform the results officer of any people who may have entered but have chosen to withdraw. The results officer will collate a list of competitors who are competing on the day of the race.

All participants will have identifying bib numbers.

The race results official is responsible for ensuring that all competitors are counted off the water.

During the race, the starter will monitor the number and time of paddlers starting, and number of paddlers and time will be recorded at the finish.

If a participant start but does not finish the organisers will take suitable measure to locate the missing person, if the person cannot be located the emergency services will be contacted.

19. Safety

General – Each participant confirms during the entry process that they have read and understand the risk assessment and event plan and are entering at their own risk.

Within the entry process the event is stated to not be suitable for novices.

Paddlers are encouraged to complete a recce run within a group on the first morning to re-familiarise themselves with the course and any changes or obstacle identified by the race organiser in the race briefing.

Paddles must get on under or above the bridge at Newbridge being mindful of other river users and then float down to the start on river left approximately 100 meters below the bridge. There are eddies above the start where paddlers can wait safely until they are called onto the start line.

The river is narrow and twisty throughout the whole course. The river is scattered with rock boulders and at lower levels these present a higher risk of collision and possible entrapment, as the river rises these present less of a problem. There are sections of the river where the trees overhang the river and when at higher levels these trees can be in the water. These shouldn't impact the racing line, although paddlers should be cautious when paddling closer to the riverbanks.

There is a footpath/road that runs along river left for the first 1.5km, then the course runs through a steep valley surrounded by woodland until it joins back with the road at the end of the section. There is a private footpath on river right for the last 2km of the river which could be used in an emergency, but access has not specifically been granted for this.

In the event of a capsize paddlers should adopted a safe swimming technique, on their back with feet up, whilst staying in contact with their craft until they find an appropriate eddy or riverbank to perform a self-rescue.

The start list at WWR events is organised by ranking order, which means the participants with a better ranking and more experience start later so the next person on the course in most situations will be more competent, have more experience. If you come across a participant in the water you must stop and offer the person assistance and inform the finish officer of the incident.

If a swimmer is separate from their equipment, they should make their way along the bank following the river they will eventually arrive back at the start or finish. If this is the case the swimmer should notify the next participant on the course and ask them to inform the finish official.

Each participant must wait on the water at the finish until at least 2 more participants have finished and render any assistance needed if another participant is experiencing difficulties.

Weir – Participants are not permitted to shoot Holne weir at the bottom of the course and should exit the river via the PUK access points on river left before the weir.

The Dart loop is a recognised canoeing spot, and details can be found here.

<https://gopaddling.info/rivers/river-dart/>

20. Emergency Action Plan

Toby Peyton-Jones and Ben Peyton-Jones will be positioned at the start and finish of the course to monitor the safety on the course.

In the event of a significant emergency Toby Peyton-Jones (Event Safety Officer) will coordinate the incident.

Any incident will be notified directly and immediately to the emergency services (if deemed required by Toby Peyton-Jones).

If an incident occurs which could lead to loss of life, a serious injury or substantial damage (Some examples include but are not limited to, death or serious injury leading to hospitalisation, drowning or near drowning, serious damage to property, buildings, event infrastructure) the event organiser will contact the Paddle UK Major Incident Management Team on 0115 6971600 following the guidance within the major incident planning guidance

21. First Aid Procedure

Toby Peyton Jones will be available throughout the race to provide first aid. The first aid kit will be situated with Toby Peyton Jones at the race finish on each day.

First Aiders should inform the organisers of any items used at events so that these can be replaced.

Minor Incidents

A minor incident is defined as a one requiring first aid treatment, but not requiring emergency medical treatment at hospital, or a near miss that could have resulted in injury. The Event Safety Officer should:

- Ensure appropriate First Aid treatment is provided.
- Consider the safety of other people or river users, warning them of any hazard or keeping them away from the incident as appropriate.
- Ensure an incident report is completed as detailed below.
- Pass any further information / recommendations for changes to avoid future incidents to the Paddle UK WWR Committee as appropriate.

Major Incidents

A major incident is defined as a one requiring emergency medical treatment at hospital or where the emergency services need to be summoned. The Event Safety Officer should:

- Ensure appropriate First Aid treatment is provided.
- Where appropriate, ensure the emergency services have been called and that volunteers have been positioned to guide the emergency services to site and the incident as required (see below).
- Where relevant provide details of the nearest hospitals to the casualties party (see below).

- Consider the safety of other people or river users, warning them of any hazard or keeping them away from the incident as appropriate.
- Liaise with other members of the casualty's party and/or emergency services regarding notifying the casualty's emergency contact.
- Ensure incident reporting is completed as detailed below.

Summoning the Emergency Services

If the emergency services are summoned, the Event Organiser and Event Safety Officer should be informed as soon as practicable. The person calling the emergency services should have sufficient information to ensure they can provide an accurate location and details of the incident / injuries

If the emergency services are called, the Event Organiser or Safety Officer should ensure a volunteer is dispatched to the road to guide emergency personnel to the site of the incident.

Local Hospital

Nearest A+E	
Name:	Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Emergency Department
Address:	Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Emergency Department, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Barrack Rd, Exeter EX2 5DW
Distance from event:	Aproximetly 23 miles

22. Casualty recovery locations

Emergency service should be directed to either the start or finish locations

Start location. Newbridge, Riv Dart, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NT (///bicker.ethic.rewarded)

Finish location. (///triangles.books.paintings)

23. Race Cancellation

The race may be cancelled due to weather conditions, water conditions, unexpected river users or any extenuating circumstances that may give rise to a safety issue. Cancellation is at the discretion of the race committee that includes the following officials.

Race Organiser, Welfare office, Event Safety Official.

In the case of a cancellation the race will be rescheduled to an alternative date. If an alternative date can't be found, then paddlers will receive a full refund.

24. Race Parking

Parking is available at cost in the Newbridge carpark at the start or for free at the bottom of the course. Once there are full there is no additional parking.