

A Day at the Henley Royal Regatta, as guests in the Stewards' Enclosure on Wednesday 2nd July 2014

This visit has been organised by MC Black.



We will attend the opening day of the 5-day Henley Royal Regatta, as guests of MC Black, and will be privileged to enjoy the amenities of the Stewards' Enclosure, which is open only to members of the Henley Royal Regatta and their guests. The Stewards' Enclosure was built in 1919, initially limited to 300 members. Now there are 6500 members with a waiting list of about 1000, so it will take up to 10 years before an applicant could expect to be elected as a member. So unless you know another member, this could be your only chance of getting in! The photo on the left shows spectators in the Stewards' Enclosure, enjoying the proceedings.

There will be plenty of races throughout the day, starting every 5 minutes or so. Races are head-to-head knock out competitions, rowed (or sculled) over a course of 1 mile, 550 yards.

MC Black will obtain guest badges for us, which he will send to attendees by registered post.

Extensive details of the event are posted on the official Henley Royal Regatta website <http://www.hrr.co.uk/>.

Where and when to meet: To quote from the website, "The hours during which racing takes place each day vary with the number of entries received but in recent years the following general pattern has proved fairly consistent:

Wednesday	First race: 8.30 a.m.	Last race: 7.30 p.m.	Approx. number of races: 88
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REMS members may arrive at any time during opening hours and present their badges at the entrance to the Stewards' Enclosure. Members are free to depart at any time.

MC has kindly agreed to lead a short guided walk around the enclosure: members wishing this will meet by the bandstand. We are also invited to join MC for a cup of tea in the Crew Cafe in the boat tent compound on arrival. Times to be arranged.

Entry Formalities:

- Please note the **dress code** is strictly enforced, see <http://www.hrr.co.uk/spectators/stewards-enclosure/rules/> for details. Please do not wear your REMS badges on this occasion.
- You are only allowed to take relatively small bags into the enclosure. Large camera bags would not be allowed, but you can take the camera and lens out of the bag and leave bag in Cloakroom. Ordinary compact cameras are allowed. Spectators are not allowed to take in food.
- Mobile phones cannot be used within the Stewards' Enclosure. Anyone found using a mobile phone is likely to be escorted out of the enclosure.

Getting there: Please refer to <http://www.hrr.co.uk/spectators/information/getting-here/> .

Please indicate your mode of travel on the booking form.

Car: If you are going by car, you will need a parking label (stuck to windscreen), which costs £28. You can buy a parking label on arrival providing the weather is dry, but if the car park field is soggy, only pre-purchased labels will be accepted, so it is highly recommended that you indicate on the booking form that you would like a label, which MC Black will obtain for you.

You should refer to http://www.hrr.co.uk/fs/downloads/henley_traffic.pdf before setting out. This shows how the one-way system changes at approximately 4pm. It is not advisable to leave around this time, as traffic is held up while the signs are changed.

Train: If you are coming by train, please note the link to the rail timetable which is at the very end of the web page <http://www.hrr.co.uk/spectators/information/getting-here/> . At the time of writing, the timetable displayed expired on 29th June 2012, so please check closer to the event to ensure you are looking at a valid timetable.

Lunch arrangements: at lunch time, members can eat in the luncheon tent, or walk across Henley Bridge into town, or picnic in the car park. However, the lunch tent is expensive, and restaurants and pubs in the town centre will be overflowing with visitors, so a picnic is very much recommended. MC Black has offered to provide a Picnic Lunch for everybody, at a cost of £10, adjacent to his parking space (plot J13 in Lion Meadow – quite near the entrance to the Boat Tent Compound). If you decide on the picnic and are driving, please bring a folding chair and table, (but MC will bring a few folding tables). We will use disposable plates and cutlery for convenience.

Please indicate on the booking form if you would like to picnic.



Evening Meal: MC will book an evening meal in a charming country pub, The Flower Pot, Ferry Lane, Aston, Henley on Thames, RG9 3DG, website http://www.brakspear.co.uk/our_pubs/pub_page/97/flower-pot/ .

The Flower Pot is 2-3 miles from the enclosures, not really walking distance, but members with cars should be willing to give lifts to those without cars. The menu is shown on a 'specials board' and the printed menu is only for bar snacks, but I am assured that there is an extensive choice, including fish. If the weather is good, there will be a BBQ.

Please indicate on the booking form if you would like an evening meal.

Numbers: Maximum: 12, limited to member plus 1 guest.

Costs: £27 per person for a guest badge for the day, plus £28 if a parking label is required, plus £6.95 to cover the cost for MC to post the badges (and label) via registered post. Note that the postage goes up in April, but MC has purchased registered envelopes to beat the increase. MC will apply for tickets early in April, so you will not know if your application has been accepted until then. If not successful, any monies paid will obviously be refunded. If you prefer, write a separate cheque for this event, and if not successful, the cheque will be destroyed.

Additional entrance badges: If you would like to bring additional guests, or go on another day, please contact MC Black. He can send you vouchers, which you can use to apply for additional guest badges, but please note that applications may not be successful.

Contacts: MC Black's home phone number is 01920 467930. **On the day**, you can try ringing MC's cell phone on 07880 980 921 until around 08:30 but if he will not be able to answer it once he's in the Enclosure. If there's no answer or after this time, try a SMS text message. John Belling's mobile is 07986 379935.

The best time to ring MC is early mornings before 09:30; members who have met MC's mother will understand.

