



Crafty Craft Technical Requirements & Race Rules

For the second year now, Visit Newbury, run by Newbury Business Improvement District (BID), are delivering Crafty Craft, the much-loved annual homemade raft race.

Crafty Craft is above all a **FUN** event. We believe that competition is good, but that competitors should be entering to have a good time.

In order that the race is enjoyable and safely conducted, all competitors must comply with the rules. Crafty Craft takes place with the kind permission of the Canal & River Trust. In allowing us to use the canal, they require that all craft meet the technical requirements, and that everyone taking part upholds their bylaws. The Canal & River Trust staff who look after the Kennet & Avon canal give us a lot of assistance with the running of the event and we appreciate their support.

So, we ask that everyone taking part in the event respects the canal, property, countryside and wildlife along the route and gives consideration, always, to other canal users.

PLEASE bear in mind that it is the nesting season, so take care to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

In the past there have been issues with both competitors and spectators throwing eggs and other hard objects which is clearly dangerous. The mess created by flour bombs is not appreciated. Please refrain from these activities and discourage spectators and your supporters from doing so.

FANCY DRESS & DECORATION OF CRAFT

To add to the fun aspect of the event, and to add to the spectacle for spectators, we ask that teams make every effort to come in fancy dress, and to design or regale their craft with the theme in mind.

The theme for Crafty Craft 2020 is:

Taste of Japan

Please think as laterally as you dare!

The current rules have been relaxed to allow the entry of prefabricated or inflatable craft. This has two aims: (a) to increase the number of entrants by enabling those without the time or energy to build their own craft to join in and (b) to reduce concerns that arose previously about the extent of pre-fabrication of craft entering the race.

However, the strong preference is still that all craft are home-built – and the major trophies will continue to be available only to home-built craft. The judges at the start will assess the extent of prefabrication in each craft, and, if necessary, move those craft to the prefabricated / inflatable category. Where craft are entered in the prefabricated category, **the craft must be decorated, and the crew must be in fancy dress.**



With current environmental concerns about volumes of plastic, and dispersal of plastic into the environment, we have highlighted this type of environmental pollution in the rules. To support this, the start team will be looking at the materials and quality of construction (and conversely factors such as single-use plastic and likelihood of disintegration); they will then be informally advising the judges of the “Best Dressed” categories (Adult and Junior), regarding taking environmental impacts into consideration. Special prizes have always been a feature of Crafty Craft, and this area will be debated by the team, so happy scavenging! And please feel free to tell us, via social media @VisitNewbury, about your efforts to be green!

RULES

Please read the following carefully – failure to adhere may result in disqualification.

1. Each team will be made up of "crew" and "supporters". Only crew members are allowed on the craft. Supporters must remain on the towpath, but they may help the crew launch, recover and transport the craft.
2. Each craft must carry a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 crew. However, a team can have up to 20 crew members in total to allow for substitutions.
3. There must be at least 2 team members attending the craft at all times from the towpath. They can either be crew or supporters. Their job is to render assistance in an emergency.
4. **All crew members must wear a buoyancy aid at all times** when on the water, and must also be able to swim. (Teams must provide their own buoyancy aids.) Whistles must be carried by at least two crew members, to be used solely to attract attention if the craft or its occupants are in distress.
5. All crew members of Junior teams must be aged sixteen or below and be fit enough to complete the course. They must be accompanied by at least 2 adult supporters. All other entrants will be classed with the adult categories.
6. Where single sex teams are specified, this only applies to crewmembers. Their supporters may be of any sex.
7. All teams - Adult, Charity and Corporate/Company, and all Junior teams - start at Kintbury (below Station Lock). All craft must display their race number at all times, assigned in advance – see guidance on lettering.
8. The finish line is at the Wharf, Newbury. Craft that finish the race **MUST** be removed from the water there, before the sluice. **CRAFT MUST THEN BE REMOVED FROM THE PARK BY 5.30PM ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.** Any team not removing their craft by then will be charged the disposal costs plus an additional donation, to cover additional event costs, and prevent loss of proceeds to charity. Support vehicles can park in the Football Club car park at the end of Faraday Road. There is access to the park side of the Wharf from there.
9. Individual start times and team numbers will be issued closer to the event date (*typically, start times are staggered between 8.30 and 11am*). The race ends at 3:30pm. Any team failing to complete the course by that time must remove their craft from the canal at the nearest convenient point. Damaged craft and debris must be removed from the canal by this time.
10. Teams will be issued with a briefing sheet detailing the route and any hazards along it. All crew members must be briefed on the rules, the route and its hazards (weirs, sluices, locks etc.) before



venturing onto the canal. It is the team's responsibility to ensure that their craft conform to the technical requirements before it is used.

11. Passage by craft through locks or over weirs is not permitted. Under no circumstances must the locks be opened. Areas of land will be set aside by the organisers to allow craft to be carried around locks or weirs.
12. Craft must pass oncoming boats on the right.
13. The organisers will provide marshals along the route; they will be wearing high visibility vests or tabards. Their instructions and those from Canal & River Trust employees must be followed.
14. Crafty Craft is organised to raise funds for local charities. We expect that every team member obtains as much personal sponsorship as possible from friends, family and employers. This can be done, for example, on total miles covered, total time on the water, locks passed, number of times the team falls in etc. etc. Where a team elects to support their own nominated charity, please tell us the amount, by providing a receipt, so that we can add up the good news. The name of the charity can be prominently displayed on your craft.
15. Craft entering the “pre-fabricated” category to pay an additional charge and boat/crew to be in fancy dress.
16. When a team elects to display their Company's name or advertise its products on their craft, they must enter in the Company/Corporate category. As much business advertising as you can fit on a craft is allowed.
17. Should a craft be deemed likely to present an environmental hazard or likely to contaminate or litter the canal and surrounding environment upon breaking up (which shall include release of plastic, plastic films (shrink wrap and cling film) or expanded polystyrene or other foam-type materials), the organisers' start team may disqualify that craft.

ABOVE ALL – Have a plan for your own team in case of Emergency. Know how to respond. Visit Newbury have Marshalls at ALL locks to assist in contacting the Emergency Services and the event first aid team, but bear in mind that the route is remote in parts.

Technical Requirements for Participating Craft

1. Craft must ideally be designed and built by the teams themselves. The use of commercially manufactured boats, canoes or any other vessel without adaptation is only allowed for a few specific categories – the start judges will determine if the craft falls into the “prefabricated” category. Craft entered in previous Crafty Craft events may be used provided they adhere to the current technical requirements.
2. The craft must be propelled by human effort. No form of engine or motor may be used. However, mechanisms and/or paddles may be employed to convert the human effort into thrust to propel the craft. It must not be towed from the towpath. Any moving parts of the propulsion system must not present a hazard to the crew, supporters, other canal users and wildlife. If oars are used, they must not be so long as to obstruct the passage of other canal users.
3. The craft should carry a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 crew members. The design must be stable with the crew members onboard.



4. To maintain stability and allow for overloading and waterlogging they must have inherent buoyancy. Craft must remain afloat and stable when carrying a load 50% greater than the total crew-weight it is designed to carry (i.e. a 4-man craft must still be stable with 6 onboard etc.). As a guide the following amount of inherent buoyancy is the recommended minimum: -

No. of Crewmembers	Adult Craft	Junior Craft
4	600 Litres	300 Litres
5	750 Litres	375 Litres
6	900 Litres	450 Litres
7	1050 Litres	525 Litres
8	1200 Litres	600 Litres

5. The weight of the craft is to be such that its crew and two supporters can easily carry it.
6. The overall width of the craft should not exceed half its length. The maximum craft length permitted is 4.25 meters.
7. Where outriggers are used, they should run parallel to the main body of the craft and remain in contact with the water over their whole length.
8. The entire construction must be free from sharp edges, burrs, spikes or other projections. No nails should be used. (When wood soaks up water, it tends to split around nails, and they stop being useful, and, sooner or later, just become a hazard.)
9. The hull should be constructed from sound materials that will not become waterlogged on immersion in water.
10. All materials used for construction of the craft and its decoration must be non-toxic and non-polluting especially when in contact with water. (This includes litter and plastic pollution from broken bits of craft. All parts of broken craft must be carried off the canal and towpath, and properly disposed of.)
11. The use of virgin plastic is discouraged, especially single-use plastics, such as cling film, shrink wrap and polystyrene or similar foam materials; (similarly, use cable ties carefully, and collect up cut pieces and used ties for proper disposal). Craft relying on cling film or duct-tape to provide water proofing may wish to reconsider their design as such craft are expected to sink well before the finish line and may become difficult to retrieve.
12. If containers such as oil drums or plastic barrels are used, they must be thoroughly cleaned and sealed to prevent leakage. Each container should have a capacity no greater than 150 Litres (30 Gallons).
13. The overall construction of the craft must be strong enough to allow it to complete the course without breaking up. Any lashings must be done with marine quality rope. All joints must be screwed, bolted or welded.
14. The craft design must allow ready escape for the crewmembers in the event of capsize or sinking.
15. The craft entry number must be displayed on the hull above the waterline or on a board rigidly fixed to the craft's superstructure. The digits must be at least 12 inches high and legible from the banks of the canal. The team's name and/or supported charity can also be displayed.