

BEDFORD RIVER FESTIVAL

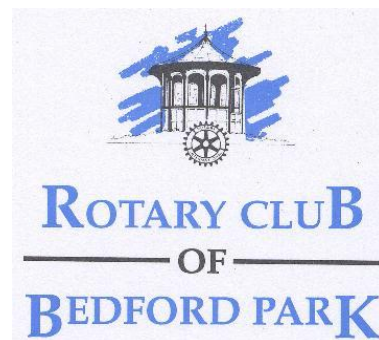
Raft Race 2024 Details & Entry form

Sunday 21st July

Supporting Bedford Hospitals
Charity & Friends

Charity no 299250

www.bedfordhospitalcharity.org.uk



Thank you for your interest in entering a team in the 2024 Raft Race, the climax of Bedford's bi-annual River Festival. It's your chance to demonstrate your raft building and crewing skills to a crowd of over 10,000 spectators while raising money for charity.

This is a fun event & fancy dress is encouraged as the better decorated rafts & crew get the best crowd support.

This year we are inviting teams to raise money for Bedford Hospitals Charity & Friends www.bedfordhospitalcharity.org.uk or you can nominate your own favourite charity to receive your team's sponsorship.

Prizes.

Prizes will be given for:

- The winning (traditional) raft
- The winning (fast) raft
- The best dressed raft

There will also be a Rotary presentation to the team which receives the most sponsorship by 31st August 2024.

The Rules

1. Construction (traditional raft)

Size min 8ft x 4ft; max 16ft x 8ft. Max height 10ft. The raft must be of a constant width and length creating a true rectangular shape i.e. the raft must not have a pointed bow or stern. A solid top is to be recommended but not a requirement. **This year we will not use a crane to raise and lower rafts into the river. Please bear the weight of your raft in mind when building your raft!**

Any "raft" not meeting these construction rules, but sound and safe will be permitted to participate, being classified in a secondary group as 'fast' by the scrutineer.

The two categories (conventional raft & fast raft) will race in the same heats and final.

"Preformed boats" will not be allowed as component parts, i.e. canoes, boats, aircraft drop tanks etc.

Any polystyrene used in the construction must be securely encased to prevent the polystyrene breaking up in the river. Any barrels/drums used in the construction must be thoroughly cleansed both internally and externally and properly sealed to avoid polluting the river.

2. Power

Propulsion is by oars and paddles only. Engines or stored energy devices are not permitted. Rowlocks are not permitted neither is any device attached to the top or the sides of the raft to hold the oars/paddles in place.

3. Crew

Minimum 4, maximum 8 people. Participants must be over 18 years of age. The crew must consist of members of both sexes with a minimum of one male or one female in each team.

4. Numbers

The raft number **must** be displayed on both sides of the raft and **must** be visible from the bank (i.e. above water level). Numbers will be provided by the scrutineers once a raft has passed and been classified.

5. Safety

Lifejackets **must** be worn at all times whilst on the river. Inflatable armbands, rubber rings, polystyrene floats etc are not deemed acceptable.

Due to the conditions of the riverbed, all participants **must** wear securely fastened footwear to avoid injuries to the feet.

The consumption of alcohol by participating crew members is **not** permitted. Any crew member deemed to be under the influence of alcohol shall be disqualified.

Any crew causing annoyance or obstruction before or during the race will be disqualified at the Judge's discretion.

Throwing any form of projectile that strikes a race spectator may constitute a common assault, leading to prosecution.

Please make sure all team members are aware of these requirements.

7. Insurance

All participants enter at their own risk and are recommended to take out their own insurance cover for any injury, loss of income etc.

8. Please ensure that all team members have read these rules.

9. The race organiser's decision is final

The Race day

The Raft Race takes place on Sunday 21st July 2024. Rafts can be constructed in the morning in the Car park and once ready will be scrutineered along with the crew, between 11.00am and 1.45pm, before being allowed on the water.

In the afternoon there will be a minimum of 2 heats. The fastest rafts from each heat will go forward to the final at 3.45pm. Exact timings are subject to confirmation by River Festival Organisers.

The start of the heats will be a line on the east side of the town bridge; the finish will be the suspension bridge. The race will be started by the sound of the hooter. Any raft over the start line will have a five minute time penalty. The final will be run in the reverse direction, starting close to the suspension bridge, finishing at a line drawn across the river just east of the Bedford Rowing Club.

After the race all rafts **must** be taken away or placed in the refuse skips provided. They must not be left in the river or on the bank as they remain a dangerous temptation for children after the event.

Closing date for entry is Sunday 30th June 2024.

Entry Fee and Sponsorship.

The event administration and costs are covered by The Rotary Club of Bedford Park, which will donate all entry fees to local charities and projects. In addition to the £100 entry fee, teams should aim to raise at least £100 sponsorship for Bedford Hospitals Charity & Friends or a charity of your choice.

If you have any queries please contact:

Doug Wady

Tel: 07976-245598

E-mail: bedfordrace24@outlook.com

(For first timers I aim to put a help sheet together including where to get barells at a reasonable price)



2024 Bedford Raft Race Entry Form

Please complete ALL sections & E-mail to: bedfordrafttrace24@outlook.com

We (name of team) _____

wish to enter the 2024 Bedford River Festival Raft Race and will send our entry fee of £100 to :

BACS Sort 20-05-73 Account 53635481 pay reference "RR + surname"

(This is the Bedford Park Rotary Trust Fund account– Registered Charity No 1143918)

We will aim to raise at least £100 of sponsorship for Bedford Hospitals Charity & Friends

Or own choice of charity: _____

We wish to compete against another team (please indicate) _____

We confirm that we have read and agree with the Raft Race Rules, including rule 7: "All participants enter at their own risk and are recommended to take out their own insurance cover for any injury, loss of income etc."

Signed _____ Name _____

Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

Phone no _____ Mobile _____

NB: All communication about the event following receipt of your entry form will be by e-mail.