

Tees LDS and SBH

Steering Guidance

A few years ago I was asked for help on steering the best course down the river. Unfortunately for those asking, I generally row in coxed sweep oar boats and don't really have a feel for the best line to take. Reproduced below is guidance from Johnnie Cooper, probably the most experienced steersman at Tees. Read it in conjunction with the Map for Competitors.

“At the first bend after the start, keep close in and exit to the centre of the river. Leave room to swing wide on the next corner.

At the next bend, the right angle one, take this corner wide and use bow side to help turn. Exit to the centre of the river and aim for the next corner.

Enter the ‘Horseshoe Bend’ tight to the bank and allow the boat to drift out a little before using stroke side to finish the turn close to the inside corner. Note that the inside bank continues to turn into a small bay, check your course on leaving the corner.

Use the centre of the river on this straight, leaving room to swing into the next corner using bow side to get close to the bank on exiting the turn.

For the rest of the course, keep central on the straights and cut the corners.

At the A66 and railway bridges, you can only use the central span. Keep to the middle and exit close to bridge pier on bow side.

At Victoria Bridge, use the central span. As with the previous bridge, the penalty for using the inside arch is a time penalty.”

Steve Vaslet
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