

Senior Doubles

2026 Seeding	Boat No.	Name	Club	Previous DW Finishes	Name	Club	Previous DW Finishes	WSDA	WSDB	WSDC	WSDD	The Form Book
1	308	Alex Lane	Ind	14 (53), 15 (3), 16 (2*), 19 (1), 22 (E4)	Magnus Gregory	Ind		01:42:02	02:10:53	02:56:06		This is the year of the "Love Boat" with many couples taking up the challenge, but this boat is also a boat to love. As pre-wedding prep for this summer, Alex & Mags have "hopped" into K2 and this boat just runs (on the water and also very fast on portaging). They have been the fastest over the Watersides and look set for a strong race. You could argue that Mag's lack of DW experience is a risk, but some people are built for endurance, for pain & for paddling and Mag's is just that with multiple sprint & marathon medals lying around I am sure he will be pleased to upgrade them with a DW medal. Add in Alex's DW experience and insane endurance engine and you have yourself a dream team. I also know they will be enjoying it all the way down, which always helps. Alex loves the tideway and a sprint finish.... I am sure Magnus will be pleased to oblige with a 1000m effort on the 99th KM! I can think of no better way to mark mine & Alex's 10 year anniversary.
2	361	Billy Butler	FOX	05 (J9), 07 (E2), 08 (E3), 09 (SK5), 10 (SK2), 11 (SK4), 14 (SK2), 17 (1), 22 (2), 23 (4), 24 (2), 25 (3)	Jon O'Grady	RUN	22 (SK2), 24 (2), 25 (3)	01:44:30	02:13:41*	02:57:08*	04:49:24	Right, so it was hard not to put this pair into the first seeding. Billy is hands down the most experienced in the field this year and he knows how to "race" the DW. He is able to go to some dark places (often actually unable to see) and still gets the job done and done exceptionally well. Chasing his second Senior K2 win he could not be partnered with anyone better. Jon is in great shape and has consistent form over this distance. He is ready for round three with Billy and this boat is smooth and fast, taking vet records all over the place this season. They are drilled & ready for a good fair fight. Alex & Mags better watch out as this K2 relationship has more DW resilience than you can build in one short engagement...!
3	356	George Durden	ELM	25 (SK1)	James Walkinton	CLM	25 (SK2)	01:42:50	02:15:48	03:00:18	04:50:23	So this crew is the embodiment of the Spice Girls greatest Love Song: "When Two Become One" as the two fastest K1s from last year make a DW commitment to each other. What is not to love about that? They both know what DW is all about, but the Senior race is a different beast. It needs to be shown respect and if these two can give it that, then there is no reason why they can't find themselves firmly on the podium. This crew have plenty of support crew experience over the Senior Race, let's just hope they can turn that into a smooth, calm and effective race. If they play it well, they could pick off any errors made by the top two crews.
4	312	Jouke Witteveen	A.L.S.K.V	11 (E1), 15 (13), 16 (9), 17 (6), 19 (7), 22 (16), 23 (17), 24 (5), 25 (6)	Floor Zegers	A.L.S.K.V	24 (5), 25 (6)				04:56:52	Could third time be a charm? With as much commitment in their K2 relationship as Jon & Billy, this crew must not be written off. Jourke has 9 finishes (I want to say from 9 starts?!). He is a consistent contender and paired with Floor they have produced some strong results in the last two races. I expect this crew to be calm and consistent and expect them to capitalise on the errors of others if they get the opportunity. This could certainly be a year this crew sneak onto the podium.
5	330	Luke Escott	BOA		James Webster	BOA		01:45:53	02:17:50	03:02:56	05:01:28	Do not write this crew off. No DW finishes to their name, but plenty of experience in and around the race. Their approach to training and Watersides is one of respect to the race and confidence in their own plan. Not bothered by the noise of those "racing" around them. They are doing what all those without a finish should do: aim to get to the end in the best condition possible and results will come.... and if they do that then I think the results really might just come.
6	341	Tom Dawson	FOX	14 (SK13), 22 (8),	Aritz Martiartu	INT				"03:08:21"		This crew does not have much combined data from this season, but Tom is on good form with a great Waterside C time in his K1. He has held the Thames 200 record and knows the DW like the back of his hand. Paired with a strong international in Artiz, this crew could be competitive so I have tentatively seeded them in 6th.
7	340	Dave Brown	RUN		Radoslaw Zielski	RUN	14 (SK1), 15 (3), 25 (SK3)	02:03:44	02:41:27	03:35:36	05:32:22	Not the fastest over the series and Dave is new to the DW game, but he is in safe hands with Radek. Similar to Luke & James, this crew will be sensible and focus on getting the job done. They will have good support and I am sure they will take time to enjoy the ride down the river. I don't have them competing with the top crews, but a good day out and they will certainly skip up the rankings if they get the opportunity.
8	336	Rob Stainsby	RIC	07 (57), 08 (13), 09 (5), 10 (5), 14 (7), 15 (6)	Peter Loy	RIC	17 (SK37)		02:45:30		05:38:25	Rob is an old hat at this DW game and has some tasty results behind him...and 11 years on he and Peter are going well with some competitive Waterside times. Peter is going for his first senior race but it seems he is in safe hands. I don't expect this crew to be the fastest but I do expect a no fuss attitude to getting the job done. Richmond have form for churning out consistent crews backed up with experienced support crews.
9	326	Anoushka Freeman	RIC	16 (J17), 23 (7), 24 (1), 25 (1)	Robert Perry	RIC		02:05:16	02:40:16	03:37:48	05:42:51	Ah, another official "Love Boat". I expect this boat to take second in that tightly fought category (which would also see them taking second in the mixed category). A tough call to place to them so high, but looking at their times over the watersides, they are proving to be fit and more competitive as the distances get longer. Rob has been on the bank supporting Noushi through her recent wins and knows what it is all about and all he has to do is follow the machine in the front who only knows one gear.... forwards. What better way for Rob to demonstrate he is the ultimate life partner for this DW princess than to execute an awesome DW!
10	338	Ian Thelwell	BOA	22 (30)	Nigel Unwin	BOA	96 (29), 97 (SK16), 02 (9), 05 (18), 08 (7), 11 (10), 15 (20), 19 (66)		02:50:19	03:41:36	05:52:24	Ho Ho! This is one fast "Old Codgers" crew (said with much admiration). I like this crew for a smashing race to take the Century title (and the record?) as well as ruffling a few feathers of the young guns seeded around them. Nigel has exceptional DW experience spanning 30 years and then add in Ian's decent finish from 22 then why not back this crew for a top 10 finish.
11	306	Simon Tilbury-Clarke	RAF CA	15 (J13), 16 (J21), 19 (6), 22 (5)	Jessica Long	FOX	22 (E1), 24 (17)	02:04:38	02:41:44	03:40:41	06:10:03	Engagement is not enough commitment for these two in my third seeded "Love Boat". With the date set for over 12 months away what better way to enrich their relationship and challenge the bonds beforehand than taking on the ultimate quest. Both are experienced DW paddlers and know how to get the job done. Not the fastest on the water but certainly a crew to keep an eye on as they expertly tackle the ebbs and flows of the course.
12	332	Shirine Voller	HML	09 (38), 13 (7)	Mike Thornton	HML	92 (48), 93 (1), 13 (7)			03:40:52		I am going to suggest that although not romantically intertwined, this is indeed a "Love Boat", in the same way as Billy & Jon are. They have a partnership that transcends romance and delivers DW excellence! This C2 has every right to smash it's way onto the Mixed podium. So much speed and experience that you can't help but back this crew. Can they better their 2013 sub 20hr race? Well their Waterside C team suggests they might.
13	327	Eleanor Bowyer	RAF CA	12 (71), 13 (JV1), 23 (24)	Alex Bowyer	RAF CA	15 (E5), 16 (26)	02:06:23	02:46:33	03:40:54		The most experienced of our "Love Boats". This married crew might just have what it takes to show what hard work, dedication and years of commitment can do vs these young loves seeded ahead of them. Slow and steady will always win the race of a happy life together and quite possibly help them sneak into the top 10. DW wouldn't be DW without a Walker or a Bowyer competing. You will hear this happy, chatty love boat coming so be sure to give them a cheer.
14	329	Sarah Vernau	NOT		Shuna Neave	NOT	11 (6), 12 (6), 13 (6), 23 (SK4)	02:10:27		03:48:40		Ladies are tough. Endurance is a leveller. Do not rule out this crew to snap up a ranking or two. Shuna is a highly experienced (and consistent) DW paddler, winning the ladies title every time she enters K1 or K2 and always galloping into the top 10. Sarah is an incredibly tough and fit lady who is looking for her DW finish (third time lucky!). It is going to be a tough race between the top two ladies crews but if I had to put money on it I think Shuna's experience might just edge them.
15	316	Rebecca Bird	NEW	24 (7)	Anja Whelan	NEW		02:15:24	02:58:09	03:50:38	06:04:46	Another tough ladies crew. They will put up a good fight for the ladies trophy and might we see the Vet Ladies record go with these two crews going head to head? Anja is taking on her first DW but she is tough and she has proven she has the speed and paired with Rebecca's experience and dogged determination this crew is set to have a great race. Their D time suggests an opportunity to soar much higher in the ranking if others dilly dally. It is quite likely we see them steam their way into the top 10.

Key	
No letter	Senior Doubles
SK	Senior K1
J	Junior Doubles
J/V	Junior Vet Doubles
*	Record achieved
"	Different partner or K1