



Hadspen Race Series Booklet

When: Tuesdays from 6:30pm, over the daylight savings period check <http://tamar.canoe.org.au/calendar/> for details of particular days.

Who: Members of Canoe Tasmania affiliated clubs. These are Tamar Canoe Club, Launceston Paddling Club, Derwent Canoe Club and Tasmanian Canoe Club.

Where: Hadspen Lions Park, Main Street Hadspen.

How Much: \$3 per race or \$20 for entire season (approx. 20 races)

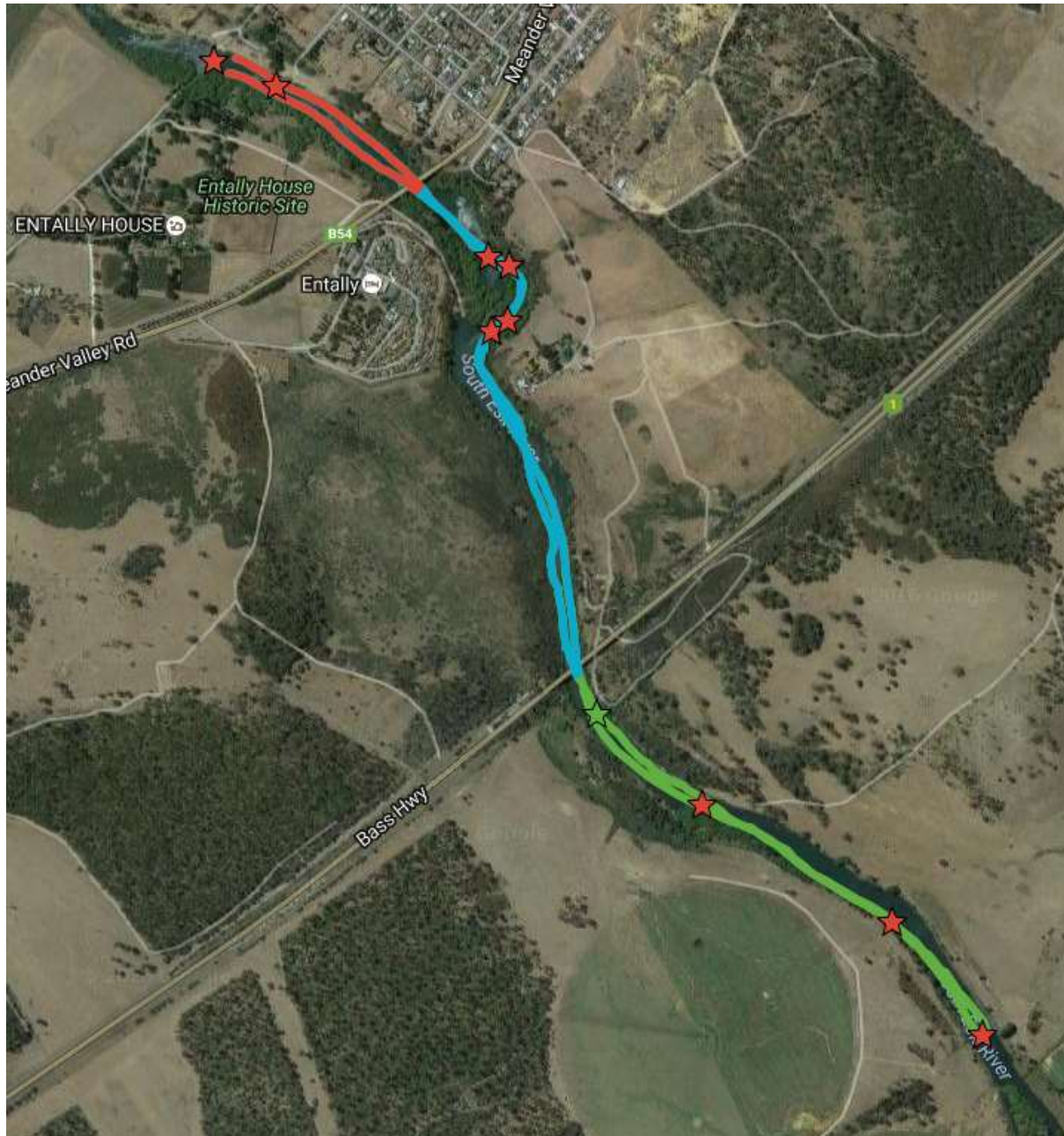
Equipment: Something to paddle-as long as you use a paddle you can take part. Open Kayaks/Canoes should have sufficient flotation to prevent sinking if overturned. PFD's are a MAST requirement. Footwear is recommended as the bank can get slippery and there are sharp small stones.

Course Details:

Three course lengths are available:

- 1.0km race to the first bridge and back – estimated time 6-15 minutes
- 3.9km race to the second bridge and back – estimated time 20-40 minutes
- 6.5km race to the island and back – estimated time 30-65 minutes

The Course



Points of Interest

Irrigation pipe

At lower water levels a steel irrigation pipe sits just below the surface, ready to damage your fancy boat. It is aligned with the water flow and can be tricky to see, paddle up before the race and see if you can find it.

Eddy Basin

At higher water levels this area becomes full of whirling eddies ready to grab the bow of your boat and push you off course if you are unaware. The inexperienced paddler should exercise caution (low strokes, ready to brace) until they are familiar with the effects on their boat.

Willow Section

The river narrows and increases in speed here, try to sneak up the side of the river and come out into the middle only to come around the fallen tree. Once around head back towards the bank to take advantage of the eddy but keep an eye out for low lying branches and underwater snags waiting to grab your paddle.

Eddy Crossing

Here the basin above drains across the river creating a large visible eddy line, you can see it as a split between the calm and disturbed water. As your bow enters the fast moving water your boat will move to the left, be prepared to counter this by steering right to keep out the willows. As you enter the eddy your boat may try to buck you off if you are unaware so hold off on the big power stroke and be ready to brace.

Platypus Row

For the next couple of hundred of meters the resident platypus may be out to play keep an eye out for them and catch your breath for the next push.

Effort Zone

Although innocuous looking the next 150m can make or break your race through poor line choice or insufficient effort. Too your left of middle the river is shallow, sometimes very shallow as in grind away your paintwork shallow. The middle is fast moving most of the time, while the right up as close to the trees as you dare is generally a fast route.

Fencepost

Keep an eye out for the irrigator on the bank here as it signals a submerged fencepost with no other above water signs.

The Turn

Head a little bit upstream of the turn marker, the sandbar it is on can introduce a second discipline to your race if your paddle catches it.

The Speedy Overtake

Lots of different lines and some different speeds can make this a tricky place to overtake. If you are coming up on someone let them know and wait for the right time to go around giving them plenty of space. There is nothing worse than sending someone into a willow tree unaware.

The Weir

The race is finally over, your struggling for air but don't get complacent. The weir will suck you over if you get distracted, those pointy rocks are just waiting to turn your craft into a colander. Cross the finish line at speed, check there is no one on your inside and turn away from the weir.