

In February 2014 the PLA implemented a [Fluvial flow warning system](#) in response to the exceptional fluvial flows coming down the Tideway cause by flooding above Teddington Lock. Notification of the current flow conditions are now shown on the PLA [website](#) and there is also a widget on the homepage [Cygnet RC website](#) which shows the same information. Appropriate colour flags are also in place on Richmond Lock.

The system is very similar to the Environment Agency's well established [River Conditions system](#) which indicates the water conditions between locks using red, yellow and green boards (in place on the locks) to indicate flow rates above Teddington. It has long been agreed up-river that if yellow boards are showing that rowing activity is limited to only the more experienced crews and that if the river is red-boarded then in the interested of safety, no rowing activity may take place.

The Tideway is larger and therefore better able to cope with increased water volume but a faster stream makes for more difficult navigation conditions and **Cygnet RC has decided on the following policy** in response to the various flags.

*Please note that this system applies to **EBB tides** and that very low or high flow conditions can mean that the tidal predictions may no longer be accurate, especially if the barrier is shut. Please contact either the CWSA or the captain if you have any questions or would like further advice.*

BLACK FLAG = lower than average Fluvial Flow

- No restrictions but extra caution should be taken at low tide due to shallower than usual foreshore conditions, especially around the Surrey arches of all the bridges.

GREEN FLAG = Normal Fluvial Flow

- Ideal rowing conditions. Have fun but keep a good look-out and navigate properly of course!

YELLOW FLAG = Caution. Strong Fluvial Flow on the EBB tide

- Organised crew boats will be at the discretion of the captaincy/coaches/coxes/steers
- Inexperienced crews should not boat on the ebb tide.
- Strongly advise experienced crews, small boats and privateers not to boat on the ebb tide but if they do consider conditions to be rowable, then not to go above UL or below Barn Elms.
- Carry a phone, sign-out and make sure that somebody knows you have gone afloat.
- Preferably adjust outing times to boat on the low flood tide.
- No rowing in the dark in these conditions.

RED FLAG = Extreme Caution. Very strong Fluvial Flows on the EBB tide

- Strictly no outings on the ebb tide, including experienced crews and privateers.
- Very serious consideration given to boating on the flood tide, especially small boats and coxless boats.
- If you must boat on the flood tide, experienced crews only. Do not to go above UL or below Barn Elms. Carry a phone, sign out and make sure that somebody knows you have gone afloat.
- Preferably adjust outing times to boat on the low flood tide
- No rowing in the dark in these conditions.