

On-demand connectivity for Henley Royal Regatta



The population of Henley grows five-fold during Regatta week as the banks of the River Thames are transformed to host the world famous sporting event. To meet the connectivity requirements that accompany such a large event, the organisers work with Beaming to provide a fast, strong and resilient temporary telecommunications network.

Challenges

For a five-day period each summer Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire is transformed to host the most famous rowing regatta in the world, a highlight of the summer sporting and social calendar.

Henley Royal Regatta builds a rowing course along a one mile 550 yard section of the River Thames together with bars, restaurants, grandstands, shops and offices to serve up to 25,000 athletes and spectators a day.

Telecommunications infrastructure must be put in place to provide the organisers, shops, catering operations and media operating at the event with telephone and internet connectivity they need, and to ensure a smooth experience for spectators.

Precise timing is a crucial factor as there is no margin for error and therefore the event organisers require a connectivity supplier they can trust to project manage the event to exact requirements.

About Henley Royal Regatta

Established in 1839, the Henley Royal Regatta is the world's best known rowing event and a highlight of the summer sporting calendar. It attracts 300,000 visitors a year to enjoy over 200 races featuring Olympians and emerging stars.

Challenges

- Henley's population expands five-fold during Regatta week
- Additional connectivity needed during Regatta week to run event, serve spectators and support quality broadcast online and on television
- There is limited time available on site to set up the network

Solution

- Detailed planning and project management
- Highly resilient event connectivity
- Network monitoring and technical support

Results

- Extensive planning ensures all users' needs are considered and catered for
- Preconfigured hardware minimises network installation time onsite
- Monitoring connectivity resolves issues before they impact users

Henley Royal Regatta is a prestigious event that relies on secure and robust connectivity

Solution

Beaming has provided project management and technical support to Henley Royal Regatta since 2013. Each year the planning starts many months ahead of the event to ensure sufficient capacity and coverage to satisfy all users. A dedicated project leader ensures the Regatta organisers know whom to contact in the event of any questions.

All of the hardware required for connectivity is preconfigured and tested for stability and performance before the event to take pressure off and to minimise the installation time for the onsite team. This ensures users can connect quickly and easily to the network.

Each line is installed precisely when required and tested to ensure resilience. Each line and individual connection across the network is then monitored by Beaming to ensure problems are flagged for immediate attention and addressed before they impact users.

Once the event finishes Beaming provides usage data to the organisers within two days, enabling itemised telecommunications expenses to be recharged accurately to each user within the usual event billing cycle.

Results

Beaming's extensive planning and ongoing monitoring ensures that a highly resilient event network is available throughout Regatta week. Event staff and other commercial users can simply plug into the network and focus on what they do best, confident in the knowledge that there is more than enough capacity in place for their needs and that any problems will be rectified immediately. It also provides the additional coverage and capacity required to broadcast high definition television footage of all the racing live to rowing fans watching online around the World.



Delivering Henley Royal Regatta is a huge logistical challenge and we are delighted that we can rely on the support of the team at Beaming. The expert planning, project management and technical support it provides ensures there is a secure and reliable telecommunications network in place with the capacity and coverage to satisfy all our users' needs."

Edward Warner,
Head of Operations,
Henley Royal Regatta

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Beaming specialises in designing and implementing reliable voice and data products to a range of businesses and provides ongoing support for long-term success.

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