

The King's Cup

The original cup presented by Princess Arthur of Connaught at Royal Henley Peace Regatta in 1919 was a gift from King George V. Gilded solid silver, this ornate cup was made in 1876 and its history prior to 1919 is unknown. Post 1919, won by the Australian Army No 1 crew and then wrestled from the Australian authorities by the crew with the help of the King and Winston Churchill, the cup is now the perpetual interstate Australian men's' VIII trophy.

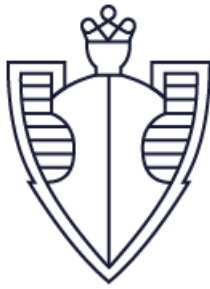
The design of the 2019 King's Cup had to satisfy four objectives:

1. Celebrate eight allies fittest and finest with an intrinsically confident design
2. Honour the past by connecting and complementing the 1919 cup
3. Articulate the military collaboration of men and women in their spare time as on the front line.
4. Incorporate eight highly symbolic contributions by the participating nations with a sense of place

The 2019 cup was designed by the Chairman of the King's Cup Organising Committee, Chris Hartley, and executed by Regatta silversmiths Ottiwell:

- Sterling silver with an outline reminiscent of the 1919 profileSilver clad wooden turned base of eight sections from original Henley Royal Regatta booms
- The 'Thames gold' tracing the River Thames and its major tributaries incorporating the eight national gifts
- The placement of a single diamond that highlights the Henley Royal Regatta course
- Six visible sections on the cup representing the original six nations complimented by the lid and base to make eight.
- The use of a striated egg cap acknowledging the original 1919 welcome pineapple, the essence of femininity involved in 2019 and the annual ground rent of two goose eggs for Temple Island.

Each gift represents something of the nation from which they come, melded together and bound with gold and copper both stronger and in parts more fragile than its original components.



The national gifts

Australia - "To make our history yours, and your history ours"

Thousands of Australian oarsmen rowed into the 'Great War,' fewer rowed out and the contribution of brass from the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour remembers those. Adding a part of both the 1919 King's Cup presented by King George V and the 1919 captain's contribution to military rowing, The Disher cup, to the new cup adds a poignant link across the century.

Canada - "The essence and mission of the Canadian Armed Forces"

The Canadian Armed Forces protect Canadian sovereignty, institutions, values and way of life. These are physically best represented by Canada's first Parliament building and the Canadian contribution to The King's Cup prizes includes copper from its highest point.

France - "Remembering the heart and courage of our World War One soldiers"

The Croix de Guerre is awarded to French and Allied soldiers who distinguish themselves by acts of heroism involving combat with the enemy. First created in 1915, four Croix de Guerre have been contributed to The King's Cup prizes, each decoration awarded in successive years of the Great War. From the heart of France to the centre of The King's Cup: we will remember them.

Germany - "Connecting peaceful endeavor with military skills, tradition and common purpose"

The Gorch Fock is the tall ship sail training vessel of the Deutsche Marine in which all German naval cadets, male and female, spend time. She is distinguished by her Albatross figurehead and acts in a global ambassadorial role for Deutschland. Polished by thousands of naval recruits the original brass fittings contributed are the German gift to The King's Cup prizes.

The Netherlands - "Celebrating the essence of our nation and the contribution of our armed services"

From the coronation of King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, the brass shell cases used in salute represent the enduring contribution of the Nederlandse krijgsmacht to the Dutch Kingdom and their service to the people of The Netherlands.

New Zealand - "Commemorating a common heritage for our military athletes"

The New Zealand Army Eight raced in 1919 at the Royal Henley Peace Regatta and remains in New Zealand part way through restoration. Fittings from her and the oars pulled in the race have been combined with rifle plates and dress buttons from that and subsequent campaigns as a poignant link to the past and a contribution to the future.

United Kingdom - "Linking two hundred years of Royal lineage and the River Thames"

The Frogmore Estate on the River Thames at Windsor is both the final resting place of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and the home of the latest Royal grandson. Two hundred years after Queen Victoria's birth, Her Majesty The Queen has graciously donated original copper roofing from the Royal Mausoleum to be incorporated into The King's Cup prizes.



United States of America - “Linking our national and naval history and the birth of our nation.”

President George Washington commissioned the United States first heavy frigates and of these the USS Constitution is the oldest commissioned naval vessel afloat. Distinguished actions in 1812 against the British and later use by the United States Naval Academy means that her original fittings contributed to The King’s Cup prizes carry the weight of history. The Naval Academy will represent the United States Armed Forces and are celebrating the 150th year of rowing at Annapolis.