**Daily Express**

**11.1.15**

**World Pooh Sticks tournament needs to find new venue**

**ORGANISERS of the World Pooh Stick Championships desperately need to find a new venue for the annual event.**

Published: 00:01, Sun, January 11, 2015

By [Jon Coates](http://www.express.co.uk/search/Jon+Coates?s=Jon+Coates&b=1)

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Organisers are desperately trying to find a new venue for the Pooh game

For the past 31 years it has been held on the Thames at Day’s Lock in Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire. Lock keeper Lynn David started the quirky contest in 1984 to raise funds for lifeboat charity the RNLI.

The Rotary Club of Oxford Spires has organised it ever since but has been forced to look for a new location due to its popularity, as more than 1,000 people turned up to watch last year and there was not enough space.

It was due to take place next Sunday to mark Winnie the Pooh Day.

Karen Eveleigh, of the rotary club, said: “The logistics have become more difficult over the past few years as the event has become more popular.”

The club is hoping to find a new venue near Oxford, such as Abingdon, Didcot, Wallingford or Witney, for the championship to be held in March.

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Karen Eveleigh, the rotary club

Karen added that the ideal venue would have one or two river bridges, access for safety boats and space for parking, as well as registration and games tents.

People drop sticks off one side of a bridge into the river to see which stick comes out the other side first.

The individual and six-person team events have been played by competitors from across the globe, including the US, Japan, Kenya and Australia.

Pooh sticks, played by generations of children, was invented by Winnie the Pooh author AA Milne as a game for his son Christopher Robin Milne to play at a wooden bridge in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex.

The bridge, near Upper Hartfield, is still used for pooh sticks by tourists, but is too small for the annual championships and is in an area of protected open heathland.

The author included the game in the book The House At Pooh Corner.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/551322/World-Pooh-Sticks-tournament-needs-find-new-venue>