

For YOUR safety please read:

Boat launching and storage

Please would you keep to these suggestions for your safety and the longer life of our boats. This assumes you have risk assessed the safety of the outing.

Preparation for launching

1. Untie slings/ties from boat to rack.
2. As you lift off the rack beware of scratching the hull on the gates of the boat above
 - Place on trestles so that you can check:
 - Rigger nuts, gate nuts top and bottom – rigger jiggers in tool box
 - Foot stretcher position fore and aft – position and tightness
 - Wing nuts underneath stretcher that control lower rod
 - Heel restraint laces (heel not above fixed point of shoe)
 - Bow ball is secure
 - Hatch covers are secure and watertight
3. Take phone from shed and turn on – so it is ready for quick use
4. If coxless tie the phone onto the boat in accessible position (they float away)
5. Cox to wear a lifejacket
6. Take oars/sculls from shed – all our sculls are labelled as pairs. Check buttons/collars are secure
7. Take oars/sculls down to launching site and check safety and room for launching. Store them securely (against the wind) blade tips up
8. Lock up the shed
9. Carry the boat – do not carry using the riggers

Launching

1. Please keep out of the way, as much as possible, of the dinghy sailors
2. If you can launch from the beach to the right of the slipway – the concrete of the slipway can easily damage the boats
3. Be conscious of slippery places
4. Beware the wind blowing the boat sideways

5. It is advisable to point the boat into the tide or the wind, whichever is the strongest at the time
6. Hold the boat level whilst the other crew members get in one by one (riverside first, shoreside next) and secure gates
7. Step on the cockpit not on the hull
8. Check tightness of the gates
9. As you push off try not to scrape the blades on the beach/slipway
10. Enjoy your outing

Note: If there is an easterly or a spring tide it is easier to use the beach “over the wall” check depth of water, protect the boat against damage using carpet or mini racks. Remember to bring them back!

Return from outing

1. Approach the landing area at about 20 degrees, then hold/back down with riverside stern blade
2. Try hard not to scrape the hull on the beach
3. Careful of slip hazards
4. Screw back the gate – safety hazard and the latch will scratch boats

Boat storage

1. Return boat to trestles
2. Using fresh water (not last boat’s) with a very small dab of washing up liquid and sponge (hose ineffective) clean all metal on the boat, including underneath foot stretcher
3. With sponge clean the hull, particularly where there is scum
4. Wash down oars/sculls, especially metal screws on collar and adjustable screw
5. Empty bucket on tarmac and squeeze out sponge (wet very smelly)
6. Replace sweep oars on LHS racks and sculls in pairs
7. As you put the boat on the rack beware gates of the boat above and your gates on the boat below
8. Remember to tie the boat down to the rack
9. Turn off phone and replace
10. Put hatch in the appropriate box

Retire to the pub!