

Quay Sailing Club Boat Safety Guide

November 2024

Welcome to the Quay Sailing Club as a boat user. Here are some safety guidelines for the safe use of the club and its moorings.

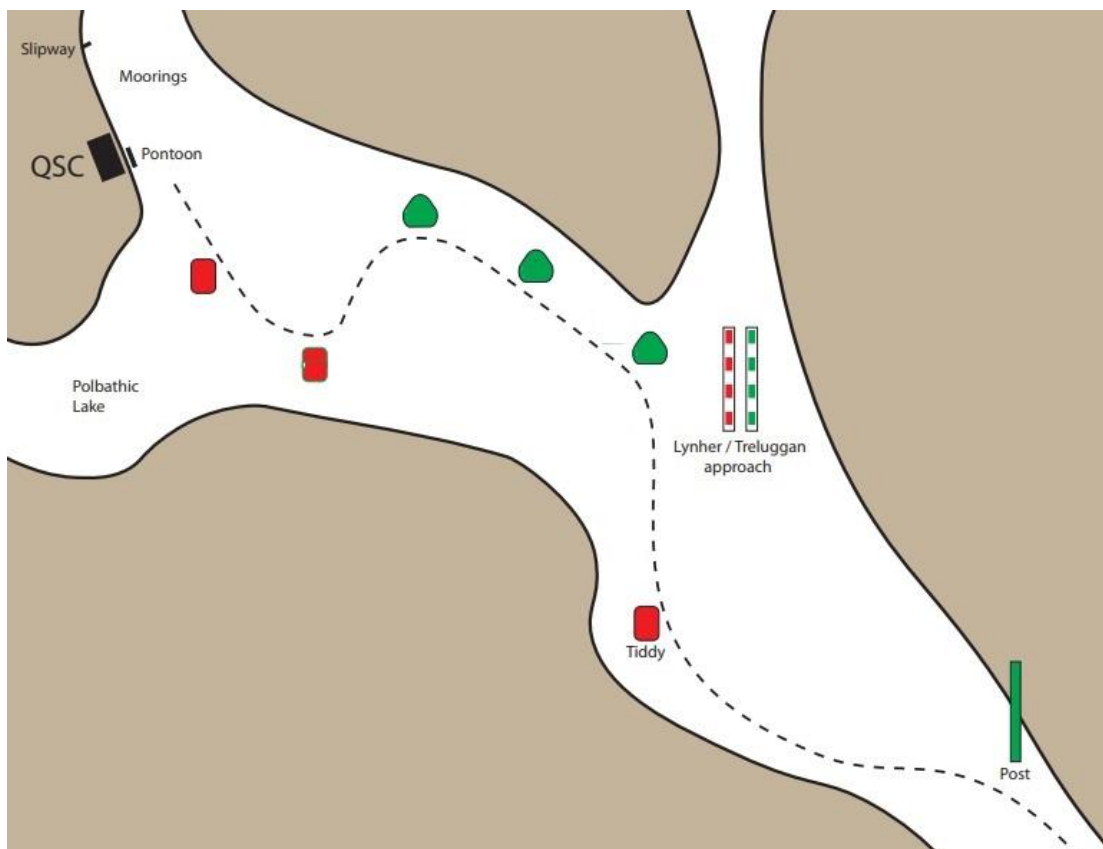
The Channels

Even the smallest of boats can get stranded if they stray from the approach channels to the club. Here are some hints to avoid getting 'stuck on the mud'

Know the channels: Look at the chart in the clubhouse on the wall, explore the route on google maps satellite view, ask experienced club members, have a look at the channel from the shore when the tide is out. If you are going exploring north of the viaduct for the first time, have a walk along the footpath from the clubhouse to Quay Lane.

Know the tides: Be aware of the times and heights of high water. Halfway between high and low water, the tide will be dropping the fastest. This drop is particularly rapid on spring tides. If exploring somewhere new, do it on a rising tide.

Know your actions: Think about what you would do if you started to run aground. How to push yourself back from where you came with a paddle or oar. Be prepared to sit out a tide safely. Carry water, suitable clothing and some snacks.





The Channel north of the Viaduct

Speed

Excessive speed on the water is dangerous, a nuisance and damaging.

Boats must not exceed **4 knots** near the moorings. To avoid damage to quay walls and boats alongside at Ron's Yard you should keep below 4 knots on the approach to the club (after the first red buoy).

Outside of this area, the speed limit inside the breakwater is **10 knots**, and speed should be reduced further when passing canoes and small boats. As we are within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), we should also avoid disturbing wildlife and damaging river banks by creating a wash when passing close to the shore.

Sailing through the moorings is not allowed.

The Pontoon

To enable the pontoon to be used safely by as many members as possible it is important to follow the guidelines below.

Use of the Pontoon

Boats are only to be left unattended on the pontoon when waiting for the next tide, and when the boat does not obstruct other users of the pontoon. The boat should be tied up at the downstream end of the pontoon, and moored in such a way that it does not swing in the tide to obstruct the channel or impose on Ron's Quay. There must be enough space left for yachts and other boats to come alongside safely at the upstream end of the pontoon.

Children should be discouraged from going onto the pontoon unless accompanied by an adult member or guest. In all cases, non-swimmers & children must wear buoyancy aids or lifejackets. Swimming is not to be undertaken from the pontoon or Quay wall.

Boarding safety

- Passengers are to be informed not to board or get off a boat at the pontoon until the coxswain gives the OK
- If required, a stern line is to be secured to stop the stern swinging out when the passenger steps off
- Be aware that alcohol will impact judgment, and that passengers at the end of the outing have to get onto the pontoon and climb the ladder safely.

Rafting Up

Boats should not normally be rafted to other boats on the club moorings. In some cases, small boats may be rafted for a short period whilst waiting for a tide, but only with agreement by the mooring holder, and when it does not obstruct the channel, or the approach to other moorings.

Winch Safety

Before using the winch, refresh your knowledge of the instructions on the winch cover and inside of the rope bag. Do not use if you have not been trained, are under 18, or under the influence of alcohol.

- Do not use the winch to control lowering, instead use the lowering line and/or trailer brake. Chocks are to be available to assist in securing the load.
- Wear suitable clothing, including heavy-duty gloves and non-slip footwear.
- Pedestrians using the footpath are not to step over the winch cable when underload.
- The slipway can become slippery due to the build-up of mud, clean if necessary.
- The condition of the winch wire is to be checked before use. Do not use if frayed.
- The shackle is to be fitted to the trailer, and not hooked back onto the winch cable.
- The handle retaining pins must be in place. The ratchet must be engaged before raising a load. Do not engage the ratchet during a lifting or lowering operation. The yellow/green/blue pin is to be used to move the ratchet; not your fingers!
- No one is to stand behind the load, or near the edges of the slip.

- Fingers and hands are to be kept clear of the mechanism. Keep the wire under tension whilst it is being wound in.
- Never leave the winch unattended with the cover off.

For winch training contact the commodore at qsccommodore@gmail.com or the Secretary.

Fuel Safety

Fuel stored in club buildings and on the quay can form a fire hazard.

Fuel may not be transported or stored on the premises or the quay for fuelling boats and engines unless it does not exceed **10 litres** in total, and it is held within appropriately coloured, labelled and constructed containers or in a dedicated portable self-sealing petrol tank to be linked directly to an outboard engine.

Do not dispose of spare fuel in the oily water storage tank in Bernie's yard.

Use of the quay by vehicles

No vehicles are allowed into the dinghy pound or onto the approach road leading to it unless for the sole purpose of towing in or towing away a boat/trailer/heavy equipment. Towing in or away on a regular basis is prohibited.

Boarding boats on the Moorings

- Lifejackets or buoyancy aids are to be worn when boarding a boat by tender or ladder.
- Keep both hands free while using the ladders, do not climb the ladders whilst carrying items, use a line to lift items up.
- Wall mooring users are to check their ladders regularly for defects

Fresh Water

The external water taps do not provide water suitable for drinking, and are not to be used to fill boat's drinking water tanks.