

Boat usage policy

Booking out Club Boats

Membership of BCCC entitles you to borrow a boat for your own use to paddle at your own risk. Boats must be booked out after checking that no one else wishes to use it and details must be filled in the diary. Members should endeavour to return the boat as soon as possible after use. Any damage must be recorded in the book and the Quartermaster (Lee Matthews 07809628699) informed. Safety is your responsibility and members are advised to wear a buoyancy aid and never paddle alone. Children should be supervised by a parent or other responsible adult.

Members are not allowed to borrow more than one boat at a time or loan out Club equipment to their friends.

If you have friends or acquaintances who would like to try canoeing then they can take part in a free taster session at one of the regular Club meetings subject to availability of equipment and a qualified person to instruct them. Adult or Family Members aged over 18 who are qualified BCU coaches may at their discretion run taster sessions for interested groups for which there is a minimum charge of £3 per person payable to BCCC.

Taking care of Club Boats and Equipment

Members are asked to return all equipment to its allotted space.

Buoyancy Aids and spraydecks will rot and go mouldy if not hung up to dry. It costs a few seconds of your time to look after kit properly, it costs £40 to replace a buoyancy aid that has been abused and £25 to replace a spraydeck.

All boats must have some form of buoyancy fitted before use. Buoyancy bags where fitted should be inflated to 90% of capacity. (Over inflation causes them to leak when the weather gets hot). Rigid buoyancy must be securely fixed.

Buoyancy aids are for use by beginners, members paddling at a higher level should have their own.

Boats must not be dragged along the ground.

Boats must be returned to the barn in a clean condition, with any water fully bailed out and put back in their space.

You must check all nuts and fittings are secure before taking the boat out on the water and return the boat with all of these fittings in place or report parts missing to the Flat Water Racing Group or QM.

Straps which are tightened using a mechanical ratchet are not to be used on any Club boat (because of the risk of damage caused by overtightening)

If you are the only person on site you must make sure that the boat store is securely locked when you leave. You are not allowed to tell anyone else the key code.

Damage Policy

You are responsible for any damage that may occur to a Club boat whilst in your care. You are expected to have repairs done to a professional standard or replace the boat as necessary. (Note, Plastic boats are not indestructible, folding it around a rock usually requires its replacement, this could cost you £1000)

Limitations on use of Club Boats

If you wish to paddle a Club boat on waterways other than the Basingstoke Canal then you are responsible for arranging a suitable licence. You need a licence to paddle on the Thames, Wey, other canals and river Medway amongst others. The cheapest way to obtain a waterways licence is through membership of Canoe England.

We expect you to buy your own boats. Club boats are to introduce beginners to the sport and enable you to try out different aspects of the sport. As such there are some limitations on what you can do with Club boats.

-White water type boats are not designed for use on water above Grade 3.

-Slalom boats are not for use in Div 2 and above.

-Racing boats are not for use on any "Descent " type races and the committee may limit the use of some racing boats in events where there is a high risk of damage eg Watersides, DW

Where there is a high demand for boats (eg Paddlepower, Hasler Races) the Committee reserve the right to allocate them as they see fit.

Using Competition boats

You are not allowed to borrow competition boats for unsupervised use until you have demonstrated your competence to a member of the competition coaching team. (Richard Somerset for Flatwater Racing , Brian Biffin for racing canoes, Any level 3 coach for slalom boats) This includes capsizing drill, safe emptying, carrying the boat, securing it to a roofrack and adjusting it correctly.

V bars must be used when transporting K boats and sea kayaks.

If you borrow a Club boat to enter a competition then you must race under the Club name unless permission to do otherwise has been granted in writing by the Committee.

Members who wish to borrow a boat to compete in the DW must have been active members of the race squad for the previous 2 years.

If you change the seat(s) of a K boat please return the original seat after use.

The racing boats are frequently used for training and should be returned on the same day of use unless agreed otherwise by the FWRG. For races on Sunday they should not be removed from the boatstore until midday Saturday.

Extended loan of Club Boats

Occasionally members may require access to a club boat for extended periods (for example preparing for the DW). Medium terms loans of club equipment must be arranged in advance with the FWRG and QM and booked out using the loan book as usual. In addition borrowers must be prepared to make available (possibly at short notice) such equipment for any prearranged club training session. Any modifications required (e.g. fitting of pumps, tie down points) must be agreed with the FWRG before being undertaken and shall either be left in place or made good prior to return. The club will not pay for any modifications.

Use by Affiliated Groups

Affiliated groups (eg Scouts etc) may only use Club equipment at the venue where it is stored (Mytchett or RAF Odiham) and are not permitted to take it offsite to paddle elsewhere.

Affiliated members are not allowed to use boats during regular Club training sessions at Mytchett as detailed in Waterfront and elsewhere unless by prior arrangement with the event organizer.

Reviewed and agreed at BCCC committee meeting on 15/5/09