



BOAT USAGE POLICY

Club Boats

Membership of DCC entitles you to use a Club boat for your own use to paddle at your own risk during Club sessions. However the intention is that new members may use Club boats to become familiar with paddling but that adult members should aim to buy their own boat. The best analogy is with a cycling club. Cycling clubs do not lend bikes to their members. They cannot afford to do so. Neither can we. Club boats are available to introduce new paddlers to the sport, to enable paddlers to develop and to enable them to move on to different craft.

Club members must be "signed off" by an authorised Club Coach as competent to use Club racing boats and or canoes before being allowed to use them unsupervised at Club sessions or when not being instructed. A list of authorised Club Coaches will be kept by the Club secretary and only a coach on the list can sign a member off. The competency assessment includes capsizing drill, safe emptying, carrying the boat and setting up the boat correctly.

All Club members will provide a broom handle with their name on it. The broom handle will be marked up with tape as follows:

- Black – active coaches
- Green – K boats up to Tor stability (6)
- Blue – K boats Tor stability and above
- Red – canoes
- Yellow – GP boats only

When you take out a boat from the Club premises you will hang up your broom handle on the pegs outside the building so that it is clear that you are out on the water. When you return you will remove the broom handle from the pegs.

All Club Boats must be available for use by Club members or new paddlers on Club nights and boats must not be removed from Club premises prior to Club sessions so that they are not available. Any dispute as to who is to use a club boat will be resolved by an authorised Club Coach at the Club session.

Members may apply on a case by case basis to an authorised Club Coach to use a Club boat outside a Club session on each occasion of such use. The member and the Coach will e mail the Club secretary to notify her of such permission and she will keep a record of such use so that the Club can monitor who is using which boats when and damage can be recorded.

If you are permitted to borrow a Club boat to enter a competition then you must race under the Club name.

Safety is your responsibility and members are advised to wear a buoyancy aid and never paddle alone

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

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

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

Club boats must be treated with care. They are not to be placed on the ground. Racks and stands are provided and must be used. Your broomstick must be used to determine seat and footrest positions.

Do not change the seat(s) of any boat without permission from a Club Coach.

Boats must not be dragged along the ground or up the canal side when launching or getting out of the water.

Boats must be returned to the shed 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 Responsible Adult or a Club Coach.

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 over tightening).

Any damage to a Club boat must be reported to a Club Coach or committee member as soon as possible.

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.

Extended loan of Club Boats

Occasionally members may require access to a club boat for extended periods (for example preparing for the D-W). Medium term loans of Club equipment must be arranged in advance with the Committee and the Club has a boat loan agreement which will be used.