

BOSHAM SAILING CLUB

Guidance Notes for Patrol Boat Driver and Crew

You may be needed for both the morning and the afternoon so please do not commit yourself to other plans for the day which may be jeopardised by your duty, and vice versa. Be aware that weather conditions may dictate the timing of a race. If you have any queries, phone the Office.

- On arrival at the Club **please report to Gavin King, the Patrol Boat Co-ordinator**, who will brief you for your duty and give you all necessary equipment.
- After the Duty **Drivers** and **Crew** should hand all the equipment back to Gavin King, who will ask for a brief feedback on your duty and on the performance of the RIB so that any problems encountered or faults with the RIB can be rectified without delay.

General Information for Patrol Boat drivers and crew

- Remember to **dress** appropriately: the weather can change suddenly and you should always bring warm and waterproof clothing. Wear old trainers or deck shoes rather than sandals. Boots are not advisable. You must wear a **buoyancy aid** (used by dinghy sailors) which is preferable to a life-jacket (as used by yachtsmen). It is advisable to bring a drink and a snack.
- The Patrol Boat Co-ordinator will act as your link to the OOD/Race Officer, who has the responsibility for all events on the day. Please ask him if there is anything which you are unsure about.
- **Radios:**
check that your radio is working before you leave the Quay/Cobnor
use channel 47 (C) to speak to Patrol Boat Co-ordinator, RO, Cobnor, other Patrol Boats
use channel 37 (C) to speak to Launch (Emma) and Club
- Drive sensibly: 8 knot speed limit in Harbour. There is no need to drive continuously: park but stay alert
- Do not go into an incident unless the crews involved want you to or unless the situation is obviously serious enough to warrant your involvement. If you interfere with a boat's chances in a race you could be protested
- Stay well clear of a **capsized** dinghy and avoid fouling the propeller with painters or sheets. Cut the engine if the crew are in the water. Try to grab the rig or float a line down to the crew. In extremis, save the crew and leave the dinghy
- **Retirements from racing.** A boat retiring from a race should notify a patrolboat and will return to the Club alone. For Health and Safety reasons it is therefore important that the Race Officer is notified of any boats leaving the race area.
- **Towing** technique: Crew to lower sails, raise centreboard and rudder and come aboard the Patrol Boat. A dinghy painter should be tied to the rope at the stern in order to avoid damage to the handles on the side of the Patrol Boat.
- Minor **injuries** can be treated with First Aid Kit in Safety Pack. Serious injuries should be immediately reported to the Patrol Boat Co-ordinator or Race Officer who will advise.

You may be required to perform other duties while on the water but remember that you are responsible **only** to the Race Officer at all times. Always check with the Race Officer or Patrol Boat Co-ordinator that you are free to stand down.