

# **PATROL BOAT CREWS - NOTES FOR GUIDANCE**

Clearly this is a very important job and it may well be that the health and safety of a club member will be in your hands.

## **Before you leave home.**

Check the weather forecast and just as importantly check what the weather is, look out the window.

Check your personal kit; make sure you have the correct clothing for the conditions. Just because it is hot on the beach it can be a lot cooler out on the water.

Sun cream and a hat are a must on sunny days.

Sun-glasses are a must in all weathers, for the glare when sunny and to keep salt spray out of the eyes when choppy.

Always turn up at the club what ever the weather unless otherwise instructed.

## **When you arrive at the club.**

Find the race officer and discuss the plan for the day.

If you have any concerns about the sea state or weather conditions/forecast this is the time to share them with the race officer.

**The days sailing will only go ahead if both the race officer and patrol boat crew are confident they can cope with the weather/sea state conditions.**

## **Readying the Rib and Marks.**

Collect sailing keys, radio and Aqua Pac from the store and do a radio check with the bridge before launching. All radios are set and locked to the correct channel.

When in the boat shed check if either rib has a DO NOT USE sign on the steering wheel. If not take your pick.

Go to fuel store in Boat Park (on the right as you go through the gate) and collect the correct fuel tank (they are marked). Check the tank is at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, if not top up from jerry can. On Merc 30 tank make sure the vent valve on filler cap is open.

Back at rib shed remove chock from behind wheel and roll trailer back so engine is just outside rib shed door and re chock wheel and install fuel tank.

Place muffs on engine and turn on tap (located on the left by the door looking into the rib shed) and start engine. Run for a couple of minutes.

Lift engine and push rib out of rib shed.

Place required anchorage in rib for racing marks (Race Officer will advise on requirement) and load marks.

**Ask for assistance** and push rib up to the winch.

## **Launching.**

Have a clear plan on how you will launch. Let everybody know what will happen. If in doubt ask for advice and certainly **ASK FOR HELP, ESPECIALLY IF WAVES ARE DUMPING ON THE BEACH.**

## **On the Water**

Your prime responsibility is **personal** safety, **yours** and **those sailing**. Think before you act, do not panic stay calm. Always get the injured sailor to the beach first, leave the boat that can be retrieved later.

When laying the race course ask the Race officer to guide you to the correct place for each mark. Before releasing the mark, double check that the carabineer is attached to the float and the anchor line.

Obviously what you do and where you watch the boats from varies with conditions day to day but the following considerations should go through your mind: -

- You are better off being upwind of the majority of the boats so that you can quickly motor downwind to any incident.
- Certain areas of the race course will have more capsizes than others. The Gybe mark and the dead run for single-handers especially Lasers.
- Capsizing can be very tiring and cold, if you have to stand by the same boat repeatedly then you should advise the sailor to go in.
- The ability of those sailing is very varied but generally watch novice sailors at the back of each fleet.
- Helm always looks at the boat you are dealing with and communicate with the person in the water.
- Crew keep a watch on the other boats.
- Always keep in contact with the race officer, if the visibility or weather starts to deteriorate inform the Race officer.

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOU ARE ON THE WATER FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYBODY.**

## Landing

When all boats are off the water and the Racing marks have been retrieved radio the race officer to organize help with loading rib on the trailer.

Before attempting to put rib on trailer allow one of the beach party to take the racing marks off the water.

As soon as the rib is safely on the trailer turn off the engine.

## Back at Rib Shed

With the rib on the slip way outside the rib shed remove and wash down racing marks and anchorage and replace in rib shed.

Place muffs on engine and flush through while engine is running.

Put radio and Aqua Pac back in store.

Wash down rib and hose off trailer especially the wheels and hubs.

Place rib back in rib shed and **remove** fuel tank and return to fuel store.

**PLEASE REPORT ANY PROBLEM'S, BREAKAGES OR LOST EQUIPMENT TO THE BOSUN OR RC SAILING.**

And Finally

**THANK YOU FOR BEING TODAY'S PATROL BOAT CREW.**