

## A 'How-To' Guide to Launching and Recovering at Queen Mary Sailing Club

Once you've got your boat ready to launch, make your way to one of the slipways down the concrete banks. Our banks, especially on wet and blustery days, can be quite slippery, so do take particular care walking up or down.

A buoyancy aid must be worn by all those going afloat, or by those aiding in launching and recovery whilst on pontoons or on the banks.

There is always a staff member available to help. Team Members are readily identifiable by the TEAM QM uniform/radios, but if you can't see anyone, ask at reception (or call office on 01784 248881) and we'll find someone to help you.

As the banks are solid concrete and your boats are precious to you, we strongly advise that you use the black matting where possible – this is often less slippery too, but should also offer some protection for your hull.

General sailing is usually on the West Side (the Big Half) of the reservoir; but launching is available both sides of the reservoir. If launching on the East Side, please tell a member of the Team, so we can keep an eye on you while sailing around to the West Side.

Winches: Available if needed. Please see a member of the team to be trained in how to use the 2 different types.

Hoists: Only available for staff and paying members. You must be trained before use.

Help launching and recovering: We have limited staff helpers at the moment and to protect our staff we have a specific launch and recovery system.

- For **launching**: we ask you to launch in off/cross shore conditions where possible. So, you are allowed to launch on either side and sail around if necessary. This is to protect you, your boat and the staff.
- For **recovery**: we use the winches but without power and with manpower instead. We pass the clip to attach to your boat then you steer and lift the bow and 3+ staff/helpers/sailors pull the rope to make a safe and distanced recovery. Alternatively, we ask you to help each other but advise one person stays at the front and one at the back pushing, rather than 2 at the front where it is not possible to be socially distanced.

Be aware of strong winds funnelling and shifting in certain areas of the club, especially behind and between the green Windsurfing Kit Container and Cage on the Eastern Side of the club. It is best to leave mains unattached and secure your boat to the trolley if it's particularly windy. Doing this will minimise the risk of the boom swinging and potentially hitting someone, or your hull catching the wind and capsizing on land. Do please, always ask for help if unsure - that's what the Team is here for; please do take our advice if we ask you to undo your main.

At this time, we are asking people not to crowd onto the pontoons, or in the launching and recovery areas – it's best to hang back for a couple of minutes, whether out on the water, or waiting to launch. Do please listen to our Team if they ask you to wait a couple of minutes; this will help us all keep our distance and stay safe. Safety crews on water will also be monitoring the situation so please

Our Team will be wearing face masks and following our Covid-19 guidance. You can find the current guidance elsewhere on the website and there are signs all round the Club; please check our information before you arrive and do ask for clarification if you're not sure. Thanks for reading and following our guidance for launching and recovery – we hope you have a great time sailing at QMSC!