



# Grove Ferry Boat Club

## Slipway user Guide

### **Introduction**

Following this guide will help you use the club slipway safely.

It includes information on:

What you should think about before you use the slipway

Towing vehicles

Trailers

Boats

What to do if things go wrong

The guidance is applicable to the Grove Ferry boat club slipway. Whilst we take all reasonable care to ensure the safe launching and removal via our slipway, we are unaware as to the physical condition of your boat, hull or any other equipment it may have. Consequently we cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any damage which may be caused, and the operation is entirely at the owner's risk.

### **Before using the slipway you must:**

Be a member of the Grove Ferry Boat Club

Ensure your boat is Insured

### **About the Slipway**

The locked gates should be opened outwards towards the river and should be secured again after launching and retrieval of boat. The slipway has been upgraded with concrete and the slope lowered slightly enabling easier use. There is also a small floating platform to aid in the launch /recovery operation, and provision for a scaffold pole to be used allowing a rope to be attached to the boat trailer with the recovery vehicle remaining on the hard standing.

### **Adequate Planning**

Anyone who uses the slipway must be competent to carry out the operations in a safe and organised manner. If you use the slipway to launch/recover your boat from the water, please make sure you have planned the operation.

Before you begin ask yourself

Am I competent to plan/manage the operation

Can I carry out the operation alone or do I need assistance

Have I sufficient skills/knowledge to carry out work safely

Am I familiar with the towing vehicle, trailer, winches, tie down equipment etc.

Do I have sufficient information about the slipway

Have I discussed how I will communicate with others assisting me (verbally / Hand signals)

Can I carry out the operation in poor weather conditions

## **About your towing vehicle/ Trailer**

Have you considered if the vehicle is suitable

- Towing capacity (maximum towing weight with braked/unbraked trailer and ground clearance

- Engine size/gear ratio

- Suitability for use in water

- Correctly wired for trailer operations and all lights operate correctly after recovery

- Winch and tie down points to secure boat

You must consider

- The incline of the slipway and condition

- Depth of water required to float boat

## **About your Boat**

Before launching or removing your boat from the water:

- Ensure your boat is water tight

- Any outboard equipment is secure, remove or fasten all free equipment

- Fuel supplies are switched off

- Outboard motors are raised and locked in the raised position

- Please ensure you secure a rope to the bank when launching or retrieving

## **What to do if things go wrong**

When planning the slipway operation you must also consider what you would do if things go wrong, your emergency plan should include.

- How you would contact the emergency services. You may need to advise them of the padlock numbers.

- Be aware of the position/location of chocks should they be required

- Location of your first aid kit

- Contacting a Grove Ferry Boat Club committee member \*\*

## **Please remember**

To leave your membership card in the vehicle so that in the event of an emergency the owner will be known.

If you plan to use the slipway alone let someone know your plans and arrange to contact them before and after the operation.

Allow trailer wheel bearings to cool down before entering the water, especially after long journeys

Grease wheel bearings after use

Slipway operations should only take place during daylight hours

Children or people not involved with the operation should be kept a safe distance away

Please use appropriate protective clothing.

Please do not obstruct the slipway

\*\* Useful phone numbers:

Commodore – Colin Brazier 07802938355

Mooring Committee - Steve Dennis 01634327258 Tony Mackenzie 07787348930 Peter Downs 07903 003653

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