

## Boat Use Safety Guidance at Darwell Reservoir

This document is intended as a guide to the risks which you may encounter when you are fishing at Darwell Reservoir. Most of this assessment is common sense but **you must take time to read it**.

Due to the nature of fishing, it may involve unaccompanied outings to remote areas, and suitable precautions and preparation should be taken.

If you intend to use a boat, make sure you have **read and understood** this guidance before proceeding. A signature is required in the CADAC Register in the hut to acknowledge this.

### **This is for your own safety and welfare!**

Please read the summary below to remind yourself of the main procedures and what we consider to be "best practice":-

#### **General Advice**

Ensure you have booked a boat with **Trevor McGregor 07737320961** prior to your days fishing.

**No fishing within 50m of the southern shore line**, this is an RSPB nature reserve requirement.

Take care of our equipment and report any defects/faults to the club immediately (or try and fix it yourself)

Make sure the boat is put back on trailer and secured well away from waters edge. Padlock trailer to one of the eye bolts or railings at the top of the slope.

During the winter months, pull the boats up as far as you can from the waters edge to avoid the trailers being taken over by the rising water level.

Use the electric winch to pull boat and trailer from water. Use the reel of blue rope to extend the winch wire rope when water level is low.

Always remove the bottom drain bungs from boat when finished and put in hut (anti-theft idea!).

**When retracting the motor handle, **FIRSTLY make sure the handle is in the off/stow position**, do not force it down. There is a button under the handle that needs pushing in before the handle is pushed down. Take care of these motors and keep them clean if you get them muddy.**

Boats must be returned to the storage area by sunset, **boats are NEVER to be used in the dark**.

Make sure things are put away nice and tidy. There is a broom in the hut to sweep up as you leave.

Use the can of WD40 to give the padlocks and trailer wheels a quick squirt to stop them rusting up.

#### **Communication**

If you use a boat, **sign in** using the log book in the hut and make sure you **sign out** on departure.

If you are going out fishing by yourself then you must leave an accurate description of your route and timings with relatives, friends or member of the club.

Ensure you have a fully charged mobile phone that has adequate signal strength. Programme in any CADAC contact details for easy dialling and it would also help to note down any other anglers' mobile number who is also fishing at Darwell on that day, they may be able to assist quickly in an emergency.

Please take care in accessing the fishing areas and follow any displayed instructions.

Be aware of instructions and rules from the club, land owner or Southern Water during the day. Pass on any advice to others. All CADAC members are bailiffs in their own right, do not 'turn a blind eye'.

#### **Using the boats**

Boats may only be used by CADAC members who are able swimmers and 18 years or older. Avoid lone fishing. Try to fish with another member i.e. share the boats.

Petrol/diesel motors are not permitted. Use our electric outboards or your own. Check there is sufficient charge in the battery before use.

Check the boat for damage **before** you use it – report any damage immediately to CADAC.

All the boats should have secure rowlocks and good oars; these are to be carried even if using motor.

### **You MUST wear a life jacket at all times when using a boat.**

There are red/silver self-inflating type life jackets in the hut. Make sure it is in good working order before you proceed and hung back up when you leave. Ensure you know how to use it in case of emergencies.

Make a note of the locations of the life buoys – you or someone else may need one in a hurry.

Make sure you have access to a First Aid Kit. There is one in the fishing hut.

If weather conditions deteriorate suddenly, make for the nearest bank or sheltered water and wait for conditions to improve or walk back. **Do not take chances.**

Do not stand up in the boat and no horseplay whilst in the boat or near the water.

Avoid the middle of the reservoir. Keep to the edges whilst traveling and fishing, it will be easier to reach the shore in an emergency.

### **Absolutely no alcoholic drinks to be consumed before or during boat use.**

On hot days please take plenty of drinking water and suntan lotion with you and always wear a hat. These precautions will reduce the risk of sunstroke.

Upon leaving, secure boat properly, sign out and close/lock gate behind you.

Follow **ALL** instructions by estate staff, CADAC and Southern Water, otherwise this could jeopardise your safety and cost you your membership.

### **Ignoring / deviation from the rules WILL result in the termination of your CADAC Membership**

#### **Emergencies**

##### **If you fall overboard**

Try and get out of the water as quickly as possible. Hold on to the boat even if it has capsized. It will act as a life raft and you will be seen more easily.

##### **If someone else falls overboard**

If the boat has an engine, stop it when you are close to them and row. Remember when you are near enough it may be quicker to pass them the end of the oar. If you need to throw them a rope - detach the anchor rope from the boat if it has one, and throw the free end.

**How to get back in the boat** If the boat is not full of water it is possible to get back in - BUT... always attempt re-entry at the front or back of the boat not the middle. You will find it easier to get back in if you make a short loop of stirrup (about 2 feet long) from the rope fitted to the boat. Make sure the rope is tied to the boat and drop the loop over the side. Put your foot in the loop and heave yourself back into the boat fairly easily.

##### **Keep warm**

If you have fallen in make sure you keep warm once you are out of the water. Reduce heat loss as you come ashore by putting on any spare clothing. It is easy to suffer from exposure if you are wet in a cold wind.

##### **If you see anyone in difficulty**

Find out what is wrong and help if you can but don't put your own safety at risk. Report it to someone who can help or the emergency services as soon as possible.