

Solent Radio Control Model Boat Club (Scale Section of the Solent RCMYC)

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY DOCUMENT

a) POLICY

The Club believes that by producing this document, it will offer guidance to members, model boat operators and spectators to minimise risks to Health and Safety as far as is reasonably practical at Setley Pond during Club Meetings.

HAZARDS AND RISKS

HAZARDS

Unprotected water edges, deep water, rotating propellers, rechargeable batteries, transmitter aerials, water borne disease, radio frequency clash. Wild animals, horse riders and members of the general public.

(ii)

RISKS

- Slipping, tripping, falling, the people most at risk are members operating boats at the waters edge - spectators and horse riders can also at risk.
- Drowning, everyone at the waterside is at risk, especially non-swimmers and young Children, as well as members retrieving broken down models.
- Risk of injury to hands from moving propellers. At risk will be assistants and operators working on the boats out of the water, spectators if not segregated.

- Eye injuries from transmitter aerials 40 and 27 Mhz, at risk are the officials, operators and assistants in the operating area , members of the general public.
- Dust generated by hover craft being operated off of the water and on solid sandy ground

- Water born viruses and disease from moving, still or stagnant water, or where waterfowl and wildlife is evident.

- Risk to all of injury from re-chargeable battery disintegration, or fire, within a model boat or while the battery is being charged.

- Where radio control is used, risk of frequency clash for transmitters operating on 27 and 40 MHz frequencies.

Injury caused to members and public by wild ponies / horse riders / cattle coming to drink at the pond.

c) EVALUATION OF RISKS

(i) SLIPS,TRIPS AND FALLS

Members should be aware of the slipping / tripping / falling risks caused by the state of the lakeside and make an evaluation to decide if there needs to be an exclusion zone, or safe spectator area, should this risk manifest itself due to uneven surfaces, such as, steep or wet banks and debris, if such that a fall would lead to a person going into the water, especially spectators, or children. In the event of high risks, members should be prepared to organise a safe area to operating from.

Having put appropriate precautions in place, including highlighting any risks to the operators, nominated members should be used to steward and advise spectators of this risk as necessary.

(ii) DROWNING

The depth of water at Setley is sufficient for drowning to occur; hence the club will wherever possible provide a throwing lifeline on club days, for members to use in the event of persons getting into difficulty. Members wading into the water to retrieve models should be aware of the deep water and risk of becoming stuck in mud, especially at the top end of the lake. In some parts the bank drop steeply into the water where extra care is needed.

A member retrieving a model should make other members aware that he is doing so that they can make sure he / she remains safe at all time.

Members should make themselves familiar with the high risk areas around the lake be aware of the dangers, especially as these areas can be effected and change as the water depth changes throughout the year.

(iii) THE RISK OF INJURY BY ROTATING PROPELLER

(a) This risk category applies to any motorised boat operated by a Solent RCMBC member. Members should keep third parties and spectators well away from models when preparing them at the lakeside historically a low risk, but fast boats pose a higher threat and this should always be brought to the attention of other participants and spectators.

(b) Members operating hovercraft, especially on solid ground need to take extra care that the larger exposed propellers do not cause any risk to other members or members of the public.

(iv) INJURIES TO EYES BY TRANSMITTER AERIALS / DUST

(a) It is a club rule that all transmitters, if fitted with telescopic aerials have a device fitted to the top of the aerial to reduce the risk of eye injury, i.e. a practice golf ball, foam ball, or some such other device. Operators wearing glasses reduce this risk.

(b) Members operating hovercraft on solid ground must ensure that if any dust is being created it is not putting any other member, spectator, or any other member of the public at risk of an eye injury.

(v) RISK OF WATER BORN DISEASE

This has been evaluated as a low risk based on past experience. Members are reminded of the dangers of still or stagnant water, which is not usually a problem at Setley pond and therefore a Low Risk

It is pointed out to members the need for personal hygiene at all times and suitable hand protection if applicable. Previously this risk has been assessed as low or less, but due to the wildlife and ponies using the pond this does not mean it should be ignored. Swimming in the pond is to be discouraged unless in an emergency.

(vi) RISK OF INJURY FROM RE-CHARGEABLE BATTERIES

The following technologies are currently in common use:- Lead Acid (Pb), Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cad), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH) Lithium Polymer (LIPO or LiPoly) and Lithium Ion (LiFePO₄). New technologies must be subject to a full risk assessment before their use is permitted. Separate assessments must be made for operational use within a boat and charging in the display area. The risk of injury while the battery is within a running boat is usually low while the boat is in the lake, but the risk when a boat comes ashore must be considered. Members should ensure that batteries are charged in a suitable manner with precautions appropriate to the cell technology in use.

The conditions for charging prevailing at each event should be evaluated (e.g. dry or damp).

(vii) RISK OF RADIO FREQUENCY CLASH

The club will ensure that, where required, frequencies are controlled by the use of a "Peg Board" or similar system. The appropriate frequency pennants (pegs) must be fitted on the aerials of all 27 and 40MHz transmitters throughout a club event, when that particular frequency is being used.

(viii) SPECTATOR SAFETY. Whilst it is not the Clubs intention to prevent spectators examining the models, members should be aware of the higher risk of injury trips, slip, falls and other injury from boats being prepared on the waterside / car park area and issue cautions / warnings as required .

It is of course all members' responsibility to operate in a safe and secure manner at all times. Any increased risks should be pointed out to a member of the Committee so that action can be taken to remedy or control as required.

VEHICLE MOVEMENTS. At busy times there can be a large number of vehicle movements involving not only club members but also spectators and other members of the public. When this is occurring extra care is needed when arriving, leaving, or moving vehicles, especially if children are present.

(ix) RISK OF EXPLOSION / FIRE / SCOLDING –

The club will ensure that:-

- (a) Any models using steam for propulsion will hold the current relevant test certificate.
- (b) Gas cylinders will be changed as per suppliers of those cylinders instructions.
- (c) Gas cylinder will be installed / change in an area away from cars / people thereby reducing any risk of injury.

(x) OPERATING MODEL CARS AND OTHER LAND BASED MODELS.

- (a) These models should only be operated in a safe area, where there is no risk of injury to other club members, spectators and other members of the public.
- (b) These models should not be driven near any animals, or horse riders, which in turn could be startled that animal/s and thereby cause the risk of injury to another club members, spectators, or members of the public.