

REMINDERS FOR POWERBOAT DRIVERS

May 2013

The 2 RIBs are 'Bluebottle' (coloured Blue) and 'Rubber Duck' (coloured Grey).

You need: ignition key with kill-cord; radio; grey or black bag containing first aid kit, space blanket, and throw-rope (= a lifeline to throw to someone in the water). Get these from the room behind the office – the key is hanging from a hook above your head on the left side of the door.

You may also need ropes/chains and anchor, and/or marker buoys – see the Race Officer.

CHECKING THE BOAT

Check the sides (floats) are firm, otherwise pump them up. Foot-pump is in the rear locker on the right-hand side of the boat on Bluebottle, in the Bow Locker on Rubber Duck. Just push the hose onto the valve inlets (4 per boat) and it will click on. Put the pump on the floor and use your foot to pump the sides with more air. Just pull the hose out when done, it automatically closes off.

Battery is in the locker under the driver's seat, on the right-hand side on Bluebottle. The battery isolator switch is behind the driver's seat – you need to put it in and turn it a quarter, to turn it on. (Pull it out at the end of the session after you have docked the boat.) The battery is on the right-hand side behind the driving seat on Rubber Duck, and there is no isolator switch.

Portable fuel-tanks are kept in the large locker outside, near the old hut. Get the key from John or Zoe – it's kept behind the bar. The one key unlocks both clasps. Take a fuel-tank, then re-lock the locker and return the key. If the tank is a third full, that's sufficient.

The fuel-tank goes in the bow of the boat and is secured with straps, on Bluebottle. On Rubber Duck the fuel tank is situated under the driver's seat. Twist out the air vent (in the Fuel Filler Cap) BEFORE pushing the connectors together, or else you'll splash petrol on yourself. Petrol will flow through automatically, or else you can squeeze the rubber bulb in the hose, near the engine.

Check that the gear-lever is in neutral. Insert ignition key and the kill-cord, **ATTACH KILL CORD TO YOUR LEG**, turn the battery on, and raise then lower the engine, to check that that works. Now you can turn the key fully and start the engine. Watch for the cooling jet of water coming out of the engine – if it's not apparent, stop the engine, then raise the engine fully up to check whether the water intake has been blocked with rubbish. Remove any rubbish (AFTER having pulled out the kill-cord so the engine can't suddenly start up!), lower the engine and try again. If it still shows no cooling water spurting out, turn it off immediately and seek assistance.

Radio – you can secure this behind your seat. You'll hear messages without having to do anything, but you have to press and hold the large button on the side of the radio when you want to speak.

REMEMBER

- Engine will only start in neutral. If it won't start, fiddle with the gear-lever until you're sure it's in neutral. If that doesn't help, check the kill-cord is properly inserted. Then check battery isolator is in and turned on (Bluebottle). Then that the battery is charged & properly connected.
- Always pause in neutral slightly when shifting from forwards to reverse, and vice-versa.
- Always turn the wheel to point in the direction you want to go to, BEFORE getting into gear.
- It's easier to leave the jetties backwards. (If you try to turn the boat round first so the bow is pointing towards the lake, you may get into shallow water and damage the prop.)
- In shallow water, raise the engine up a bit (up/down button is on the side of the gear lever).
- If the front of the boat is riding too high when you go faster, check that the engine is fully lowered into the water (up/down button). And/or try to get more weight to the front.
- At slow speeds a quick burst of power is very effective for turning, as it dramatically increases the water over the rudder without increasing the speed much. *Do not use FULL throttle when full lock is used.*
- When slowing after travelling fast, you need to either: (a) slow down gradually or (b) swerve to the side before stopping, so that your wash doesn't flood back into the boat.
- To empty the boat of water: Rubber Duck has a hand-pump built-in; Bluebottle has a flexible tube to lower into the water while moving at speed, then raise & secure.