BDCC Boat & Equipment Usage Policy

Club Boats

Membership of BDCC entitles you to borrow a boat for your own use outside of club sessions to paddle at your own risk, providing you have demonstrated your ability to a BDCC coach.

Members should return the boat as soon as possible after use. Any damage must be reported by noting in the boat repair book in the club house.

Members are insured under British Canoeing club insurance for organised club sessions. To ensure personal and third-party insurance for any individual activity at the club or elsewhere paddlers should be On the Water members of British Canoeing.
https://paddleuk.org.uk/shop/

Safety is your responsibility and members are advised to never paddle alone. Children should be supervised by a parent or other responsible adult. Buoyancy aids are advised.

Taking care of Club Boats and Equipment

Members are asked to return all equipment to its allotted space. Buoyancy aids are for use by beginners, more experienced paddlers should purchase their own. You must check all nuts and fittings are secure before taking the boat out on the water and return the boat with all of these fittings in place or report loss of parts in the boat repair book.

If you change the seat(s) of a flatwater racing boat please return the original seat after use. Do not sit in a racing boat unless it is floating on the water. Use a tape measure or a piece of string to gauge the gap between the front of the seat and the footrest for your leg length. Make any adjustments on dry land as both seats and wingnuts will sink.

Damage

Any damage must be reported on the Stack Team app at the earliest opportunity.

Ice policy

Paddlers are advised not to paddle when there is ice on the canal or the canal is frozen. If ice is unexpectedly encountered when paddling, paddlers should return to the club house as ice may damage racing boats and paddles. In case of ice or adverse weather club sessions may be cancelled or alternative activities arranged. Please see Facebook or newsletter for updates. On occasion plastic boats may be used but there should be a minimum of 3 paddlers in a group and all paddlers must wear buoyancy aids. Please do not use club wing paddles when there is ice on the canal.

Using Club Boats away from the Canal

Members are responsible for having the appropriate waterways licence.
(Membership of Paddle UK includes a licence to paddle many other rivers and waterways throughout England. https://paddleuk.org.uk/waterways-licences/)

Transport

V bars must be used when transporting the club's flatwater racing boats on vehicles. Lightnings may be carried on roof bars but it is preferable to use V bars. Club coaches and other club members will be able to demonstrate how to strap a boat securely to a car. The club has a limited number of V bars that members can borrow with prior permission. These must be returned to the club as soon as possible after the event for which they have been borrowed.

Limitations on use of Club Boats and Equipment

Once you have decided that paddling is the sport for you, you should buy your own buoyancy aid. After this the next piece of equipment to buy is your own paddle. Club coaches will advise on what sort of paddle to buy and recommend retailers. Group orders for paddles are made on a regular basis. Club boats are available for members use but long-term members are expected to buy their own boats in due course. BDCC coaches will advise you on the best boat for you and your ability.