OOD Committee Boat Guidance

Introduction

Bowmoor has recently invested in a new committee boat, aimed to improve the quality of racing at the club, and make the running of club racing and open events from the boat a stress-free experience. The committee boat is now set up with everything you need to run racing onboard.

OODs should always consider using the committee boat when running racing, whether this be club racing on a Sunday or Wednesday, or any cup race or open meeting. The race hut should be used only as a back-up, where there is poor weather. Use of the race hut has the potential to significantly limit the quality of racing at the club, leading to inadequate start lines, short beats and compromised courses.

On shore

When arriving at the club as (OOD, you should come prepared to run racing from the committee boat. We strongly encourage that you bring appropriate clothing for the boat (warm clothing/hat + suncream as necessary).

To set up the boat, all that you will need is the key. This is located on the wall inside the main clubhouse in the larger of two key safes – the code for which is the same as the powerboat shed. The boat has fuel on board, as well as a radio and all flags required to run racing. Your safety boat crew should then be able to drive you out to the committee boat.

On the boat

Once on the boat, you should lower the engine and start it, before detaching from the mooring and moving the boat to your desired start-line position. Full guidance on how to start and drive the boat can be found below. If you are unsure about moving the boat for yourself, please ask any of the course angels listed at the bottom of this guide, who will be happy to help.

There is a complete set of flags on the boat, and these should be used in the same way as the traditional race hut setup. The only additional flag required is the large orange flag, which is hoisted on the main mast, indicating that the boat is on station.

Sunday Flag Setup

- Flag H for the fast fleet
- The yellow Aero 7 flag for the RS Aero fleet
- Flag E for the slow fleet
- Flag P as the preparatory signal
- Flag S flag for shorted course
- Flag X for an individual recall
- The first substitute flag for a general recall
- The answering pennant for postponement

Wednesday Flag Setup

- Flag H for the fast fleet
- Flag E for the slow fleet
- Flag P as the preparatory signal
- Flag S flag for shorted course
- Flag X for an individual recall
- The first substitute flag for a general recall
- The answering pennant for postponement

Course and Marks

On board the boat is a book of suggested race courses, designed specifically for the committee boat. You can also speak to one of our 'course angels', who will gladly assist you in designing a suitable course for the conditions and boats racing.

As a general practice, all courses should use a start line between the committee boat and the pink S mark. If using the race hut, it is essential that OODs use an inner distance mark at least 10m from the shore, as per the club racing sailing instructions.

Best practice is to use the orange W buoy as your first windward mark, and where possible to round this to port. When running Sunday racing, it is important to consider how three separate fleets will navigate your course.

Help and assistance

The club recognises that using the committee boat for the first time can be a daunting task, and so we have a number of volunteers who are happy to help setup the committee boat for racing at the start of the day. If you would like assistance, please reach out to sailing@bowmoor.com, or speak to any of our course angels:

- Simon Hinnigan (Commodore)
- Charlie Sansom (Rear Commodore)
- Neil Crosby
- David Nunn
- Mike Tustin
- Dave Lynall
- Matt Banbrook
- Chris Jenkins
- John Banbrook
- Tom Whittingham

Committee Boat Setup Guide

A version of this guide is also available on the boat

1. Power

Confirm Electrical Isolator is as shown in the picture (red up).

Location: The isolator is in the stern locker, push the red button to turn.

2. Fuel

Ensure the fuel is connected and the air vent open on the tank.

Location: under the stern bench.

3. Lower Engine

Lower the engine with the switch on throttle

Location: To the right of helm inside the dog house.

4. Start Engine

Insert and turn the key to start the engine

Location: To the right of helm inside the dog house.

5. Unclip from Mooring Ball

The powerboat crew should unclip the committee boat and pass back the line and carabiner to you so that it can be clipped to the railing on the **starboard** side

6. Using the Anchor

The anchor is raised and lowered via an electrical windlass. Always have the engine running when using the windlass.

Location: The switch is in front of the helm.

7a. Dropping Anchor

1. Position boat pointing into wind around 20 meters upwind of the position you want.
2. The anchor has 2 yellow bands on the chain.
3. Drop anchor until the first band is visible (5 meters of chain is now out, the anchor will be on the lake bed).

7b. Dropping Anchor

4. Put the boat in tick over reverse and lower chain until the second yellow band is seen (25 meters of chain is now out, 5 meters remain in locker).
5. Confirm the anchor is holding via a transit.
6. Return engine to Neutral

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8. Positioning the Committee Boat

The committee boat position can be adjusted using the anchor windlass.

A. Always run the engine.
B. Use tick over forward when taking up anchor to reduce strain on the windlass.

9a. Anchor bridle (optional)

Two people are needed to deploy the bridle which stabilizes boat yaw when at anchor.

The bridle is stored starboard side, stern locker.

Crew should carefully make way to foredeck along the starboard side.

The bridle is attached to both foredeck cleats (port & starboard)

9b. Anchor bridle (optional)

The bridle goes outside all in front of the anchor roller.

The chain hook is attached across the chain (not into a link).

Keep tension on the bridle rope to stop the hook falling off.

Pay out more chain so that the bridle takes up the load and the anchor chain is loose.

10. Raise Anchor

Remove optional bridle.

Always run the engine.

Use tick over forward when taking in anchor to reduce strain on the windlass.

Clear weed on the chain as this can clog the windlass.

11. Return to Mooring

Bring the mooring ball to the starboard side of the committee boat so that the large carabiner can be clipped to the large loop on the top.

No other lines are needed.

12. Raise Engine

Engine off.

Raise the engine so that it is out of the water

Final Checks

A. Engine raised.

B. Electrical Isolator left pointing up

C. Key taken with you to return to shore

D. Dog house door closed.

Thank you!