

Sedgemoor Model Boat Club Risk Assessment

Date; 30th January 2018

Names of Assessors; Chris Locke (Vice-Chairman)
Russ Chilcott (Secretary)

Club organised events at the Apex Park Lake, Marine Drive, Burnham-on-Sea.

Risk Level; S = Severity (1 to 5) L = Likelihood (1 to 5) P = Priority (Low, Medium, High)

| Area of concern | Hazards found | Precautions already in place | Risk Level | | | Measures to reduce or eliminate the risk |
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| | | | S | L | P | |
| Slips, trips and falls | Slipping, tripping or falling risks due to uneven ground close to the lakeside. Bird droppings or leaves near the water's edge. | Members are made aware of the risks especially when carrying boats from their vehicle to prepare or launch into the water. | 2 | 2 | L | Care should be taken when crossing the pathways area especially when carrying boats. Care should also be taken when launching to ensure sufficient consideration has been given to loss of balance caused by the weight of a boat. Boats to be placed well away from the water edge for setting up purpose. Where boat stands are placed near the water for launching, then the stands to be moved away from the water's edge to avoid tripping over them. |
| Drowning | The large ramp area slopes into the lake to approximately 4 metres to a depth in the water of approx. 2 metres. The vertical depth of the water from other areas around the lake varies from approx. 0.5 metre to 1 metre. Towards the centre the lake is approx. 3 metres deep. | Members are informed of the risks and made aware of the positions of the life rings situated around the park. | 5 | 2 | L/M | Members are made aware of the water depth and changes in its level around the lake. At all club organised events the rescue dinghy is available with a buoyancy jacket. All members must wear the life jacket when using the rescue boat and at least one other member must be in attendance. Members are reminded there is a life ring attached to the rescue boat trailer. |
| Risk of injury by a rotating propeller | This risk applies to any motorised boat | Members are reminded to always keep third parties or spectators away from a boat when preparing them. | 2 | 1 | L | All members to ensure that when retrieving, launching or recovering boats fingers are kept clear of the propellers. Care should be taken should the propellers spin due to a 'glitch', or the throttle lever is inadvertently pushed on the transmitter. |
| Being struck by an out of control boat | Risk to members of being struck by a boat while launching or retrieving. | Modern RC boats have failsafe units as standard which stops the model if there is a loss of signal. 2.4G RC has also reduced this risk as it is impossible to get radio interference from another user. | 1 | 1 | L | The Officer of Day must keep a note and inform all those present at the meeting who are not using 2.4G radio control units. If required a frequency control system must be used to avoid any possible frequency clashes. |
| Falling out of the rescue dinghy | Risk to a member of falling from the dinghy especially when retrieving a boat from the water | All members using the dinghy must wear a buoyancy jacket provided. A second member must be in attendance when the dinghy is in use. | 2 | 2 | M | The Officer of Day must remind all members present to wear a buoyancy jacket when using the dinghy. If required members are given instructions on the safe use of the dinghy. No member under 18 years of age is permitted to use the dinghy. |

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| Tripping over the rescue boat trailer | Risk of a tripping or falling over the rescue boat trailer | The trailer must always be moved from the ramp once the rescue boat has been launched or retrieved. The trailer must be left clear of any public footpaths or tarmac areas. | 1 | 1 | M | The Officer of Day must insure if the rescue is used that the trailer is immediately removed from the ramp and left clear of the public pathways or any areas where it could be considered a hazard. |
| Injury to eyes by transmitter aerials | Eye injury due to the extended telescopic transmitter aerial | It is a club rule that members using telescopic type transmitter aerial must have a protector fitted to the end of the aerial. Practice golf ball or similar device must be fitted. | 1 | 1 | L | Any member using a transmitter with a telescopic aerial without protection to the end of the aerial will be asked to fit a protection device or stop using it immediately. This is becoming less of a risk as only 27mhz and 40Mhz transmitters require this kind of aerial. All modern transmitters now use 2.4G which have only a very short stubby aerial that presents no risk of an eye injury. |
| Vehicle movement | Injury due to moving vehicles | Club members are to park only within the confines of the car park area. There will be no parking on the paths or access/egress used by the public. Members are asked not to exceed 5mph when entering or leaving the car park. | 5 | 2 | L/M | Members are reminded on busy days at the park to take great care when parking or reversing; potential for a possible accident. Drivers to ensure that the area is clear before manoeuvring. In view of the park being used at all times members must be constantly vigilant when driving into and out of the park that no accidents occur. |
| Risk of water borne disease | Potential for stomach related problems, or infection through open cuts or abrasions when handling boats from the water. | Evaluated as low risk based on past experience, however there is contamination of the water by wildlife. Hand washing facilities are provided in the clubs storage unit which are available during all club meetings. | 1 | 1 | L | Members are reminded of the risk of Weil's Disease and the importance of personal hygiene at all time. Especially during all day events when they are more likely to be handling food. For many all day events the Officer of Day will provide additional handwashing facilities available from his or her vehicle. |
| Public (non-club member) using the lake | Potential for interference between activities of the club and public use of the lake. | In the case of models, the majority of Club members use modern 2.4Ghz transmitters which will not result in a device interference. Should a member of the public be using the water in any other way the OOD will be aware of the activity and adjust the clubs use of the lake accordingly. | 1 | 2 | L | Members are asked to introduce themselves to any public utilising the lake and enquire if they foresee any impact to club activities so that all parties may fully enjoy the facilities. Club activities may be suspended if deemed necessary. |
| Public (non-club member) use of footpaths | Potential that a number of club members may cause an obstruction on the footpath especially where they narrow. | Any club members should always endeavour to allow members of the public unobstructed access to the paths at all times. | 2 | 3 | M | Members are reminded that they are within a public park and that they should always allow free passage to any members of the public, taking care not to unnecessarily obstruct walkways. |