

Mariners of Bewl  
Risk Assessment - Launching/Recovery of sailing craft

Risk assessment and risk management record					Number	002 MoB
Activity					Location	Bewl Water
Identifying the hazards - assessing the risk			Risk rating	Control measures - reducing the risk		Outcome
Personal injury - lifting			High	Members advised to think carefully before moving and lifting anything of weight. Members recommended to follow advice in HSE Publication - Getting to Grips with Manual Handling. <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.pdf</a>		Low
Trailer separating from towing vehicle			High	Driver of towing vehicle checks trailer hitch is correctly secured to ball hitch and with wire safety harness attached around tow hitch. [Note - A third party must not be relied on to carry out this check.] Area where towing taking place to be clear of general public.		Low
Tow ropes breaking and whiplashing			Medium	Use of tow rope to be considered as a last resort. Tow rope checked for wear by vehicle driver before use, and well secured to dinghy trailer and towing vehicle. Vehicle drivers ensures nobody is standing between boat and towing vehicle. Towing using a rope must be kept to the shortest distance possible i.e. to pull a trailer just enough out of water to allow direct connection to tow hitch.		Low
Loss of control of boat and trailer/trolley on slope			Medium	When moving a boat on a slope the trailer/trolley must always be downhill of people manoeuvring the boat Slipway between trailer/ towing vehicle and the waters edge must be clear of helpers and the general public when towing vehicle is moving. Towing using a rope must be kept to the shortest distance possible. No towing using a rope up/down a slipway or along level surfaces is permitted.		Low
Entrapment of fingers/hand in winch			High	Users of any winch trained in use of the equipment BEFORE use. Winch handles must not be allowed to 'fly'. Hands never to be placed on winch strap.		Low
Winch handle flying free			High	Handle to be gripped by person launching a boat before releasing the locking mechanism.		Low
Slippery surfaces - slipway			Medium	All members advised of any slippery surfaces. People involved with assisting launching who lose footing advised to stay in contact with dinghy i.e. hold on to boat.		Low
Drowning due to falling in water or from jetty			Medium	All members advised of uneven underwater surface. All members are required to wear a buoyancy aid/lifejacket correctly fitted if needing to enter the water or step on a jetty/pontoon.		Low
Craft slipping off dinghy trolley/trailer			Medium	Helms to check that dinghy is positioned correctly on trolley/trailer and secured to trolley with painter before the boat is moved/towed. Members advised to let go ropes and stand back if a craft is out of control.		Low
<b>Completed:</b>						
	Date		<u>29/03/2026</u>		Review date:	March 2027
<b>Signature:</b>						
	Club Officer				Seen/read by Chair:	
<b>Please Print name:</b>						
			Richard Hayden RYA Senior Instructor.			