

Dear Member,

We all want our sailing club to be a vibrant and active place.

We have been working hard towards that goal and are pleased to report that membership is growing. We are seeing more people out on the water, racing, training, fun sailing and cruising. We recently introduced new dinghy spaces on the promenade, these are now full and there is still further demand. Efforts continue to source further capacity, particularly looking at making the harbour more dinghy friendly, however the fact remains that the lack of dinghy parking space is now a constraining factor to further growth in dinghy memberships.

The committee consulted the membership on this matter at the members meeting in 2018 and 2019 and received guidance that steps should be taken to encourage the removal of unsailed and inactive dinghies in order to make room for more active boats and members. We simply do not have the space to accommodate unused boats.

We started monitoring dinghy usage and have data covering the whole of the 2019 season. We now want to adopt this set of rules to provide clarity and fairness and hopefully removal of unused boats can be achieved in a friendly and understanding manner.

Inactive boats:

- A dinghy is considered inactive if either:
 - It is not sailed at all for the course of a calendar year.
 - If the owner hasn't paid membership and berthing fees by 1st March,

If a dinghy is inactive

At the start of each new year, 1st January:

- If there is a name on the waiting list for a berthing area (promenade or yard), an inactive dinghy will be asked to vacate to make space.
 - The decision of which inactive boat to remove shall take into account the length of inactivity, the condition of the boat and general participation of the owner in club activities including work parties, club committees, training roles.
- If, on this date, there are no names on the waiting list: unsailed dinghies are still marked as inactive and there are several options available.
 - We would obviously prefer that the boat was used to go sailing and thus remove itself from the inactive list.
 - However if that hasn't happened by the time an application is made to the waiting list, an inactive dinghy will be identified and given notice for removal, this will need to happen within 1 month, the club will refund any unused storage payment pro rata.
- Application to remove inactive status due to extenuating circumstances will be considered by the main committee and the trustees decision shall be final. Please contact the membership secretary for discussion.

Abandoned Boats:

- Boats will be considered abandoned if either

- The member hasn't paid their membership and storage fees by the 1st June
- A dinghy has failed to vacate a space after three months from the date of notification.
- RYA Scotland provide legal guidance to clubs to help deal with abandoned boats and trailers. The club will follow those processes if a dinghy is not removed.
- The club reserves the right to sell or dispose of boats, trailers or equipment if considered abandoned.

Joining the waiting list:

- Applications should be sent to the membership secretary.
- Seniority on the list is according to the length of time on the list.
- You should apply separately for the yard spaces or the promenade spaces or indeed both.
- You can also apply to move from one storage area to another.
- You do not need to already own a dinghy to apply for a space (we understand that many won't want to buy a dinghy unless they are sure that there is a space waiting for them)
 - Once allocated a space you must pay for the space starting immediately (including RIB contribution), you will then have 6 months to purchase your boat
 - If you fail to purchase the dinghy within the 6 months the space will be offered to the next name on the list, you will be refunded for any remaining time pro rata and will drop to the bottom of the waiting list.

Notes:

- Dinghy spaces are not transferable, if you sell your boat to another member the space does not transfer with it. The seller would retain the space and have 6 months to fill it with a new boat.
 - If the seller does not intend to purchase a replacement, they will be refunded pro rata for unused time and the first name on the waiting list would have the option to take the space.
- A boat wishing to move from the yard to the prom should join the waiting list for the promenade. This space will be offered to the boat highest on the waiting list which already has a space on the prom, ahead of those who do not yet have a boat at the club.
- Do not wait until you are asked to remove to start trying to sell a boat, if it is unused and likely to remain that way, please be aware that this may happen. We are happy to help advertise your boat via the club website.
- Boats should be kept in good order, regularly inspected, well fitting covers in place, not pooled with water, tyres inflated, halyards led away from the mast to reduce noise and securely tied down.