

## Dolphin Model Boat Club – Risk Assessment for Regatta Days

### **Brief description of area**

The pond is situated in the Bromley Council Park known as Riverside Gardens, corner of Kent Road and the A224 Cray Avenue. The park is used by dog walkers, families and children 24 hours 7 days a week and is therefore accessible at any time.

### **Risk Assessment**

#### **1. Driving into park/parking**

On regatta days only club members are permitted to park within the confines of the grassed areas close to the entry barrier. No parking on the concrete paths or access/egress used by the public. Speed on entering the park not to exceed 5mph. Great care when parking or reversing; potential for a possible accident. Drivers to ensure that 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 – medium

#### **2. Entry barrier**

Padlocked. Care on unlocking. Can pinch fingers. Open barrier arm right back (90 degrees) and lock into position on the metal backstay. This will prevent snagging of cars or worse still persons walking into the barrier arm.

Risk – low

#### **3. Tarmac/concrete walkway/edging around the pond**

The Council is responsible for the maintenance of these areas but despite their efforts vandalism affects a lot of the areas. Extreme care to be taken by all members when walking around the pond walkways, these areas can be uneven. Particular care to be taken when launching boats.

Risk – medium

#### **4. The Pond**

The pond is formed of concrete. Depth varies from 50cm to 70cm. Boats can therefore be retrieved by someone wearing thigh waders or similar. Likelihood of drowning is low as you can stand in the pond. However, if someone does fall in all members of assist in ensuring that person is safe

Risk – low

#### **5. Propellers**

All members to ensure that when retrieving, launching or recovering boats hands are kept clear of the propellers. If the propellers spin due to a 'glitch', or the throttle lever is inadvertently pushed on the transmitter, a very nasty cut or worse can occur. Great care required on this one.

Risk – medium

#### **6. Batteries**

Most members recharge batteries at home. However, if batteries are being charged 'on site' this is to be done in a remote area well away from members/public. Charging process to be monitored at all times by the member. Great care with Lipo or similar batteries.

Risk - ?

#### **7. Steam power**

Steam powered boats to be powered up in full accordance with the accepted safety procedures; to have appropriate certificates where required.

Risk – low

8. Boats

Boats are normally about a metre long. Scale boats predominately electric power; some steam. Owners/runners of steam to ensure that the flammable fuels are stored correctly and, in particular, that non club members/children cannot tamper or play with canisters containing fuel or any other equipment.

Owners of boats to ensure that boats are 'powered up' safely, particularly if members of the public are in the vicinity of the boat. Any non members in the vicinity of the boat should be asked to 'move back'. Safety paramount.

Boats/equipment not to be left in positions where they could become a trip hazard.

Members to be particularly mindful of this item as with lack of care this could potentially be the cause of an accident.

Risk – medium

9. **Boats on the water**

Care running boats. Members to ensure that they are running on the correct crystals/channel and not crossing with another user prior to launch. Check channel board prior to 'switching on'. This ensures no boat is uncontrolled which could have a 'knock on effect' for a potential accident with a member reacting without thinking (rushing to the pond side) to ensure boat is not damaged and falling in the pond or worse. Current users of the 2.4 GHz FASST should not be affected by other users. The club has exclusive use of the pond on regatta days. Any non member wishing to run a boat must get clearance before launching to ensure they are aware of our R.A. and that they will not clash with club members' radio transmitters. All 27-40 MHz transmitters with extendable aerials to have a golf ball or similar on the end to prevent injury to persons

Risk – low

10. **R.N.L.I. stand**

This is normally erected/installed by the two R.N.L.I. Petts Wood committee members who are members of the D.M.B.C. This facility is not provided if the two members are not present. Stand comprises gazebo, tables, and R.N.L.I. souvenirs. Keep members of the public away from guy ropes/pegs as far as is practical.

Risk – medium

11. **Pond**

Despite the efforts of the Council to keep the pond clear it is a fact that the water becomes contaminated with rubbish, weeds etc. Retrieval of boats to be carried out by persons wearing fishing waders or similar. No one to go into the pond with bare feet/old shoes. It is suggested that members clean their hands with wipes or similar prior to consuming food.

Hand cleaning gel to be made available.

Risk – high

**General**

First Aid kit 'on site' to deal with minor abrasions/cuts. Mobiles held by most members to call emergency services if required. Location for emergency services 'Riverside Gardens, corner of A224/Cray Avenue, and Kent Road, St Mary Cray'.

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