

## **Southsea Rowing Club**

### **FLAT WATER ROWING – BOATING FROM FAREHAM**

#### **Introduction**

Boating from Fareham Public Hard is a relatively safe option for most weather conditions with the restriction that boating is possible two hours each side of high tide. The hard itself is a combination of concrete and gravel/shingle but gets muddier the further you go from the top of the hard. If you are lucky you can park adjacent to the hard, alternatively there is parking in Mainsail Drive (where Paul Hollis lives). Main dangers are:

- Small motor launches, fishing boats or sailing boats (moving)
- Channel markers, mooring posts, pontoons, mooring buoys and moored boats.

The above cause little danger to boats with experienced coxswains but, in places, posts are widely spaced and difficult to pick up, particularly for sculls and pairs.

#### **Boating – launching and returning from an outing**

Very straight forward with footing as described above. There are two large posts approximately 10 metres off shore. These are particularly easy to hit when returning after your outing and turning the boat to approach the hard – please take your time and stay clear of the posts. Remember also that the concrete hard is approximately 10cm above the gravel so please ensure that you keep boats clear of the hard.

#### **Rowing**

It is not recommended that crews should row upstream from the hard (towards Fareham town centre). Instead turn to the coxswain's right on leaving the hard. Fareham Creek is quite bendy but the channel is clearly marked by red and green posts and yacht mooring pontoons and posts. It is recommended that you do not leave the marked channel, except in an emergency, as there may be underwater pipes or other obstructions.

In general, you should keep to the coxswain's right of the channel but it is reasonable to cut bends provided you have a clear view ahead.

On leaving the hard follow a line of moored yachts on coxswain's right for approximately 400m and turn slightly right (towards an "undercoat red" motor boat), keeping another line of parked yachts and motor boats on your right. After 600m look out for the Trading Estate on coxswain's right and look for two green and one red posts by the trading estate. Cut across (left) towards the green posts, effectively cutting the bend and look ahead towards two more red and green marker posts 600m ahead. Head for the first red post but keep it on coxswain's right. Follow the channel, now marked with metal mooring posts on each side. There are usually more boats moored on Coxswain's right.

After passing a yellow catamaran on coxswain's right you pass an old concrete pier on coxswain's right and a red post set back from the main channel. Keep straight, slightly left at this point to avoid turning off the channel. Instead, pick up a further double row of mooring posts and pontoons. Stay in the channel for 800m taking a coxswain's right-hand bend, with more larger yachts moored off the channel to your left. You can now see the "3 Cranes" landmark on your right. Keep right, with the mooring pontoons on your right until you are within 100m of the 3 cranes and then start to cut the bend to coxswain's left keeping a green post to coxswain's left. Once past the green post (noXX) look ahead 400m to another red

post (not the one which is opposite green post xx). Head for this keeping it on coxswain's right and bear right picking up two more red posts 100m apart and a black yacht on its own. Pass the second post on coxswain's right and you should now see some moored barges on 200m coxswain's right. When you reach these barges, start to cross the channel towards three green posts some 200, 300 and 400m on coxswain's left Nos xx,yy,zz.. Follow them round on coxswain's left, effectively turning to coxswain's left and look some 800m ahead to an old RNA cargo ship. Work back slowly to the coxswain's right following the channel and keeping the cargo ship on the coxswain's right. Alternatively, you can pass to the right of the cargo ship effectively cutting the bend. This is especially valuable on a rising tide but some care is needed to avoid buoys and moored yachts.

The channel is now 75-100m wide and you can clearly see the Millennium Tower and Dockyard 1500 – 2,000 metres ahead. In the winter of 2009 there are no more "grey ships" moored in this area but it is quite usual to have two to three decommissioned ships awaiting scrapping. On occasions there will be a grey ship moored on coxswain's left of the channel, with cranes removing equipment. This is marked by large yellow buoys to coxswain's left. This makes a suitable turning point for an outing of approximately one hour.

When you turn think about the tide and compensate for it on your return, either to stay in a rising tide or avoid a falling tide.

If you continue to the harbour, head for the broad direction of the Dockyard. If the tide is falling stay in the centre of the channel. If the tide is rising work to coxswain's right towards moored yachts. Regardless of tide you should be on coxswain's right of the centre of channel as you approach the harbour. For further detail of how to proceed into the harbour see "Flat Water Rowing in Portsmouth Harbour."

When returning towards Fareham steering is the reverse of the above guidance. Generally, keep to coxswain's right of the channel but be prepared to cut bends if it is safe to do so. Two points to note:

- One easy mistake to make is turning too early towards the three cranes. Don't forget there are two posts after the black yacht before you turn towards the cranes. Also do not turn too sharply towards the red post to the left of the cranes. Head instead, towards the green post (no xx) to the right of the three cranes and keep it on coxswain's right as you cut into the channel marked with posts and pontoons.
- Once you leave the channel marked on both sides by mooring posts look out for the first green post and then the two green posts by the trading estate. Stay in the centre of the channel. If you swing too close to the first post you will have to change course to pass the second and third posts as you turn the sharp bend and into the penultimate straight before reaching Fareham.

Once you turn into the final straight slow down to avoid collisions with yachts and dinghies. The entrance to the hard is immediately after the old warehouse by the sailing club. Remember to avoid the two posts as you turn into shore.

JJW  
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