

St Denys Boat Club
Risk Assessment
Usr of Motor Powered Boats

Priory Avenue St Denys
SO17 2LT

Date 7th January 2026

Assessment carried out by: Stephen Everitt

Reviewed by:

This Risk Assessment is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure activities and risks have not changed and in any event not later than January 2027.

Activities:

Use of club vessels fitted with Outboard motors.

Notes:

The club has a number of vessels which can be fitted with outboard motors and a number of outboard motors (both petrol and electric) for this purpose.

Persons using outboard motors need to be signed of for both use of outboard motors and the vessel they intend to use them on.

Outboard motors have a number of hazards and need care in their installation and use.

All persons to wear life jackets or buoyancy aids.

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Persons at Risk	Mitigation	Revised likelihood
Drowning	Low	High	Everyone, particularly inexperienced	Everyone to wear Buoyancy aids or Life Jackets. Operate motors carefully do not change speeds suddenly, do not carry out high speed turns.	Low
Injuries from propellers	Moderate	Severe	Everyone, particularly inexperienced	Do not operate motors except when securely attached to vessel and with vessel in the water. Electric outboards are a particular risk as it is possible to inadvertently operate the throttle or to connect the battery with drive selected. Under no circumstances should the motor be connected to the battery unless the motor is mounted to the vessel and in the water. Do not approach anyone in the water without stopping a petrol engine or physically disconnecting the battery on an electric motor. Do not put hands or other body parts in the water near propellers. If the propeller becomes fouled and needs cleaning, stop a petrol engine and remove kill cord or disconnect battery on an electric motor. Always use Kill cords.	Low
Collisions	Moderate	Low	Everyone, particularly inexperienced	Ensure inexperienced only taken out by experienced people. Brief everyone to keep a good lookout. Brief everyone to keep hands / limbs inside boat and not to try and fend off collision	Mod
Slips trips and falls	Moderate	Low	All	Warn of risk areas, edge of slipway and pontoons. Children to be supervised at all times.	Low
Immersion / cold	Low	Mod	All	Activities and boats to be chosen as appropriate for the conditions. All persons to be dressed appropriately. Anyone who falls in or shows signs of becoming too cold to be taken ashore immediately and warmed up.	Low
Entrapment	Low	Mod to High	All	Sailing craft, ropes to be managed to reduce risk. Participants to be briefed on actions in event of capsized. Safety craft and supervision.	Low
Fire	Low	Mod to severe	All	Petrol is flammable and Electrical systems can cause fires due to damage or accidental short circuit. Batteries and fuel not to be	Low

Contaminated water	Low	Mod	All	<p>stored in clubhouse use designated external storage. Turn off fuel when not in use. Disconnect battery when not in use. Do not refuel hot engines or on the water. Use only certified and approved fuel containers. Do not carry or store excessive quantities of fuel. Larger cruisers with separate fuel tanks carry fire extinguishers.</p> <p>Be aware of the signs of Weils disease. Any cuts grazes to be covered on water. Any injuries incurred during event to be disinfected and covered or otherwise treated as appropriate. Seek medical advice if required.</p>
Damaged equipment	Mod	Mod	All	<p>Do not use equipment showing signs of damage, (particularly fuel leaks or damaged electrics) report for repair and mark as Do Not Use.</p>
Pre existing Medical conditions	Low	Low to Severe	All	<p>Individuals to be responsible for managing their own health conditions, and understanding their own limitations.</p>
Protection of children	Low	Mod	All	<p>Under 18's only allowed if accompanied by a parent or guardian, all members to be vigilant of risks to very young children, comply with safeguarding policy.</p>