

## **River Aln Boat Club - Mooring Regulations (Club Rules)**

### **1. Mooring Dues:**

Mooring dues will be payable for all boats kept within the area leased by the Club from the Northumberland Estates to whom the Club is responsible for the management of the mooring facilities. This will include moorings in the river, on the foreshore, in winter mud berths or in the dinghy parking areas.

### **2. Entrance Fees and Annual Subscriptions:**

See current fees schedule on website

### **3. Moorings Bond:**

On initial application for a mooring a member will be asked to deposit a refundable bond with the club for each vessel according to the current fees schedule. This amount to be held and used by the Club for the duration of his or her membership. Upon written notice of his or her resignation from the Club this Bond will be refunded, subject to he or she having removed any vessels, trailers or other equipment from the Club's land to the satisfaction of the General Committee. Failure to renew membership for a period of one year will result in automatic forfeiture of the bond and disposal of the vessel and/or gear.

### **4. Annual Moorings Fee:**

See current fees schedule on website

### **5. Date Payable:**

For existing members, by 31st December each year. For new members, on notice of acceptance.

### **6. Winter and Summer Moorings:**

Definitions: Winter moorings are those berths where the vessel is secured fore and aft and may not float at mean high water Neaps. Summer moorings are swinging moorings where the boat floats at a typical neap high water, defined as 4.0metres above LAT (tidal heights based on predictions for Coquet Island).

When a winter mooring may be used: vessels shall be moved from a winter mooring to a summer mooring by the first spring high tide after 1st June and not moved back to a winter mooring before the last spring high tide before 31st August.

### **7. Siting of Moorings**

All new or relocated mooring sites must be agreed with the Mooring Officer.

No new Summer Mooring may be sited within 25m of another Summer or Winter Mooring and its swinging circle shall not extend to the Salting's

## **8. Mooring Tackle:**

Boat Owners will provide and maintain all tackle which must be adequate to hold the moored boat under all weather and flood water conditions.

No moorings or their swinging circle may be sited within 50m of the boat park launch ramp or in area the hard standing.

Preferably, Summer Mooring ground tackle must consist of two boat anchors, connected to each other by a taut chain with a swivel above ground level at the midpoint from which a vertical chain or rope runs to the mooring point on the bow of the vessel. This reduces the swinging circle to a minimum and will permit the best use of the available space. Screw anchors are not advised for Summer Moorings due to the risk of scour. The length of the vertical section of the mooring should be kept to the minimum needed to hold the boat, without pulling the head down at High Water Springs. It would be advisable to check this when on board and afloat. Winter Moorings shall be secured 'fore and aft' in that they will have preferably two lines forward from the bow and two from the stern. Winter Moorings may be constructed of ground ('screw') anchors or boat anchors of a suitable size and depth for the boat. For reasons of the prevailing wind, the length of fetch and for ease of access to the vessel it is recommended to attach boats to Winter Moorings with the bows facing West. North-South alignment is not advised.

An allocated mooring position, whether Winter or Summer, requires a fixed mooring and not anchors that are lifted on going out and dropped at some approximate position again on return. In particular, the use of Fisherman's type anchors in a crowded, drying out mooring situation, is potentially hazardous to light dinghies and other craft, and they should not be used except in an emergency.

The Club reserves the right to determine whether moorings are adequate, and the committee reserves the right to inspect all moorings. Due to the shifting nature of the sand in the mooring area an apparently well-established mooring can easily surface, and if blocks have been used and not anchors, it is advisable to inspect moorings at frequent intervals.

## **9. Allocation of mooring spaces:**

Moorings are allocated to individual boat owners and are not transferable with the boat. If a mooring space becomes vacant, it will be reallocated by the Club. Any subsequent move of moorings must only be with the agreement of the Club. New members or existing members purchasing a new vessel, will be precluded on site storage of boat trailers.

## **10. Mooring Numbers:**

Mooring numbers are allocated upon membership with the club. Mooring numbers should be clearly displayed on the boat transom and must be visible at all times. Moorings must be marked by a buoy which clearly displays your Mooring Number. All other equipment must be clearly numbered (trailers close to the towing hitch, kayaks & canoes etc. clearly visible)

## **11. Power to remove, sell or dispose of boats:**

In the case of an abandoned or unauthorised boat and/or trailer (as defined below) the Committee may:

**(a)**- Move the boat and/or trailer to any part of the club premises without being liable for any loss or damage to the boat and/or trailer howsoever caused.

**(b)**- Upon giving 1 months' notice require the member or former member to collect the boat and/or trailer.

**(c)**- Upon giving three months' notice in writing by registered post to the member or former member at his/her last known address shown in the register of members sell the boat and/or trailer and deduct any monies due to the Club (whether arrears of subscription or facility fees or dinghy park fees or otherwise).

**(d)**- If the boat and/or trailer is unsaleable (in the reasonable opinion of the Committee), after giving notice in writing as aforesaid, dispose of the boat and/or trailer in any manner the Committee may think fit and deem the cost of doing and any arrears as aforesaid to be a debt owing to the club by the member or former member.

**(e)**- The club reserves the right to charge storage for the boat and/or trailer until such time as the owner collects the boat and/or trailer or until notice has been served under clause (b) and (c) above.

PROVIDED THAT in each case that proper evidence is available to show that all reasonable steps have been taken by the Committee to trace a member or former member and that when and if the boat and/or trailer is sold the proceeds of sale (where these exceed the amount of any indebtedness by the member or former member to the club) shall be placed in a bank deposit account and retained against the eventuality of a claim by the owner (whether he be the said member or former member) for a period of six years. The Committee shall be entitled to treat any of the following as an abandoned or unauthorised boat and/or trailer: (a) a boat and/or trailer\* located in the dinghy park and not displaying a current boat club number;

(b) a boat and/or trailer located otherwise than in its properly allocated space; (c) a boat and/or trailer that remains in the dinghy park for more than one month after any date advised by the Committee by which boats and/or trailers must be removed to allow for maintenance works of the dinghy park or the end of the season date (where applicable); (d) a boat and/or trailer which is the property of a member or former member which remains on club premises after any fees payable to the club by any member or former member (whether by way of arrears of subscription or facilities fees, dinghy park fees or otherwise) are more than one month in arrears. \*A boat or trailer could be any item of equipment i.e.: kayak, canoe, launching trolley, surfboard etc. etc.

**Lien on boats and/or trailers.** In addition to the powers set out above to move, sell or dispose of boats and/or trailers the club shall have a lien over members' or former members' boats and/or trailers parked on the club's premises in respect of all monies due to the club, whether in respect of arrears of facilities fees or subscriptions or otherwise and shall be entitled to retain possession of the boat and/or trailer until such time as all monies due to the club have been paid in full.

#### **12. Fair use of club facilities:**

'The objects for which the club is formed are to promote and facilitate community participation in boating'. Therefore the committee must take responsibility to ensure the limited space available to the club is fairly distributed to members that actively participate in boating at Alnmouth. Unused boats must not remain within the boat park or estuary. Continuation or renewal of membership may be refused on this basis.

#### **13. Register of Equipment:**

Details of all craft requiring a mooring or space in the boat park must be recorded on the Application Form when joining the club and Renewal Form each year thereafter. Additional or changes of craft must be registered on the Register of Vessel Form, submitted to the Membership Secretary, approved by the Committee and fees paid, BEFORE the craft enters the boat park or estuary. The Committee reserve the right to refuse unsuitable craft.

#### **14. Unsafe Boats. Trailers or Equipment:**

Due to the open public access to the estuary and dinghy park: Equipment that is deemed clearly 'unsafe' by the committee must be removed by its owner. Failure to do so could lead to refusal of club membership. 'Unsafe' could be rotten or sunken boats or wrecks, trailers unfit for purpose, unseaworthy kayaks, surfboards or canoes or any other equipment that is not stored inside a boat.

**15. Security:**

Dinghies/ Boats should be suitably covered or locked to restrict access to them by children, trespassers, or thieves. If no cover is available, then all equipment should be removed.

**16. Entry to the Dinghy Park and use of the barrier:**

Club members are entitled to have the barrier padlock code. The code is for members only. Care should be taken on opening and closing the barrier. It is heavy and should only be open for the period required to allow vehicles/ boats to pass through.

**17. Insurance:**

It is a member's responsibility to have valid insurance for each vessel used or stored at the club.

The Committee  
River Aln Boat Club

Latest Revision Date: [19 Jan 2024]