


HEATON and DISTRICT MODEL POWER BOAT CLUB

FOUNDED 1910

Headquarters and Sailing Water . PADDY FREEMANS . Jesmond Dene

Website: www.heatonmodelboats.co.uk

Name:- RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SAILLING REGATTA'S		No:- RISK/001		Page:- 1 of 1
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		Issue/Rev: 1/4
HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURES
1 ENVIRONMENT		
1.1 Water	Drowning	The water depth is typically 600mm in depth in all the areas where participants operate. In certain areas the water depth progressively rises to waist depth on an average adult. It is therefore possible to stand up with the persons head well clear of the water. Sailing regattas are by design a group activity which ensures that there will be several persons present at all times during the event who will be able to assist anyone in difficulties. There is a minimum age limit of 12 years for participants. Those under 16 years are supervised by a parent, a guardian or a person appointed by one of the above persons. This is covered by section 4 of the club rules, (available to view and download in PDF form on the club website. www.heatonmodelboats.co.uk)
1.2 Water	"Weils disease"	The lake water may contain "Weils disease" due to the number of rats that live in the locality. Hand washing facilities are available in the boathouse next to the lake and all members have been made aware of the possible risk posed by the disease. All competitors entering the lake must wear "chest waders" or thigh length boots to provide general protection from water contact.
1.3 Water	Accidental ingestion	In the event of ingestion of lake water the nearest accident and emergency department is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LP. A distance of 2.9 miles from the lake.
1.4 Lake	Having restricted movement in the lake due to the soft mud lake bed	The bed of the lake is clay with an overlay of organic debris. In the areas where the competitors operate gravel has been added to stabilise the lake bed. In some areas where the lake bed is softer, care is needed. A punt is available to retrieve model boats if required or it can provide additional support to anyone wading in the lake.
1.5 Lake side	Falling whilst entering or leaving the lake	The step down into the lake is significant. An aluminium step is provided to assist those who require it. Competitors are experienced in entering and leaving the lake. New competitors or visiting competitors are advised of the conditions by the home club.
1.6 Weather	Sunburn	Entrants are advised to use sunscreen as required. The boathouse provides shelter from the sun and fresh drinking water is available as required.
1.7 Weather	Rain – wind – cold	Shelter is available in the boathouse during bad weather. In the event of extreme weather conditions the regatta will be halted, postponed or cancelled.

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURES
2 EQUIPMENT		
2.1 Course flags and buoys	Trip hazard and issues with moving in the lake whilst setting up courses	Only experienced club members set out the courses, (and collect the flags/buoys after the event), the hazards associated with moving about in the lake are set out in section 1. It is expected that members will experience softer conditions when setting out the course flags/buoys.
2.2 Model steam boats	Boiler explosions causing injury to others	All pressure vessels including boilers, gas canisters, blowlamps are subject to regular inspections and pressure testing as laid out in the club pressure vessel testing rules. These are available to view and download in PDF form on the club website. www.heatonmodelboats.co.uk The pressure vessel testing is in accord with the requirements of the club insurance policy.
2.3 Petrol engine driven models	Fire Hazard, burns	All fuel tanks are small, containing only enough fuel to complete the runs. All spare fuel is stored in steel containers and refilling is carried out in a well ventilated space. A first aid kit is available in the boathouse and the nearest Accident and emergency department is listed in section 1.3. Fire extinguishers are available in the boathouse.
3 PEOPLE		
3.1 Physical injury	Injury to “catchers” of “free running” model boats	There is a national 10mph speed limit enforced for all “free running” model boats. All catchers go through a period of training where they are shadowed by an experienced person before they are allowed to catch on their own. This ensures they are familiar with all the boats.
3.2 Conduct	Injury to others due to competitors doing something unexpected.	All competitions are run under the club rules applicable to the type of sailing competition being run on the day. The club rules and the various types of competition rules are published on the club web site and are available for download in PDF form. www.heatonmodelboats.co.uk The management committee ensures that the rules are followed during club activities.
3.2 Disability	Injury risk accessing the lake	The club has a number of elderly and partially disabled members. The aluminium step (with handrail) is available to assist them in accessing the lake. For radio controlled models other able bodied competitors will lift the model into and out of the lake allowing the competitor to remain safely on the lake side path.
3.3 General public	The park is a public space and there is potential risk of injury to members of the public	The public are separated from the models by virtue of the models being on the water whilst the public remain on the bankside. The club carries a specialist third party insurance to protect both parties in the unlikely event of an incident.
3.4 Competitors	Risk of non-specific injury to competitors	The club has been carrying out sailing regattas for over 100 years, (club founded in 1910). Because of this there a wide understanding experience of the risks associated with sailing model power boats on the lake. This knowledge base significantly reduces the risks involved in the event.