


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 GENERAL LAKE MAINTENANCE		No:- RISK/007		Page:- 1 of 1
Authorised Distribution:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon Sec• Club Files• Website		Hard Copy Distribution:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boathouse• Event Sponsor – where applicable		
Re-issue/Revision Record				
Page	Issue/Rev.	Date	Reason for Change	Authorised
All	1/0	21/06/2020	First issue	 A.Humpish (Hon Sec)
All	1/1	23/04/1023	Reviewed, no changes	
All	1/2	08/01/2025	Reviewed, no changes	

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This risk assessment is to be used for all general cleaning and tidying of the lake and the banksides, (removal of sunken objects, floating debris, weeds etc)		
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. Cleaning sessions 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 participants 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 into the lake whilst working	The step down into the lake is significant. An aluminium step is provided to assist those who require it. Participants are experienced in entering and leaving the lake.
1.6 Weather	Sunburn	Participants 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 work will be halted, postponed or cancelled.

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURES
2 EQUIPMENT		
2.1 Including: Catch nets, Wheelbarrows, Brooms, Secateurs, loppers, weeding tool, hoe, gas fired weed burner, spades, forks, rakes, hoes, trowels, edging tools; secateurs, loppers, pruning saws, shears etc.	Cuts and impact injuries	Participants are to: Use tools so as to avoid injury to yourself or others. Always keep tools close by and lay flat on the ground, off the path when not in use. Wear appropriate footwear, gloves and other protective clothing. Do not over-reach. Do not attempt to cut material which is too thick or too high.
3 PEOPLE		
3.1 Physical injury	Injury to participants by over exertion or excess load. Slips, trips and falls	Do not over-fill bags/buckets of green waste. Only lift what you can comfortably manage. Request assistance from club officials where required. The bankside will be washed down with water and swept with a broom to ensure that the path around the lake is left safe and clear. Regular clean-ups will be done for any spillages from the skip and wheelbarrows to prevent slips and trips.
3.2 Conduct	Injury to participants due to other participants doing something unexpected.	All lake cleaning events are run by the club committee as club events. All participants are instructed to comply with good practices whilst working with due regard to those around them. The management committee ensures that the rules are followed during club activities.
3.2 Disability	Injury risk accessing the lake or by using equipment.	The club has a number of elderly and partially disabled members. The club does not recommend anybody with disabilities assisting with the lake cleaning event except in a minor supporting role.
3.3 General public	The park is a public space and there is potential risk of injury to members of the public via contact between the public and equipment or removed lake material.	All participants are warned to ensure that work stops if members of the public are too close to the working area. It is important to ensure that splashing of wet material is kept to a minimum and that regular washdowns are carried out with any excess water swept back into the lake. The club carries a specialist third party insurance to protect both parties in the unlikely event of an incident.