

Hazards in the River



The International Collision Regulations mean that boats 'Drive on the Right'. So other boat users will expect you to abide by this rule. Passing port side to port side. In addition the rule is that motoring vessels give way to sail. Many other boat owners may be confused by this and will not know what to do when they see a boat rowed by 4 lusty oarsmen/oarswomen. In particular they will not understand that:

- Our boats can row at 4+ knots and can get across the fairway quickly
- That our Gigs are 20 feet wide, with oars out, wider than any other boats on the river
- That we are very sensitive to wash set up by fast, heavy boats going past at 6 knots

Club rules

- No Club boat is to be rowed in the narrow channel between Bursledon bridge and the railway bridge without a competent cox.
- No Club boat is to enter the narrow lanes between lines of boats moored on piles without an experienced cox and an experienced crew, able to toss oars in the event of a yacht coming in the opposite direction.
- Club boats should, generally stay out of the fairway, especially at busy times – weekends when yachts go in and out and, above Bursledon Bridge Club boats must be very careful in the morning and on late Summer Sunday afternoons.

Tidal hazards

With tidal currents of up to 3 knots and a maximum boat speed of less than 5 knots it is easy to get swept into a moored boat or obstruction when the tide is running in or out. In particular be aware of these hazards:-

- When coming downstream from Bursledon bridge, with a strong ebbing tide, it is easy to get swept into the red post just above the Jolly Sailor - turn early.
- At the end of the long trot on the Hamble side of the river as you approach Mercury it is easy to get swept onto the red post at the end of the trot or the three-legged red dolphin just downstream.
- When turning across the fairway, at Hamble, to go to or from the Hamble Jetty, it is easy to get swept onto either the green or red post at the end of the Warsash or Hamble side trots.

Underwater hazards

There is a spit which stretches out from the end of Bursledon Point, the grassy point 400m below the Jolly Sailor. At mid tide give it a wide berth.

One third the way down the Reach from Bursledon Point to Mercury there is a bank extending out from the marsh halfway to the trots of yachts. At mid tide give this a wide berth.

When you have crossed the fairway to the Warsash side at Mercury there is a drying shoal extending a long way out from the wooden wreck, except at high tide do not go here.

Below the Chinese bridge (about 200m) there is a post about 20m out from the shore that is under water once the tidal height is about 3m. If you hit this it will hole the boat.

If going down the Hamble side from Mercury there is a rocky shallow, which dries about 1.5m above LW, about 10m upstream of the red post. Go inside or outside.