



Operation of Evesham Rowing Club Launches.

Before using either of the launches make sure the river conditions do not present a risk to the launch operators, any other individuals or the launches. It would be expected there is an Evesham Rowing Club Outing Risk Assessment form in place for the outing. The decision to use the launch rests with the launch driver. No criticism will be faced by anyone unwilling to use the launch when they believe it is unsafe to do so.

There are two launches available for use within the club, white launch with Mercury 9.9hp outboard with electric start and yellow launch with Mercury 6hp with pull start. The operations of both launches are basically the same with the primary difference being in how to check the oil and starting of each launch.

In the boathouse

1. Before the launch is taken out of the boathouse.
2. Check there is a paddle and all necessary safety equipment on the launch.
3. Make sure the kill cord is in place and in good condition.
4. The outboards should be in the down position, if not move to the down position.
5. Before either launch is taken out of the club house the level of oil needs to be checked. For both launches remove the outboard cover: -
 - a. Yellow launch, remove yellow screw in oil dipstick, (left of the outboard facing the front), wipe with a cloth and place (do not screw back in) back in its hole. Pause and remove, the oil level should be in the flat checked area.
 - b. White launch the oil dip stick has a loop for removing the dipstick, (right of the outboard facing the front), wipe with a cloth and push back fully into its hole, remove and the oil should be in the checker area.
 - c. If either outboard is low in oil report this to a coach or committee member. Quicksilver 10W – 30 oil is usually available in the workshop.
 - d. If you are not sure ASK.
6. Ensure there is enough petrol for the planned use of the launch. Spare petrol is usually held in the workshop. If you use any of the spare petrol report this to a coach or a committee member.
7. Lift the outboard before moving the launch. Use suitable boards to move the launch out of the boathouse and onto the water and tie up to a suitable secure point on the landing stage.
8. **Only individuals who have been authorised by the club are allowed to drive either launch.**

On the water

1. **All launch drivers and passenger must wear a lifejacket.**
2. Make sure you have a form of communication such as a mobile phone.
3. When you are ready to use the launch start it by: -
 - a. Yellow launch: -
 - i. Check the throttle is in the neutral position and the kill switch is in the correct position.
 - ii. Make sure the vent on the petrol tank is open.



- iii. Prime the petrol by pumping the bulb several times until resistance is felt.
 - iv. **Before starting the engine attach the kill switch cord securely to the driver. This may involve getting an extended cord.**
 - v. If the outboard is cold pull out the hand choke.
 - vi. Pull the starting cord.
 - vii. Once the outboard starts, gently and slowly push in the choke.
 - viii. If the outboard is warm or hot the choke may not be needed.
 - ix. If the outboard does not start, go back through all the checks and starting procedure again.
 - x. If it still fails to start shrug your shoulders and ask someone to help and report to a committee member.
- b. White launch: -
 - i. Check the throttle is in the neutral position and the kill switch is in the correct position.
 - ii. Make sure the vent on the petrol tank is open.
 - iii. Prime the petrol by pumping the bulb several times until resistance is felt.
 - iv. **Attach the kill switch cord securely to the driver.**
 - v. If the outboard is cold press the key upwards and turn at the same time. This has the effect of putting on the choke and starting the outboard. Hold the key upwards for a short time to keep the choke on and once the outboard settles release the key.
 - vi. If the outboard is warm or hot, there should be no need to press the key upwards.
 - vii. If the outboard does not start, go back through all the checks and starting procedure again.
 - viii. If it still fails to start shrug your shoulders and ask someone to help and report to a committee member.
4. **Check there is water coming from the tell-tale. Do this check before leaving the landing stage and regularly while the launch is in use. If there is no water stop the engine immediately.**
 5. **There is a red light on the outboard, this should be on when first starting and then go off. If it stays on or comes on the engine is low in oil, stop engine immediately.**
 6. Allow the outboard to settle but do not idle for long period of times before setting off.

Returning to the landing stage / boathouse

1. Tie the launch up securely.
2. Stop the outboard by using the kill switch on the yellow launch or turning the key on the white launch and remove the key and let it hang on the string tether.
3. Before removing the launch from the water lift the outboard. A useful way of achieving this is (with the outboard stopped) put the throttle into forward.
4. Remove the launch from the water using the suitable boards.
5. The white launch is best balanced on its trolley when the rope at the front of the launch is in line with the front of the metal frame of the trolley.
6. Be careful not to pull the yellow launch off its set of wheels.
7. Leave the outboards in the down position in the boathouse.