

Stokes Bay Sailing Club

Guidelines and Advice on Securing Your Boat

As Autumn and Winter approach it is now the time to make sure that your boats are made secure.

Dinghies berthed at the club should be securely tied down to ground anchorage points at all times. Although the club does its best to provide tie down wires, where possible, these should not be relied upon as the sole means of securing your boat.

We recommend that for many boats additional, **non permanent** anchorage points are put in by the berthholder, specific to their boat. Commercially available products such as Spirabase anchor points can be screwed into the ground. Alternatively short sections of scaffolding tube, angle iron or similar can be hammered into the ground, angled away from the boat at about 15 degrees. The stake should have a hole drilled in at the top through which the tie down rope is passed. This method allows the stake to be driven below the surface in order to save injuries to feet, mower blades & trolley tyres. Otherwise it is better to leave it clearly visible!

For monohulls with stayed masts (shrouds), stakes should be positioned alongside the shrouds with securing ropes up to the shroudbases or over the boat with turns around the mast. An additional tie down at the bow could also be added.

The picture below shows an International Canoe secured in this way using the shroud bases as anchor points. In addition, the boat has a tie down rope at the bow so that the boat is anchored at three points, stopping the boat "bouncing" in high winds. This particular boat is pointing into the prevailing south west wind which, certainly with monohulls, is a good idea. Raising the bow to ensure water drains from the cover and the hull is a good idea, but this has the unwanted effect of increasing windage. It could be better to turn the boat round and let the natural slope help drain the water whilst helping to keep the boat lower down.



For dinghies with unstayed masts and flat covers (eg Lasers and Toppers), which do seem to be least concerned about tying down, ties should be about third of the way from the bow to the trolley wheels and ideally a bow tie down as well, as demonstrated by the Aero in the photo below.



In winter, boats are best taken away from the club and stored under cover. If left at the club unchecked, it is essential that the mast is taken down and laid in a safe place. The boat cover should be securely tied on with support so water drains off. Another option is to turn the boat upside down, tied down and raised off the ground. Take a look around the compound to find examples of good practice to protect your boat and your fellow members boats around you.