

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.

All dinghies berthed at the club must 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!

Catamarans - there are a number of different points they can be secured at, but the principle remains the same.

The launching trolley should be brought forward so it is half way between the bow and the main beam. With support at the back as well, this will make all catamarans more stable than if the trolley is left near the main beam.

Even if you sail with your rigging slack, it should always be left tight in the compound – tie the forestay to the trolley axle. The mast should be tied so that it does not rotate. This will reduce the chance of shrouds breaking, or shackles and pins working free. Split rings in pins should be taped.



In addition, due to the catamaran's higher windage, they do need a minimum of two anchorage points i.e. one at the bow and one at the transom. **A mid point tie down is not sufficient.** Note also the padding to protect the hull from damage by the tie down cables.

If facing away from the prevailing wind the rear beams should also be secured.



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.