# Loch Morlich Sailing Club (LMSC): Risk Assessments 03.03.22

Framework; LMSC is an RYA affiliated sailing club that leases a small area of land on the north west shore of Loch Morlich where it has a clubhouse, boat park, three equipment stores and a floating pontoon. The club is affiliated to the RYA but is not at present an RYA recognised training centre. The land and loch are owned by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The general public have historically used our boat park and access road as a pathway for Lochside access and transit and continue to do so. LMSC does not hold the liability for public use of the land that we lease, this is held by FLS.

This risk assessment principally identifies the risks to LMSC members when participating in club activities, identifies the risks that LMSC generates when carrying out activities on the loch and describes the measures taken to mitigate those risks.

Note - if a club member takes a guest to the club then the guest is the sole responsibility of the club member and must comply with the club’s safety policy as described in this Risk Assessment.

Health and Safety Policy Statement; “It is the policy of Loch Morlich Sailing Club that the health and safety of all club members and all persons on site on club business are paramount”.

RISKS AFLOAT:

| HAZARD | RISK TO: | CONTROLLED BY: | FURTHER MITIGATED BY: |
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| Water (drowning) | All LMSC members at club organised events | Observation and Safety Boat response.  Note additional requirements for dinghies racing. | Display of risk assessment in clubhouse.  At least one RYA Power Boat Level 2 qualified person with additional experience and training for safety and rescue to be onboard Safety Boat. |
|  | All LMSC members | Personal floatation devices (PFDs) to be worn at all times when on the water or using the pier or floating pontoon. | There are LMSC PFDs stored in the clubhouse for club member’s use. PFDs checked annually for buoyancy. |
|  | LMSC swimmers | LMSC open water swimmers to wear a trailing visible float. | Recommended that whenever swimming there is a lookout ashore. |
|  | Persons racing sailing dinghies at club organised event | Safety Boat cover on the water. | Two crew on board the Safety Boat and the driver should be RYA Safety Boat qualified. VHF radio communication between shore and Safety Boats. Use rescue ladder on Orange RIB if needed. |
| Water (drowning) continued | LMSC members under 18 at club organised events | Members under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or a responsible person appointed by the parent or guardian. | The Safety Boat crews have the authority to bring anyone off the water should they feel it is unsafe for that person to be on the water. Outside of club organised events under 18’s to be accompanied by a responsible adult. |
|  | All water users at club and member organised events | Observation and safety boat response. | If the Safety Boat(s) are overwhelmed with assisting water users and cannot provide adequate safety cover for the event then the event is to be stopped. |
| Entrapment | Users of LMSC dinghies | A mast head flotation device should be used on the two handed dinghies. These are kept with the sails. Entrapment under a single handed dinghy is rare. Users to be aware of the risk. | Quick release trapeze harness to be used on the 420. The club does not supply this. Recommended that safety knife be carried and crew are competent to sail a trapeze boat. |
|  | LMSC members in own dinghies | Recommended that mast head flotation device be used. | Recommended if sailing a boat with a trapeze then a quick release harness is used. Recommended that safety knife be carried. |
|  | LMSC members using dinghies when no safety cover | Users should be competent to sail. | Users made aware of entrapment risk by publication of this risk assessment. |
|  | Users of dinghies at club / member organised events. | Safety Boat cover and onshore support shall be provided as required. Note additional requirements for dinghies racing. | At least one RYA Power Boat Level 2 qualified person with additional experience and training for safety and rescue to be onboard Safety Boat. Whenever safety boats used safety / rigging knife to be carried. |
|  | Person’s racing dinghies at club organised event | Safety Boat crews to be ready to enter the water to assist righting a boat in the event of entrapment. | Two crew on board the Safety Boat and the driver should be RYA Safety Boat qualified. VHF radio communication between shore and Safety Boats. Safety / Rigging knife to be carried. |
|  | LMSC members using own Kayaks, canoes, windsurfers and paddleboards | Entrapment under these craft unlikely. Users should be competent to use craft or be supervised by a competent person. | These type of craft may be used on an individual basis without safety cover. Recommended that shore lookout be appointed. PFDs must be used. |
| Injury from propellers or being struck by a powerboat | Users of dinghies at club / member organised events | LMSC Safety Boats only to be used for club / member organised events or when supporting an external event such as a Triathlon or open water swim event. | Note - if LMSC are supporting an external event then the events safety management plan should be reviewed by a responsible personnel at LMSC. |
|  | All water users | KILL CORDS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES, tight around the leg before engine is switched on and forward or reverse gear engaged. There are NO exceptions to this rule. The red plastic spiral kill cord lanyards should be inspected and tested before use. Defects to be repaired and any worn or damaged Kill Cords to be removed from use. | Safety Boat Helms to drive in accordance with the RYA Power Boat Level 2 guidelines and at least one crew member to be RYA Safety Boat qualified. |
|  | All water users | At organised club / member organised events where Safety Boats are used then at least two crew to be in the boat on constant lookout for all people and craft in the water. Swimmers are particularly difficult to spot particularly if they are not towing marker floats and there are waves. | VHF radio communication and between shore and safety boats. At organised events shore to keep lookout. |
|  | All water users | At organised club events eg dinghy racing regatta, course to be set using the west end of the Loch and keep clear of the public beach and Water Sports Centre. | Safety Boat crews and shore personnel to monitor public activity on loch and attempt to warn public that racing taking place. For LMSC priority is club members racing dinghies and their safety. |
| Injury from propellers or being struck by a powerboat (Continued) | All water users | Recommend that engine be switched off when rescuing people if possible. If not then engine to be in neutral a) before recovering people who are in the water or who have a part of their body in the water; or b) when going alongside a windsurfer. Keep the engine as far away from people at all times. | All Safety Boats to be checked prior to use and each boat is to carry an anchor, towing lines, first aid kit, floating throw line and make sure that the towing strop cannot get caught in the propeller. |
|  | Dinghy sailors being towed | Whist it is recommended not to perform alongside tows on dinghies with crew on board, this may be necessary at times. Boat to be tied securely alongside, crew positioned inboard and only commence tow when it is safe to do so. | Keeping alongside tows restricted in this way should significantly reduce the risk of someone falling between the two boats and coming into contact with the propeller. |
|  | Windsurfers, paddle boards, canoes, kayaks and other craft being towed | Recommended that these craft be towed in the most stable position. This is very much dependent on the craft in question. For example a windsurfer can be towed with the sail secured on the Safety Boat with crew onboard and a canoe maybe be towed behind the Safety Boat with the user onboard to give directional stability. | Use tow strop at aft of Safety Boat. Securing rope to be carried on Safety Boats. |
| Risk of crew being ejected from a safety boat | LMSC Safety boat crew | Helms to communicate to crew when changing gears, speed or direction.  Helm to ensure all crew are appropriately seated with 2 solid handholds. | Anyone driving a powerboat at LMSC shall be authorised to do so by an RYA qualified power boat user. At least one RYA Power Boat Level 2 qualified person with additional experience and training for safety and rescue to be onboard Safety Boat. |
| Collisions with other water users on the loch | All water users | Safety Boat, if used, to have at least one qualified RYA safety boat person onboard. | Before use of any craft, whether it be propelled or non- propelled, assessment of weather conditions and other water users to be undertaken prior to launch. Note that swimmers without trailing floats are difficult to spot particularly if there are any waves. |
| Collision with underwater rocks and grounding | All users of water craft | Keep outside of shallows markers to the south of the clubhouse. | Keep a good distance from all shores. Knowledge share and LMSC to mark known underwater obstacles when found. |
| Cold and Hypothermia | All water users | The water can be very cold even at the height of summer. Recommended that all water users wear wetsuits or drysuits at any time of the year. Water users to be made aware of cold water shock and how to control breathing and what to do if suspected hypothermia. | At club organised events recommended that wetsuits or drysuits be worn by all LMSC members using the water. LMSC members to be made aware of risk. Safety boat crews and shore duty officers to monitor water users for signs of hypothermia. If individuals are suspected to be suffering from hypothermia or subjected to cold water shock then appropriate actions to be taken by qualified First Aiders. |
| Heat and Hyperthermia | All water users | Encourage all water users to keep hydrated and carry drinking water at all times. | This is up to the individuals responsibility unless under the age of 18.  At organised events safety boat crews to keep a watching brief for signs. |
| Sunburn | All water users and people on shore | Encourage people to wear appropriate clothing to cover exposed skin where possible and wear high factor sun cream. | This is up to the individuals responsibility unless under the age of 18.  At organised events Safety Boat crews to encourage participants to wear appropriate clothing and sun cream. |
| Cut feet | All water users and people on shore | Recommended that all water users and people handling equipment on shore wear appropriate footwear. | All Safety Boat crew to always wear appropriate footwear and all boats to carry first aid kits.  First Aid Kit also kept in Clubhouse. |
| Trapped body parts between boats and the pier / pontoon | All club members | Only board or disembark any craft if it is held securely against the pontoon. | Limit the number of people on the pontoon to those people that need to be on the pontoon. |
| Water users falling off water craft in shallow water and injuring themselves | Users of water craft | Board craft from pier or pontoon where there is adequate water depth and keep outside of the shallows marker buoys to the south of the club house. | If launching from shore then board craft in sufficient water depth. If beaching on shore then only beach at beaching areas and disembark when craft fully stopped. |
| Injury to a person during a club organised event | Event participants | Basic First Aid kits to be kept on safety boats.  Comprehensive First Aid Kit kept in Clubhouse. | Use emergency services by dialling 999 if appropriate.  Named First Aiders to be on site. |
| Injury to a person onsite at any time | All | Comprehensive First Aid kit kept in clubhouse. |  |
| Any person with heart problems when on LMSC site or on water | All | Defibrillator kept in club house. | If somebody is suspected of heart problems then call the emergency services on 999.  Instructions on how to use the defibrillator are on the unit. Annual battery check carried out. Any person can use without training.  Regular training sessions carried out for LMSC members. |
| Head injuries | LMSC members | Encourage the use of helmets when sailing dinghies. |  |
| Lightning strikes | All water users | LMSC members should not use water craft if lightning is present. | An organised LMSC event will be postponed or cancelled if lightning occurs or is imminent. |
| Blue Green Algae | All | LMSC to keep updated of risk by SEPA and disseminate information to members. | If blue green algae present then adhere to RYA guidance. |
| Weil’s Disease | All | LMSC to adhere to RYA guidance. |  |
| Inclement weather | All | At organised events no water activity will take place if it is not safe to do so. | Individual to undertake at own risk prior to launching water craft. |

RISKS ASHORE:

| HAZARD | RISK TO: | CONTROLLED BY: | FURTHER MITIGATED BY: |
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| Falling off / slipping on the floating pontoon | All users of pontoon | The floating pontoon is quite unstable and wobbles when in use. Limit number of people using the pontoon to only those using the pontoon for launching, embarking or disembarking water craft. | Recommend that floating pontoon is only used if others are around. Those under 18 should only use if a responsible adult is present. Pontoon only to be used by LMSC members or guests of members. |
| Slipping on banks | All users | Only launch water craft from designated launching shallows. | Wear appropriate footwear. |
| Manual handling of equipment ashore | All users | Encourage use of appropriate lifting techniques. | Ensure sufficient people available to handle equipment in question. |
| Slipping / tripping in clubhouse. | All users | Keep clubhouse tidy and floor as clean and dry as possible. | Maintain floor covering. |
| Slipping on clubhouse stairs | All users | Use handrail. | Maintain stairs. |
| Fire in club house stores | All | Use fire extinguisher. | Store all fuel in steel fuel locker. |
| Fire from BBQ | LMSC members | Only use club supplied bottled gas for BBQs at club organised events. | Use gas stove in kitchen. For general public danger from BBQ notices posted on site. |
| Icing on clubhouse stairs | All users | Hold handrails. | Use salt, sand or grit. |
| Coming into contact with dog waste | All users | All LMSC dog owners to bag and take their dog waste away. | If LMSC members find others dog waste then to be taken off site and disposed of appropriately. |

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH USE OF EQUIPMENT:

| HAZARD | RISK TO: | CONTROLLED BY: | FURTHER MITIGATED BY: |
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| Drag Winch | All users | Regular inspection and maintenance. | Make sure when using that people are kept clear of wire breaking snap back zone, ratchet is always on when line is under tension and one hand is always on winch handle when winching in. |
| Winch on Orange RIB trailer | All users | Regular inspection and maintenance. | Keep clear of wire snap back zone. Always use ratchet when winching in. Keep clear of winch handle when releasing winch. Keep one hand on winch handle when winching in. Secure handle with additional securing when boat in position on trailer. |
| Towing boats on site | All users | Securing of boats on trailers for on the road use. | Always keep a look out for people and other equipment. When reversing use of a lookout at rear of vehicle recommended. |
| Electrical Generator | Club members when using power tools or using for club lighting | Should only be used at scheduled club maintenance days or with permission from the LMSC committee. If using for lighting the club then generator to be firstly plugged into the clubhouse and then the generator connection made prior to starting the generator. | Only to be used by competent users. |
| Manual Handling of equipment / boats | Club members on work days / opening / closing club | Always have the appropriate number of people to lift / move equipment / boats. Use good lifting practice at all times. | Use winch / vehicles as appropriate. For example when retrieving orange RIB. |
| Defibrillator | User electrocution | Make sure patient, user and surrounding area is as dry as possible. Do not touch patient when shock being applied. |  |

Risks to LMSC members during maintenance / work days / EVents:

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| HAZARD | RISK TO: | CONTROLLED BY: | FURTHER MITIGATED BY: |
| Contact with Fuel | LMSC Members | Wear gloves when filling petrol tanks. Only do onshore in vicinity of fuel store. Use fill funnels always. | Launch safety boats with fuel tanks in place, connected and secure. Leave Orange RIB fuel tank onboard at anchor unless it is required to be filled. Always transport fuel tank to shore when fuel tank in place, connected and secure onboard Safety Boat. |
| Fuel / oil spills | Environment | Inspect for fuel / oil leaks prior to using equipment. Regular maintenance of outboard motors and fuel / oil system. | If oil or fuel spilled on water use spill blanket stored in clubhouse. Launch safety boats with fuel tanks in place, connected and secure. Leave Orange RIB fuel tank onboard at anchor unless it is required to be filled. Always transport fuel tank to shore when fuel tank in place, connected and secure onboard Safety Boat. |
| Fuel fires / explosions | LMSC Members | Only fill fuel tanks ashore. Never use naked flame or smoke near fuel store, when using safety boats or generator. | Never use naked flame or smoke when using safety boats or generator. |
| Calor Gas explosion | LMSC members | Always turn gas bottle off at bottle end. Check gas lighter function prior to use. |  |
| Paint / repair materials | LMSC members maintaining clubhouse | Adhere to paint manufacturers safety data sheets. |  |
| All Tools | Users | Wear appropriate PPE. |  |

DEFINITIONS and ABREVIATIONS:

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| **ITEM** | **DEFINITION** |
| PFD | Personal Floatation Device |
| Club Event | A club event is a scheduled event. |
| Event that club is supporting | An external event that the club supports, usually by providing safety boat cover. LMSC would use this Risk Assessment and comply with the event organisers Safety Management Plan. |
| Member organised event | Members are free to use the club during the season whenever they want and can organise their own activities as long as their requirements do not clash with club organised activities. |
| Safety Boat | LMSC has 3 safety boats powered by internal combustion petrol, 4-stroke outboard motors. |
| RYA | Royal Yachting Association |
| RYA qualified power boat user | A person who has an RYA Power Boat Level II certificate |
| RYA qualified safety boat user | A person who has an RYA Power Boat Level II certificate and an RYA Safety Boat Certificate. |
| RIB | Rigid Inflatable Boat |