

# Bewl Canoe Club Risk Assessment



<b>Title</b>	Club-Led Paddling at Bewl Water
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<b>Date</b>	10 December 2024	<b>Assessors</b>	Jon Cowdock, Simon Cole	<b>Review Date</b>	TBA
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<b>Location Details</b>	Bewl Water, Lamberhurst, Kent
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Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	How might the risk be adequately controlled?	What further action may be required?	Comments/Review date
<b>Environment</b>	<b>Paddlers.</b> Effects of sun on skin/eyes, water quality issues (Pollution, Blue-green algae, Weil's disease)	Appropriate briefing on environmental hazards	Check Rangers' information board or check direct with Rangers	Dynamic risk assessment on the day
<b>Manual handling</b>	<b>Paddlers and others.</b> Handling craft in sheds, carrying craft to waterside	Leaders/supervisors trained in safe manual handling. Members shown correct lifting methods. Use of trollies and team lifting encouraged	Review of equipment storage in boat sheds	Equipment officer lead. Action plan by 1/3/2025
<b>Impact injury</b>	<b>Paddlers and others.</b> Cuts, bruises, breaks, head injuries from craft collisions, paddles, fishing tackle, trips or falls	Leaders to brief paddlers on collision and other local hazards, ensure paddlers keep appropriate distance from hazards, have first aid training and carry first aid kit in group	Consider use of helmets where risks may be increased (e.g. games or rescue practices)	
<b>Drowning</b>	<b>Paddlers and others.</b> Entering water from bankside or from craft. Capsize. Paddler entrapment.	Club rules for members re swimming ability and wearing of PFDs. Leaders to carry appropriate rescue equipment, be trained in rescue skills and resuscitation, have means of calling for emergency assistance	Leaders to apply Shout - Reach - Throw - Go protocol. With inexperienced paddlers, leaders to check PFDs for correct fitting, check boats and footwear for entrapment risk, ensure anyone using a spraydeck has been trained and has	

			practiced wet exit	
<b>Hypothermia</b>	<b>Paddlers.</b> Highest risk after immersion in water.	Club rules for members re paddling in cold water conditions. Leaders to check participants are appropriately dressed for conditions, carry appropriate equipment to treat casualty, have means of calling for emergency assistance		Dynamic risk assessment on the day
<b>Tiredness/Exhaustion</b>	<b>Paddlers.</b> Level of risk affected by group composition, weather conditions and route selection	Leaders to check fitness of participants before setting off, craft selection and weather conditions when choosing route. Group to carry drink and high energy food appropriate to the trip, group to carry one or more towlines		Dynamic risk assessment on the day
<b>Sudden change in weather</b>	<b>Paddlers.</b> Onset of thunder/lightening, hail, fog or increased wind speeds	Leaders to check weather forecasts before setting off. Leaders to apply dynamic risk assessment and take appropriate actions.	Leaders to consider carrying extra equipment such as spare clothing, compass, group shelter in adverse conditions	
<b>Sudden illness</b>	<b>Paddlers.</b>	Leaders to check fitness of participants before setting off. Leaders to be trained in rescue skills (including injured/unconscious paddlers) and first aid, and have means of calling for emergency assistance	Call Rangers or 999 for emergency assistance at earliest opportunity	

Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment sampler if selected for sampling)

<b>Sampled by</b>		<b>Position:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
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**Notes:**

- All leaders to have regular refresher training in first aid and in rescue procedures
- Dynamic risk assessment to be used throughout the activity