



PEMBROKE HAVEN YACHT
CLUB
FRONT STREET BOAT YARD

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR RIGGING ASSISTANCE BY CLUB VOLUNTEERS DURING LAY-UP AND LAUNCHING

The handling of Club boats by the use of a large mobile crane clearly attracts a number of potential risks to the health and safety of boat owners, crew and volunteer helpers and the general public. The Club seeks to identify and manage such risks in its 'Health and Safety Policy and attached Risk Assessment for Front Street Yard'. This document shall be maintained on the Club website and copies shall be e-mailed to all owners annually with their storage application forms. By signature of a storage application owners shall be deemed to have read and understood the content of this document. However, for ease of reference the salient points are 'bullet pointed' below:

- **Safe working at any task is about maintaining the correct mind-set:**
 - Stay alert and watchful – look out for any potential risk to YOURSELF or OTHERS.
 - Work calmly and steadily. Take regular breaks, avoid becoming overtired.
 - If in doubt about the safety of ANY operation STOP immediately! Draw the attention of the lift supervisor to your concern.
 - Be clear about what you intend to do and communicate clearly with others involved in the task.

- **The Principle Identified Risks and Recommended Preventative Action:**
 - Slips and Trips** – Maintain exemplary housekeeping before, during and after all lifting operations. Ensure that all work areas are kept clear of loose materials, ladders, equipment, cables and rope etc.

 - Sprains and Strains** – Use mechanical lifting aids wherever possible. For essential manual handling ensure there are always an adequate number of helpers to work safely without excess straining. Co-ordinate each lift and utilise correct lifting technique.

 - Cuts and Abrasions** – Wear appropriate safety head gear and use hand protection (rigger gloves) whenever handling rough timbering, steel cradles and the like.

 - Eye Injuries / Foreign Bodies** – Wear appropriate eye protection to prevent injury by flogging ropes or slings and wind-blown debris such as rust and dust.

 - Falls From Height** – Take great care when working on decks of boats whilst in the yard, particularly in wet or icy conditions. Use only ladders of adequate length, in sound condition and secure ladder at top or brace from foot at all times during use. Do not overreach beyond the edge of boat. Never attempt to 'ride the hook' or remain on board a boat during a lift.

 - Strike by Falling or Swinging Object** – Ensure all loose gear, tools or equipment is removed from deck of any boat or properly secured prior to commencing lift. Keep well clear of lifting chains and slings whilst they are being raised/lowered without a load when they can 'flail' violently.

 - Crush Injuries** – Never under-walk any suspended load. Never interpose yourself between any load being hoisted and another fixed object. Never place fingers or hands between sling and load whilst hoisting.

- **A Few More Do's and Don'ts:**
 - Don't loiter around the crane – it has many moving parts (not always obvious) which can operate without warning. Stay outside the outrigger footprint.
 - Don't attempt to direct the crane driver unless authorised to do so by the lift supervisor.
 - Don't invite or permit any family or friends (particularly children) to enter the yard to observe operations.
 - Don't loiter where you will obstruct the line of sight between the crane and the banksman.
 - Do take great care of lifting gear-- see attached sheets on care and usage of slings.

- Do wear the mandatory PPE at all times around yard area – currently this would be an approved safety helmet. Additionally recommended items are safety glasses, safety boots or shoes and rigger type gloves.
- Do not distract the crane driver during a lift by talking to him.
- Do alert the lift supervisor IMMEDIATELY to anything which you think may prevent safe lifting. If this occurs during a lift raise your hand to banksman and call **hold-hold-hold!** Do NOT panic and DO NOT wave your hands at the crane driver.