

Tees Wheelyboats

Operational Safety Analysis and Risk assessment

TWC is a club formed to provide water borne access to the River Tees, upstream from the Tees Barrage and other waterways.

The Wheelyboat is a craft specifically designed to cater for the mobility impaired, and particularly for wheelchair users.

Description of boat

Type Open motorboat, monohull, aluminum construction with petrol driven outboard engine.

Design category D

Wheelyboat Mk 111

Hull length 5.30m

Beam 2.00m

Max draft 0.55m

Max persons 8

Max load 869 kg

The vessel complies with the Essential Safety Requirements to EU standards

Crew

Crew of two: Skipper qualified to standards set by Marine and Coastguard Agency for the operation of Inland Waters Small Passenger Boat Code, e.g. RYA Power Boat Level 2 National Powerboating Certificate. Skipper and crew have received club training in the safe use of a Wheelyboat and the welfare of passengers.

Operation

The Wheelyboat is to be used on the Tees, upstream from the Tees Barrage and other inland waterways to provide a facility for persons with disabilities, their carers, friends and family wishing to experience the pleasure of boating rivers or lakes.

Passenger numbers

The boat is certificated for 8 persons maximum, two crew and six passengers.

A passenger using electrically powered wheelchairs is deemed to be two persons due to the weight of the chair. The skipper determines the numbers based on passenger space requirements and overall weight.

Briefing

Prior to embarkation the passengers will be given safety instructions with regard to use of the slipway, entering the boat, when afloat and leaving the boat.

Safety Belt Use

Users should not be secured to wheelchairs when aboard the boat if practical.

If this is not possible, the following procedure will be used.

1. The life jacket must be fitted before the seat belt is secured
2. The seat belt must be of a type easily accessible and opened by the designated carer.
3. The designated carer must sit adjacent to the user when on the boat.
4. The designated carer must demonstrate to the Skipper that the seat belt can be released easily and that it will not interfere with the life jacket when released.
5. The skipper must record this check on the passenger list before departing.

Preston Park Landing Stage

Particular care must be taken when embarking and disembarking users. The slipway surface is very rough and there is no handrail on the fixed land section of the access.

Remind 'pushers' that there are rest places in the path up the hill to the museum.

Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Likelihood	Mitigation
Slipping	Passenger	Medium	Slipways not to be used if not clean. Non slip surface to boat deck.
Wheelchair	Passenger	Medium	Users must ensure that their wheelchair is suitable for the individual and in good mechanical operation. Passenger pre embarkation briefing.
Fall from wheelchair		Medium	Safety belt to be used by to aid security where appropriate (*users decision see note) All manual wheelchairs to be reversed onto the boat. Passenger pre embarkation briefing. Crew briefing
Strains	Passenger + Crew	High	Only persons with sufficient strength should assist in pushing wheelchairs. Passenger pre embarkation briefing. Crew briefing
Fall from boat	Passenger + Crew	Low	All passengers must remain seated at all times when the boat is moving. Wheelchairs to be braked when loaded. Passenger briefing on board. All passengers must wear an automatically activated lifejacket. Where passengers are restrained by a harness a carer must sit behind and release the restraint if instructed by the Skipper. All crew must wear an automatically activated, manual lifejacket or buoyancy aid.
Entrapment	Passenger	Low	Passengers must not have limbs outside the boat when leaving or entering the mooring. Passengers must not assist in mooring or handling any ropes or lines on the boat. Passenger briefing on board.
Cold - Rain	Passenger + Crew	High	All passengers should wear appropriate clothing. Passenger pre embarkation briefing. Crew briefing Emergency waterproofs carried for passengers
Engine failure	Passenger + Crew	Medium	VHF radio and/or mobile phone carried to call assistance. Paddles provided for short travel Anchor on board with suitable warp Crew briefing
Collision	Passenger + Crew	Low	International collision regulations must be observed. Teesside Princess has right of way due to restricted draught. Sounder on board. Crew briefing.
Emergency stop	Passenger + Crew	Low	All passengers must remain seated at all times when the boat is moving. Wheelchairs to be braked when loaded. Electric wheelchairs to power off. Passenger briefing on board. Engine Kill Cord to be used all times. Crew briefing.
Water borne diseases	Passenger + Crew	Low	Diseases, in particular Weil's disease, can be contracted from river water. Always wash hands or other parts of the body if contacted by the water. If feeling flu like symptoms, consult the doctor

Extreme conditions	Passenger + Crew	Low	<p>The Wheelyboat must not be taken from the moorings if the River flow exceeds 120 cumecs (cubic meters per second)</p> <p>Before leaving the Crew must engage with the Barrage staff to ascertain the flow conditions and inform them that the boat is going out. Provide them with a crew phone number and also carry out a VHF radio check.</p>
Fast river flow			
Wind conditions	Passenger + Crew	Medium	<p>The Wheelyboat has a D classification. This limits the condition of when the boat is safe to operate.</p> <p>The Wheelyboat must not operate if the wind speed exceeds 18 mph.</p> <p>The wind speed must be established and recorded before leaving the mooring using the provided wind speed indicator.</p>

Date 12 August 2010

Revised – 21 July, 2013 version 5

Safety belt note and Preston Park Landing stage information added:

Revised 16 June 2018 version 6 Name Change

Revised 8 August 2018 Version Changes made to Falling overboard

Revised 23 July 2023 Max load amended to 869 kg

Revised 25 September 2023 Extreme conditions added