

THE TYNE ROWING CLUBS

SAFETY NOTES



TYNE
rowing club

Newcastle University
Boat Club



ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL



PONTELAND HIGH SCHOOL



NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY



These safety notes in relation to the use of the Tyne have been jointly AGREED by the key clubs using the river:

- Tyne Rowing Club
- Durham University BC
- Northumbria University BC
- Newcastle University BC
- Ponteland High School BC
- Royal Grammar School BC

1. **INTRODUCTION**

All clubs, rowers and coaches are expected to conform to the ARA Water Safety Code, a copy of which should be displayed in each of the premises. Please read these and make sure everyone is aware of their contents

- At all times all rowers should remain calm and courteous to all other river users and show due consideration.
- Do not assume that your outing is any more important than that of any other crew also on the river.
- All clubs must ensure that their members, guests, clubs or crews using their facilities are fully conversant with the safe rowing practices on the river Tyne and that they observe the ARA Water Safety Code.

2. **DIRECTION OF ROWING**

All crews must observe the navigation rules and pass port to port, or in rowing terms stroke side to stroke side. The rules are:

- Crews travelling from west to east (from Wylam to Scotswood or beyond) will keep to the **south bank**, the Newcastle University Club side.
- Crews travelling from east to west (from Scotswood to Wylam) must keep to the **north bank**, the Tyne RC side.

As conditions are never the same from day to day the direction rule must be strictly observed during all training outings. **Under NO circumstances** should any crew that is training disregard the direction rule **particularly on the bends**.

The only time this rule will be relaxed is during a recognised competition

All boats must conform with the ARA Water Safety Code.

3. **CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OUTINGS**

- Outings should not commence in adverse conditions that include strong winds, flood conditions, ice floes, lightning or excessive drift wood.

- Conditions can change rapidly and outings should be terminated as soon as possible
- Conditions can change quickly as a result of the changes in the tides.
- **All launches must cut their wash when passing other crews**; be mindful of the reflection from the vertical wall sections of the river and when passing boat club steps
- Coxed boats are asked to make allowances to their course for coxless boats that may be training in the same area.
- Stationary crews should keep a look-out for other crews and either move out of their way or shout a warning in sufficient time for the other crew to take avoiding action.

4. TRAINING ZONE

- Crews and launches are requested to observe the zone from Newburn Bridge to the slipway where young and inexperienced scullers may be training.
- Please keep any wash or hard pieces to a minimum, especially at training times.

5. LIGHTS AND KIT

- Navigation rules state that boats must show a 360^o white light. (A red flashing light denotes a wreck)
- At night, or dusk, all boats must be clearly lit both fore and aft.
- Comments like 'it was working when we left' will not be considered a responsible action.
- Crews are advised to wear bright visible kit if rowing in the dark.
- Crews wishing to row at night should restrict their outings to the reach between the old power station and the Newburn slipway unless suitably escorted, by a launch or in the company of other crews that should stay in close proximity.
- There is a water ski area to the west of the Newburn slipway and to the east of the Scotswood Bridge. Please respect their use of these areas as we hope they will ours.
- Crews should not go any further than the Redheugh bridge unless accompanied by a launch and the launch has undertaken a risk assessment before allowing crews to proceed.

6. OTHER GENERAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

- It is safer to have a minimum of 3 single scullers in a group if going east of Scotswood bridge
- There are number of posts and old wooden lighthouses that are indicated on maps, which are in the boat houses and attached to these notes.
- At low tides there are extensive mud flats, especially east of Scotswood Bridge, that will not support a person's weight if they are attempting to reach the bank
- At low tides and dropping tides the river is very shallow west of the 'white house' at Ryton
- Please ask people with experience of the river about how to proceed, possible obstructions in the river and where suitable rowing areas are before starting an outing.

7. ALTERNATIVE STEPS

There are steps at

- Tyne Rowing Club
- Newcastle University Rowing Club
- A slipway at Ryton
- Old Newcastle Royal Grammar School Boathouse by Blaydon Bridge
- Lemington Boat Club, opposite Old Newcastle Royal Grammar School Boathouse
- Derwenthaugh Marina

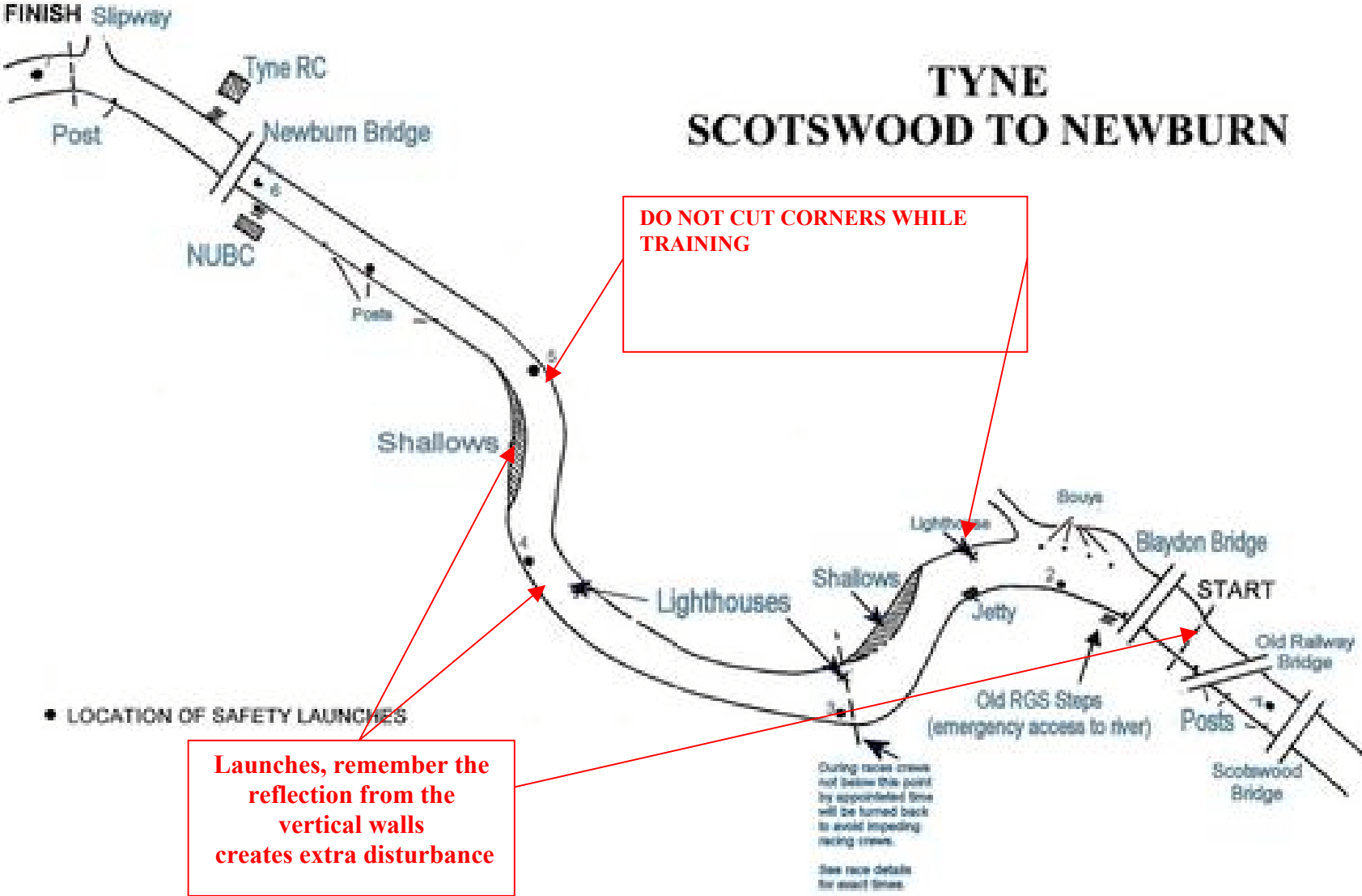
8. REMINDERS

- **CONSIDER OTHER RIVER USERS**
- **THINK SAFETY**
- **CHECK ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT**
- **CONSIDER THE CONDITIONS**
- **DO NOT TAKE RISKS**

IF IN ANY DOUBT DO NOT GO OUT

**KEEP ROWING A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SPORT AND
MAINTAIN COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL OF THE CLUBS
ROWING ON THE TYNE**

TYNE SCOTSWOOD TO NEWBURN



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