

# Hamble Sea Scout Group

Overview 2017

- Around 150 members aged 5-25 (and growing)
  - Around 50 Adult volunteers
    - 8 kayak coaches
    - 5 sailing instructors
    - 7 powerboat instructors
  - 108 years of history on the River Hamble
- Determined to be the best Sea Scout Group in the United Kingdom

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# History

- Hamble is the birthplace of Sea Scouting.
- Sea Scouting began as a result of a scout camp with nautical flavour held on board the TS Mercury in 1909. TS Mercury was at that time a school and sea training establishment in Hamble. As a result of the success of that camp, Sea Scouting was established as an arm within the wider scouting movement.
- The Hamble Sea Scout Group can therefore trace its roots back 108 years on the River Hamble.
- TS Mercury was moored within sight of Mercury Marina.
- 2018 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closure of the TS Mercury training school, and there is likely to be local media interest.
- The Hamble Sea Scout Group is today one of the largest and most successful Sea Scout groups in the United Kingdom.



The original TS Mercury moored on the River Hamble



# The Wider Scout Association

The Scout association is an umbrella organisation for over 7500 scout groups. Each group is a separate charity, with its own trustees and holds its own property and assets. The Hamble Sea Scout Group is charity number 302308.

Individual groups are gathered together into Districts, which are also structured as separate entities.

Districts exist to offer support or activities that groups cannot offer in house, and to provide some centralised services, for instance some aspects of leader training, line management and to organise joint events.

Some Districts control facilities such as campsites or common equipment.

Itchen South District, of which the Hamble Sea Scout group is part, operate a 30 acre campsite and activity centre in Bursledon which may be hired for camping or specific activities.

Districts are grouped into counties, which may operate county wide facilities such as larger centres or campsites, organise county level events or provide support to individual districts.

The Scout Association sets out rules, policies, procedures and general program requirements at a national level for groups to follow.

It is for groups to set and deliver their own programs within that basic framework, for instance in deciding what activity to offer on a weekly basis, or which events to attend based on their members interests, choices, available equipment, facilities available adult volunteers and qualifications.

Within the Scout Association, there are three separate arms, Land Scout, Sea Scouts and Air Scouts, with each arm having a different uniform, and incorporating different activities into the basic program.

As a keen Sea Scout group, our program is naturally focused around the water based qualifications and awards, or delivered on or in connection with the water where the choice or opportunities exist.

To retain members who develop an interest in water sports, the group aims to substantially exceed the minimum recommended provision of scout water activities, and has evolved to operate at an equivalent level to a sailing, rowing and kayaking club alongside the basic Sea Scout provision.

This has resulted in an excellent retention of older members, who remain with the group in instructional roles ensuring that the group retains the skills and expertise to offer a strong and sustainable water based program.

# The Group Structure

## HAMBLE



## SEA SCOUTS

The Hamble Sea Scout Group consists of:

- **Beavers**  
Aged 6-8 there are 26 members and a waiting list of 20. They generally meet on a Monday.
- **Cubs**  
Aged 8-10, there are 36 members and a waiting list of 30. They generally meet on a Wednesday.
- **Sea Scouts**  
Aged 10.5-14 there are 43 members. There is currently no waiting list, as the section structure allows more flexible growth. Their main meeting is on a Friday.
- **Explorers**  
Aged 14-18 there are currently 30 members. There is no waiting list, and the section meets with the Scout section on a Friday evenings, although often arrange bespoke activities.
- **Networks**  
Aged 18-25 the group hosts a number of Network scout members. Generally these have other roles within the group, (often instructors) however they may participate in their own activities and work towards awards such as their Duke of Edenborough's gold award or high level boating qualifications alongside their group roles.
- **Adult helpers and supporters**  
The group is supported by a team of 50 adult helpers who work to support the core leadership team with fundraising, maintaining boats and equipment, transporting boats to events and generally helping out. They hold social events such as BBQs, parties and take part in recreational boating with the group.
- **RYA Training centre**  
The centre runs alongside group, and exist to provide qualifications and water based training to both young people and adults across all sections of the group.
- **The Executive Committee**  
The group is managed by an executive committee who are the group trustees. They hold title to group equipment and property, make strategic decisions, and look after the behind the scenes aspects of running the group.

# Recognitions and achievements

- **Royal Navy Recognition**

Of approximately 336 Sea Scout Groups in the UK, only the best 105 are recognised by the Royal Navy. The inspection process involves a review of program, opportunities, time spent on the water, number of awards issued, and facilities together with a formal inspection by a RN officer which looks at quality of activities and general ethos.

Recognition allows the group to access RN facilities, to participate in activities arranged for RN Sea Scouts, such as camps on board HMS Bristol, to access the RN Sea Scout fund, which may be used to fund boating equipment and gives access to certain training courses at reduced rates



- **RYA training centre status**

The group is an RYA training centre and offers training in, Dinghy Sailing, Keelboat Sailing, Powerboating and First Aid. Tuition, standards, equipment and policies are inspected annually by the RYA.



- **British Canoeing Quality Mark Status**

Is awarded to British Canoeing affiliated canoe clubs who meet higher standards in offering first class activities and club management. Affiliated club status allows the group to draw on the expertise of British Canoeing, access common equipment and training opportunities.



- **Sport England Club Mark**

Is awarded to sports clubs who meet prescribed standards to offer first class activities and club management.



# Competitions and Events

The group is naturally competitive, and aims to take part in a range of events and competitions. The group has enjoyed considerable success in recent years, due largely to the number of boating opportunities available to its members.

## Inter Scout events

### National Scout Regatta 2017

1<sup>ST</sup> under 18 single Kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> Under 16 single Kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> Under 12 Rowing  
And a number of other strong positions

### Solent Scout Sailing Regatta 2017

1<sup>st</sup> Explorer Group overall

### RN Sea Scouts Swimming Gala 2017

1<sup>st</sup> Explorer Group overall

### Solent Scout Regatta 2017

1<sup>st</sup> Scout Group overall  
1<sup>st</sup> Explorer Group overall  
1<sup>st</sup> U12.5 Single kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> U14.5 Single kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> u 112.5 Double Kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> U 14.5 Double Kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> U 16 Kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> U 18 Kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> U 16 double kayak  
1<sup>st</sup> U 18 Canoe  
1<sup>st</sup> U 16 Canoe  
1<sup>st</sup> U16 Pulling  
1<sup>st</sup> U18 Gig

## Public Events

### Great River Race, London (2017) (23 Miles rowing)

1<sup>st</sup> under 18  
1<sup>st</sup> under 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> under 14  
1<sup>st</sup> Scout/ Cadet affiliated  
Best placed boat: 23 out of 323 competing craft

### Round Hayling Island rowing race (2017)

Spirit of event award

### South West Canoe Polo league (2016/17)

Youth league – 3<sup>RD</sup> Place  
A team- 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
B Team- mid table

### National Wavehopper racing league (2016/2017)

2<sup>nd</sup> placed club in the UK out of over 30 clubs.  
A number of paddlers from Hamble won their age groups nationally, including 1<sup>st</sup> Senior, 1<sup>st</sup> u23 Woman, 1<sup>st</sup> u23 Male, 1<sup>st</sup> u18 male, 3<sup>rd</sup> u16 male, 2<sup>nd</sup> u14 male.

### Waterside series kayak races (2017)

2017 was the first year the group took part, and saw the group competing against a number of schools, armed forces and canoe club teams. The group's top placed team finished in a respectable mid table position in the K2 class.

## Local community events

Bursledon Regatta,

River Hamble Games,

Hamble River Raid

## **Other events over the past few years**

### **ASTO small ships race**

The group has participated in the ASTO Cowes Small ships race on a number of occasions, and aims to do so again following the restructure of its yachting provision.

### **Round the Island**

The group has entered its 1720 keelboat in the Round The Island Race in previous years.

### **Old gaffers**

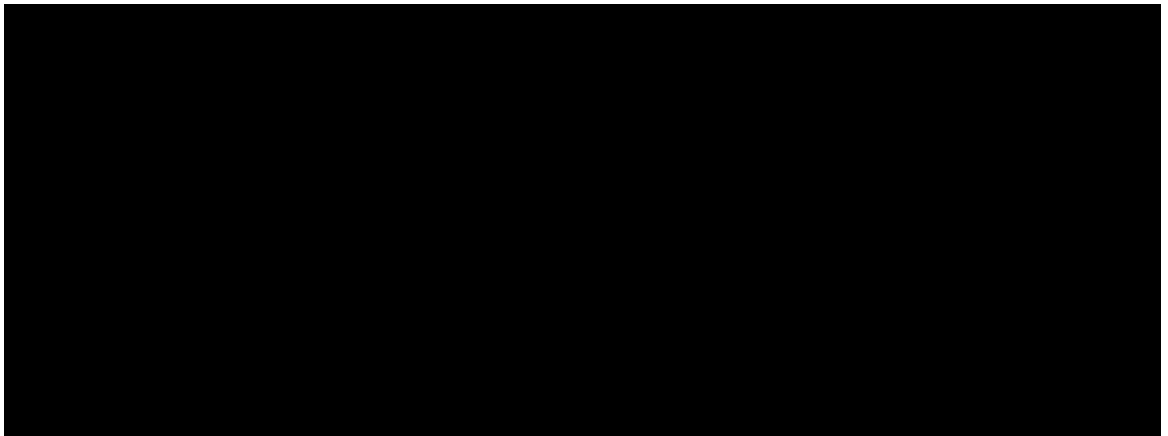
The group has attended many old gaffers races and rallies including Yarmouth, the International Festival of the Sea and others.

### **Devises to Westminster**

The group has been represented in the internationally renowned Devises to Westminster 125 mile kayak race. The group is expecting to enter at least one youth team in the 2018 event.

### **RYA Honda Youth Rib Championship**

The group has entered the RYA Honda Youth RIB Championship on a number of occasions, and has succeeded in qualifying for the finals at Southampton Boat show in the past. The group has recently obtained a RIB of similar specification in order to practice for the event, and expects to compete again in 2018.





# Activities and Equipment

## **Water based**

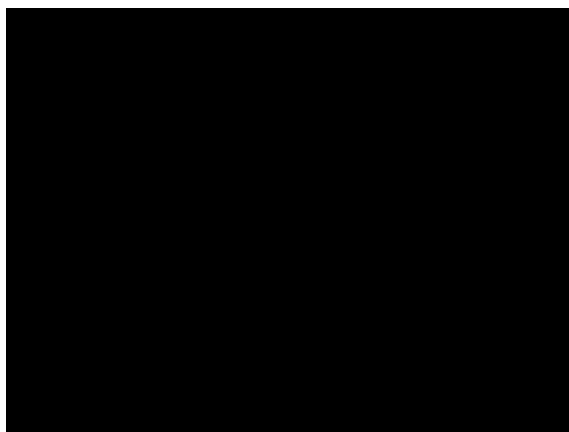
The group aims to deliver and substantially exceed the scout water activities program, and to achieve the same standards and offer equivalent equipment and facilities as found in dedicated activity clubs.

The group aims to offer a progressive activities program, using a range of equipment to cater for all abilities in order to allow members to develop advanced skills, and a past Royal Navy inspecting officer once commented that the group had the best and most diverse boating fleet of all the RN recognised Sea Scout groups. It is aimed that all members will achieve instructor level ability in at least one discipline by the time they reach 16, in order to pass on skills to younger members of the group. A more comprehensive list of the equipment used can be found in Annex 2.

## **Kayaking**

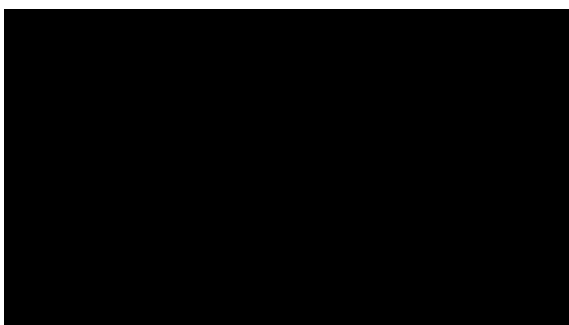
- **Beginners- qualifications**

Members are introduced to kayaking using 11 Dagger Dynamo and 5 Piranha Master junior kayaks. Members work towards British Canoeing star awards on Friday evenings through the summer months, supplemented by weekend training when necessary.



- **Playboating or freestyle**

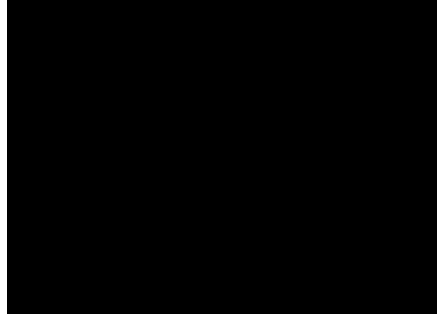
A playboat is the kayak equivalent of a BMX bike, and is designed to perform tricks such as rolls, loops and cartwheels. As members develop skills they move into a fleet of 5 Dagger G force playboats, and some look to buy their own boats better suited to their own weight and size. For many this represents their first step onto the boat ownership ladder.



- **White water**

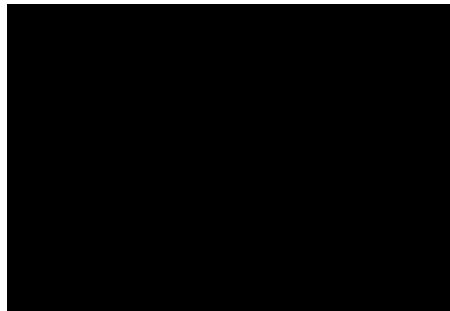
The group run introductory White water trips to locations such as the Nene White Water Centre and Symonds Yat in Wales, once members have mastered the basic skills in Hamble.

Group leaders have extensive white water experience having undertaken expeditions around the world including to the Zambezi, Nile, Grand Canyon and Himalayas among others and can use these experiences to inspire younger paddlers.



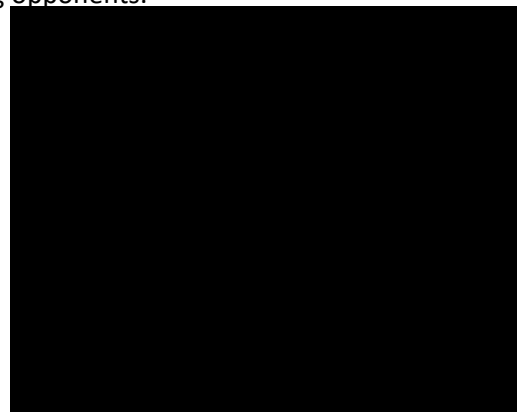
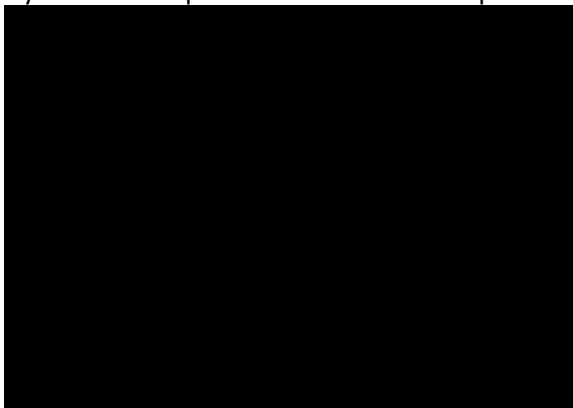
- **Canoeing**

The group have a number of Canadian canoes which are used to offer introductory sessions in canoeing, British Canoeing training awards and for longer trips and overnight expeditions.



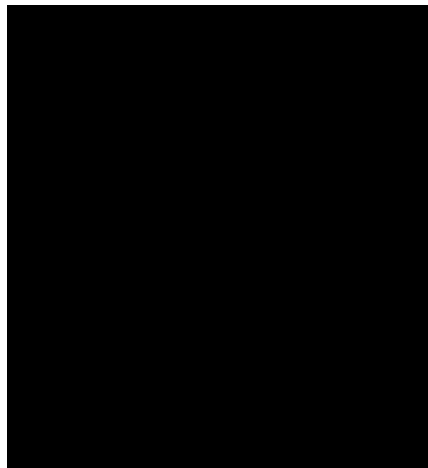
- **Kayak polo**

Kayak polo resembles rugby played in kayaks. The group competes in the south west league, and usually fields at least three teams. The group uses a fleet of 10 specialised plastic polo kayaks for training purposes at the marina, and has a further fleet of carbon fibre competition boats which due to their construction have to be kept inside, and out of direct sunlight. Polo boats can be identified by rubber bumpers which lessen the impact when tackling opponents.



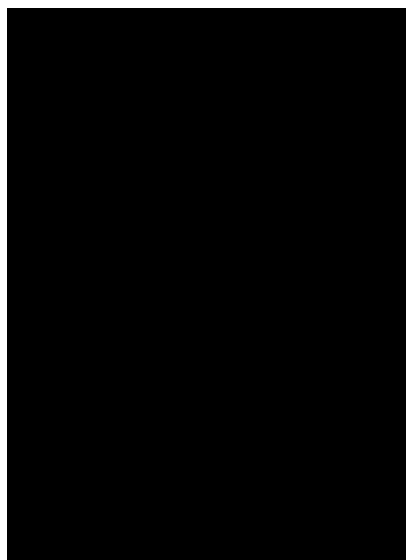
- **Wild Water Racing**

Wild Water racing is the kayak equivalent of downhill racing, and usually takes place on white water. Despite the absence of white water venues in the south of England, there is an active series of 8-10 races in Hampshire and Dorset which make up the southern league. In 2017, the group won southern league and were 2nd placed club in the national league. The group predominantly use a fleet of waverhopper kayaks, identified by their long length and bulbous wings, (designed for stability on white water) together with a selection of lighter GRP and carbon fibre white water racing craft.



- **Marathon/ Race kayaking**

A step up from basic paddling or inter group racing, marathon and race kayaking uses long, narrow, unstable but fast kayaks. The group received a Sport England grant in 2017 to purchase 6 lightning introductory k1 kayaks, and two K2 kayaks to supplement its mixed fleet of K1, K2 and K4 kayaks. The endurance nature of marathon racing means regular training is fundamental success, and keen members possessing the necessary experience can be found race training from the marina at least a couple of evenings a week.



# Powerboating

- **RYA Courses**

The group offers the following RYA Powerboat courses:

RYA Level 1

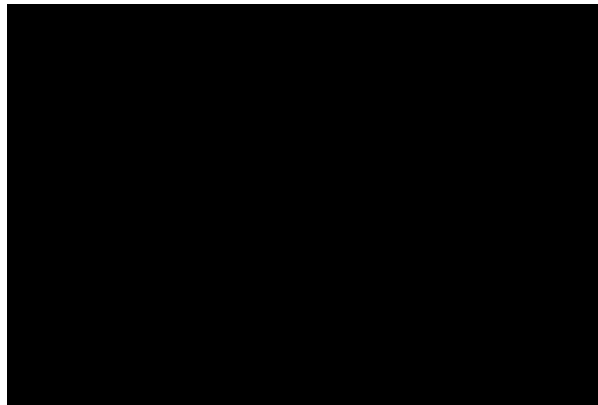
RYA level 2

RYA safety boat

The group has an advanced powerboat instructor within the leadership team, and so aims to obtain a suitable RIB to offer RYA Intermediate and Advanced courses in the future.

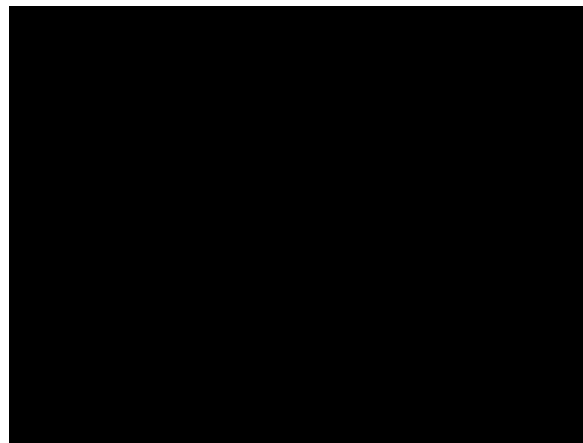
- **Displacement**

The group operate two displacement launches moored in Badnam creek, and provides dedicated tuition in displacement boats, as many members use the skills learnt to obtain employment with the local yacht club water taxi. When not in use training, launches are used as general workboats and to ferry people to the group's moorings. There is the possibility of the group expanding its displacement boat provision in the future with the potential of a larger, wheel steered launch becoming available.



- **Navigation/ trips**

The group has use of an Avon 5.6M Rib, which is used for longer trips, for instance to the Isle of Wight. The group is actively fundraising to replace its RIB with a larger rib of around 6.5m to improve its capability in this area and deliver more advanced courses

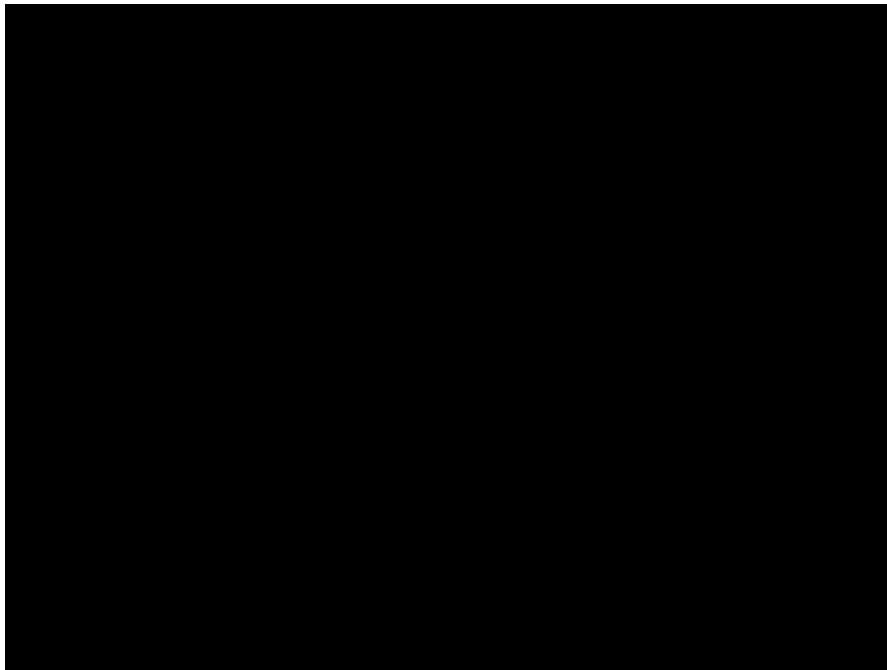


- **General training**

The group operate around 5 other small powerboats of varying styles which are used for general training, and by members who have achieved their Level 2 qualification to practice and develop their skills on a recreational basis.

- **Cross over with safety boat provision**

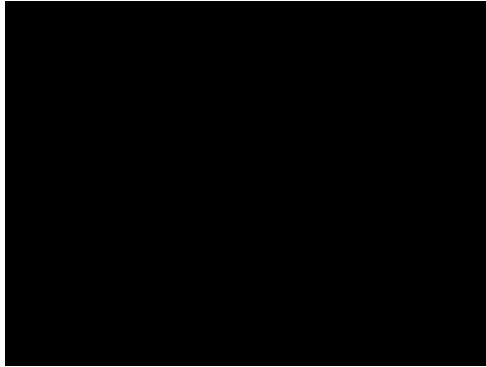
The group's main safety boat fleet consists of three Jeanneau Rigiflex, which are ideally suited to the sheltered area around the marina, but which can be supplemented for larger boats from the training fleet when participant numbers, operating area, activity or conditions require.



## Rowing

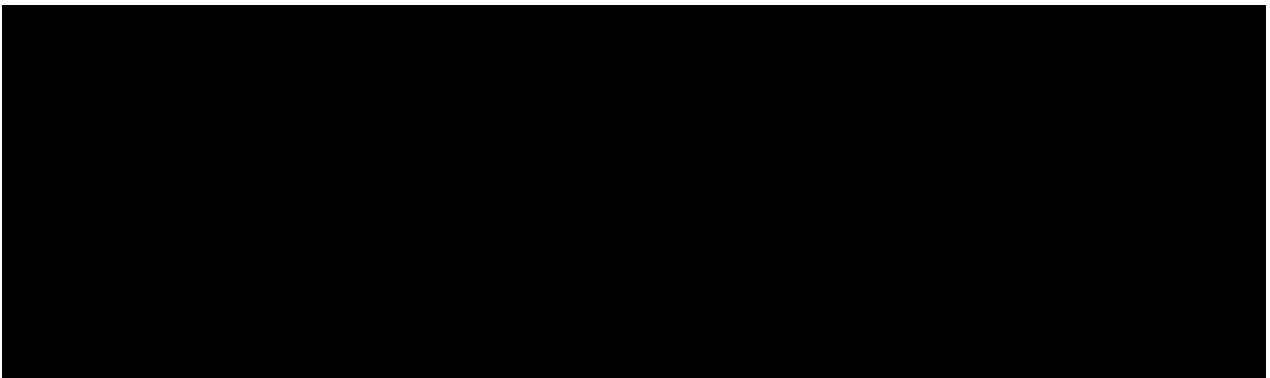
- **Beginners**

Younger members are introduced to rowing using a fleet of Egret dinghies, which are suited to younger members or single handed rowing.



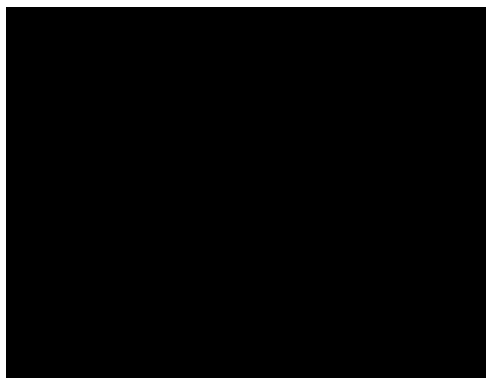
- **Bursledon gig racing**

The group has used Bursledon gigs for over 10 years, and was instrumental in the recent explosion of the class in the Hamble area. The group fields a number of teams at local and national events.



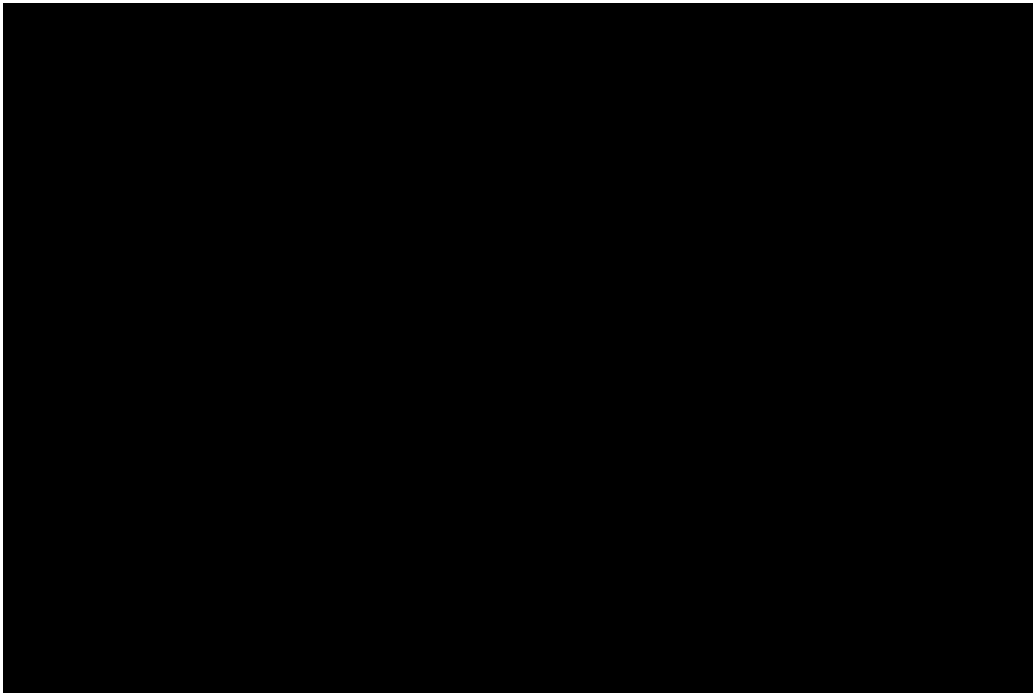
- **Longboats**

Two longboats are available for developing skills in larger boats, or for carrying out trips and expeditions by rowing boat.

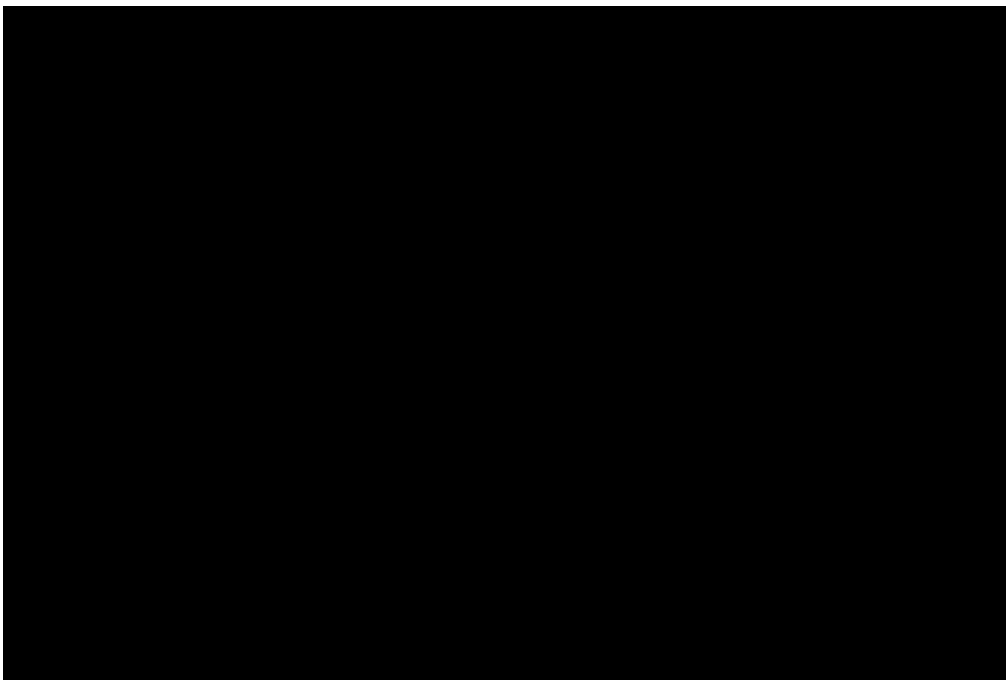


- **Cornish Pilot Gig “Mercury”**

Thanks to a Sport England Grant in 2014 the group operate a Cornish pilot gig. This is generally used by older members who compete in a range of both local and national events, with success, and who often row further afield, with trips to the Isle of Wight not unheard of. The team can often be found training from Mercury Marina shortly before big events.



Mercury at the finish of the Great River Race, London



## Dinghy Sailing

- **RYA Courses**



Dinghy Level 1 – Start Sailing

Dinghy Level 2 – Basic Skills

Dinghy Level 3 – Better Sailing

Dinghy Day Sailing

Dinghy Seamanship Skills

Youth Sailing Scheme – Start Sailing Stage 1

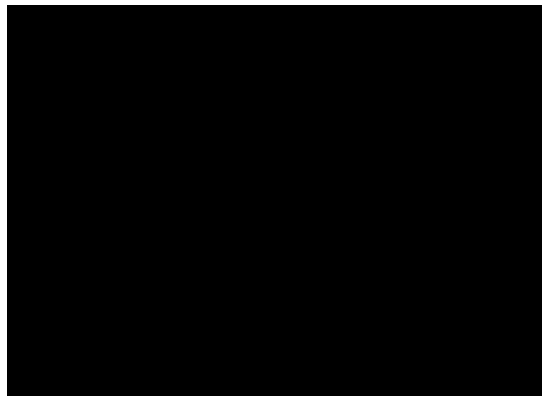
Youth Sailing Scheme – Start Sailing Stage 2

Youth Sailing Scheme – Start Sailing Stage 3

Youth Sailing Scheme – Start Sailing Stage 4

- **Pico fleet**

Beginners are taught using a fleet of laser Pico dinghies, which can be found sailing from Mercury Marina most weeks during the summer.



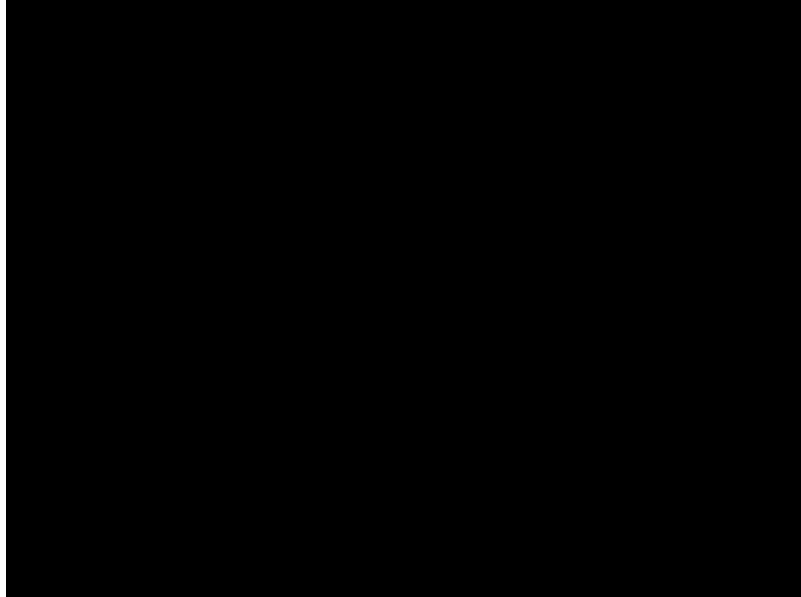
- **Laser fleet**

A fleet of Laser dinghies offer a step up from Pico dinghies, and are increasingly popular as they are simple to rig and fit under the overhead wires at the Marina, meaning a shorter walk to the slipway!



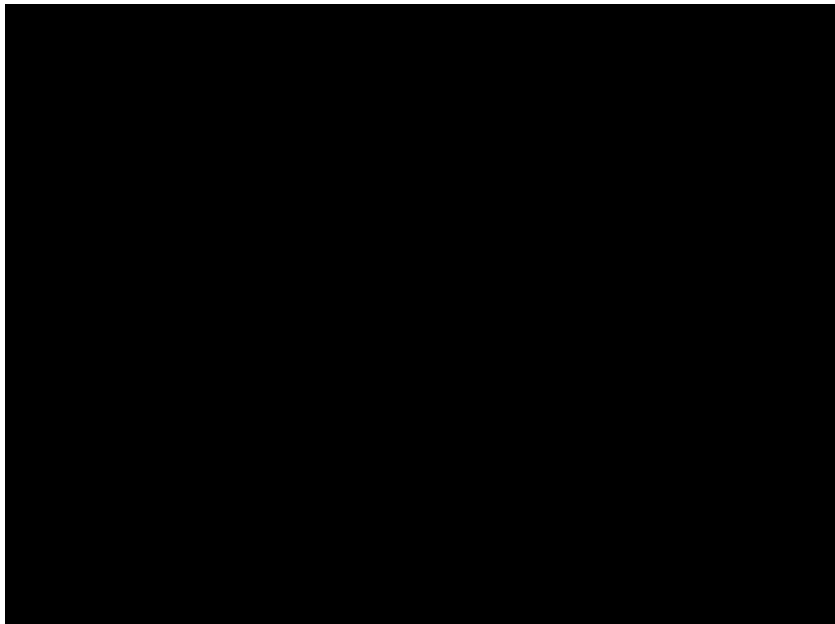
- **Intermediate double handed**

As skills develop, members progress to 3 Bosun dinghies, which were the Royal Navy's standard issue sailing dinghy for many years. Those looking for more excitement have the option of two 420 dinghies, and a Sport 14 for learning asymmetric spinnaker handling. The group is aiming to begin replacing these boats with modern equivalents from RS sailing in the next few years.



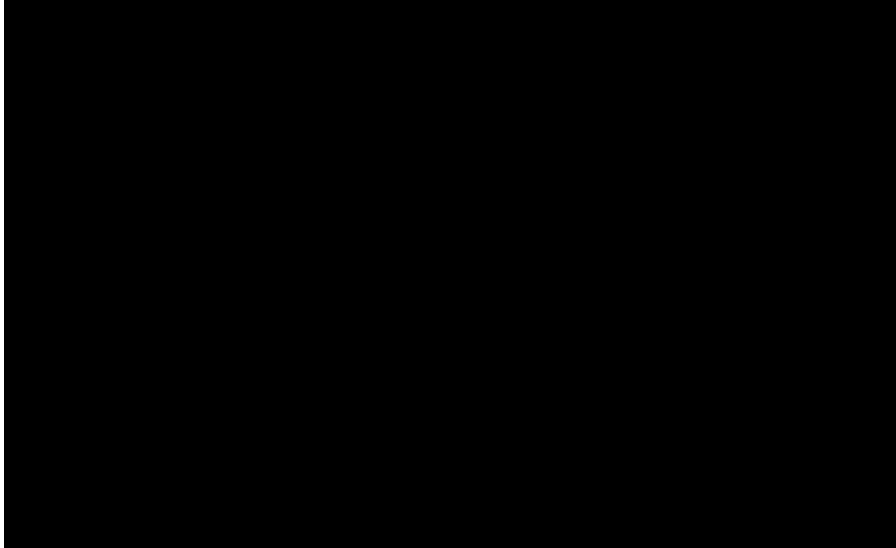
- **Performance sailing**

Skills develop quickly within the group, and so to maintain interest and inspire young people the group operate Spice and ISO high performance dinghies.



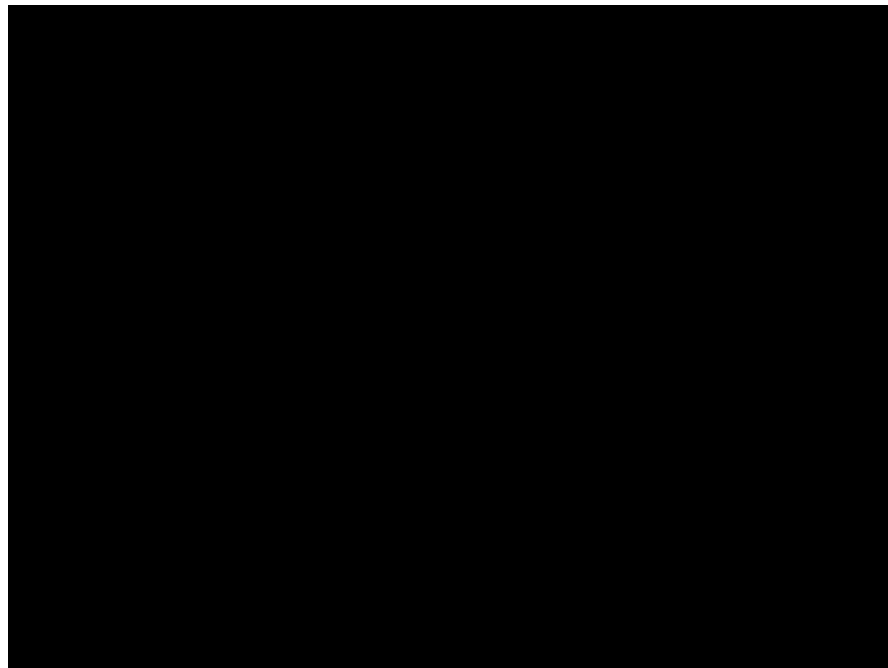
- **Catamaran sailing**

The group have access to two catamarans, giving the opportunity for members to experience different types of boat. Members of the Group represented the UK at the Americans Cup endeavour regatta in Bermuda in 2017, after training from Mercury Marina



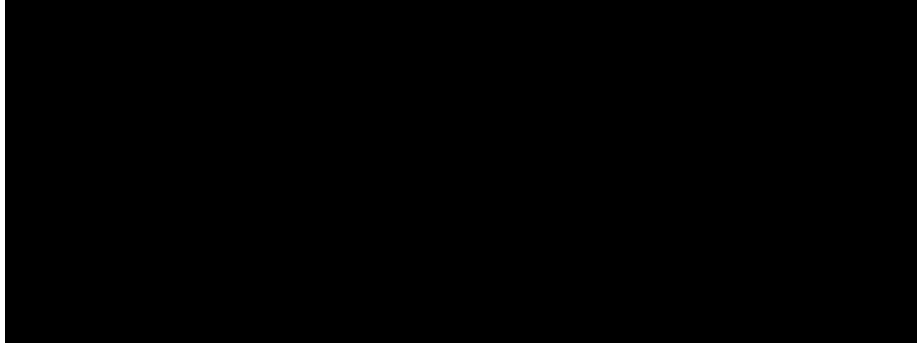
- **Larger boat fleet**

Three Wayfarer dinghies are kept on moorings near to Mercury Marina. They are invaluable for both introducing younger members to sailing under the instruction of a competent skipper, or for undertaking day trips to Southampton water. They are stored ashore at the marina during the winter.

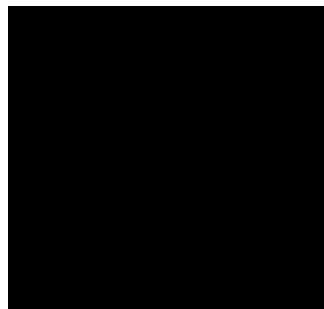


## Keelboat sailing

- The Group uses a Cork 1720 keelboat to offer RYA keelboat qualifications, general introductory sessions and racing opportunities for members. The 1720 is stored at Mercury Marina during the winter.

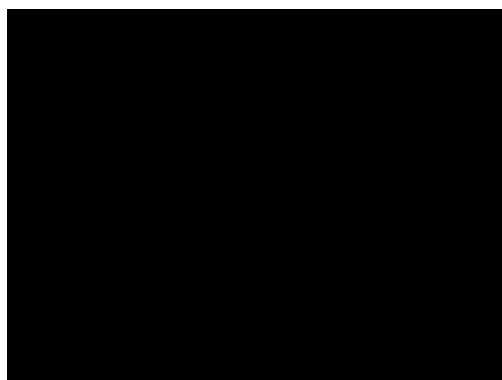


- The 1720 is supplemented by several smaller keelboats or trailer sailors which are ideally suited to those young people looking to step up from dinghy sailing, or to experience different styles of boat (and a more traditional keelboat may be a future possibility). One of the smaller keelboats is considered suitable for less able members who may not be able to move around a traditional dinghy or keelboat, thereby ensuring the group can accommodate all members.



## Yachting

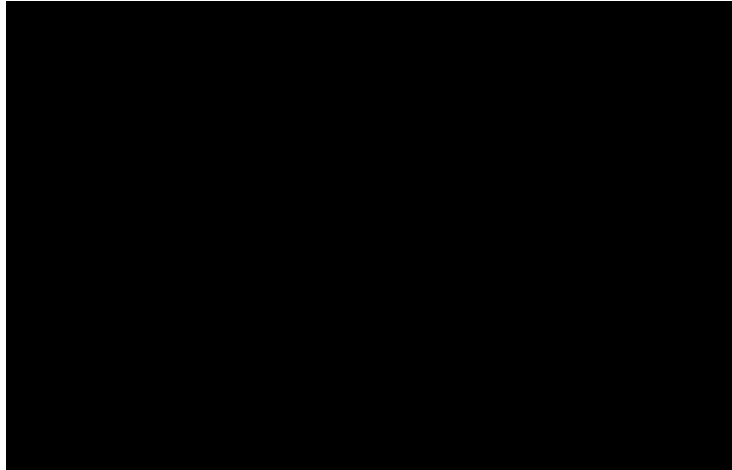
- The group offer introductory yachting trips on board Stonechat, a 33ft Gaff ketch.



- In late 2016, the group was bequeathed Artimon, a Westerly Renown. The group is aiming to consolidate its yachting provision into a single low maintenance cruiser racer of around 40ft in the near future, and to replace Stonechat with a smaller gaffer to allow continued participation in gaffers events while being able to store ashore during the winter months to save maintenance, and is looking to refurbish an Itchen Ferry hull that was donated for this purpose.

## Dragon boating

- The Group own a Dragon boat, which has been used to introduce younger beavers and cubs to boating, and for promotional events. The boat is currently undergoing a refit at the group's workshop.



## Other water activities

- **Raft Building**  
The general scout program requires rope work and knots to be taught, and so the group offer raft building on occasions.
- **Windsurfing**  
The group has a number of Windsurfers which are used for both safety boat training and occasional windsurfing instruction, usually during the warmer summer months.

## Development areas

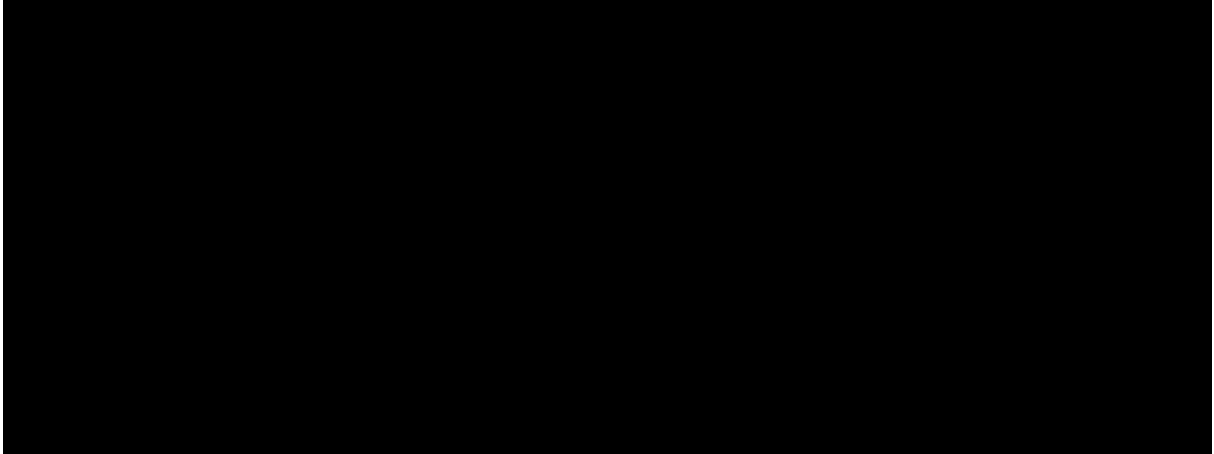
The group actively looks to broaden its activity base and appeal as opportunities or funding arise. In the long term it expects to see the following activities offered:

- Sculling/ fine boat rowing (a number of group members have joined rowing clubs in the Southampton area due to the lack of provision in Hamble)
- Paddle boarding
- Outrigger/ Polynesian canoeing
- Sea Kayaking

## Land based

During the winter months the group offer a full range of land based activities that would be expected of a scout group, including cooking, first aid (inc RYA First Aid), camping, climbing, shooting, archery, and general outdoor activities.

Nautical theory, such as chart work, GPS, VHF procedures, rope work and passage planning are also taught.



The group has a large boat maintenance facility and members are required to participate in maintenance of their equipment. This can be split into maintaining the group's main core fleet, and refurbishing project boats obtained in order that specific skills can be learnt. For this reason, it is not uncommon to see a selection of different boats at the marina while awaiting work or onward sale.



# Current Facilities

## Mercury Marina

- 549 Sq M gravel storage compound which provides accommodation for approximately 45 boats and in excess of 80 kayaks in the summer months. In the winter, boats usually stored on group moorings are also stored here. Details can be seen in Annex 1.
- Small shed, for equipment storage. This is supplemented with the groups box trailer, which doubles up as a dry shelter when not in use moving equipment and smaller kayaks around the country.
- 120sqm space shared with the Amazon Sea Scout Group.
- Use of gravel car park and grass area for parades, practical teaching, boat rigging etc.
- Space in Badnam creek for two 16ft launches.
- Marina Dinghy Park for short periods when access to the slipway or Badnam creek is not possible.
- Emergency use of marina showers if required to comply with RYA centre requirements.
- Use of tenants' toilets when available.

## Hamble River

- 5 swinging moorings between Mercury and Bursledon for Wayfarer dinghies and small cruisers.
- Deepwater piled mooring (shared with Warsash Sea Cadets,) for a yacht and 1720 keelboat (In late 2016 the group was bequeathed a second yacht. This has occupied the mooring usually reserved for the group's keelboat until such time as yachting provision can be consolidated into a single larger yacht).
- Use of Badnam creek for beginners boating sessions.
- Easy access to two large areas open areas of river for dinghy sailing.
- Centrally located to provide shelter for beginners, easy access to both Southampton water and the top of the Hamble enabling us to offer a range of water activities from beginners to advanced.

## Headquarters building, Hamble Lane

- 293 Sq m meeting hall, with separate classroom.
- 222 Sq m combined boat maintenance workshop, stores and archery range.
- Use of paddock for campfires and outside activities.
- Direct access to the Royal Victoria Country Park for evening activities.

With average attendance of upwards of 60 people, the headquarters is at capacity when members break out for small group training sessions, with many activities taking place outside for space reasons. For over 15 years, the group operated a second facility in Hamble Village and ran activities simultaneously at both venues at times of peak demand.

# Mercury Marina usage

## **Main meeting night (Scouts and Explorers):**

Friday evening (May- September). Average attendance is around 60 young people, although the record attendance 103 young people. The group meet at the marina each week, the only exception being particularly adverse weather due to the lack of changing facilities.

## **Beavers**

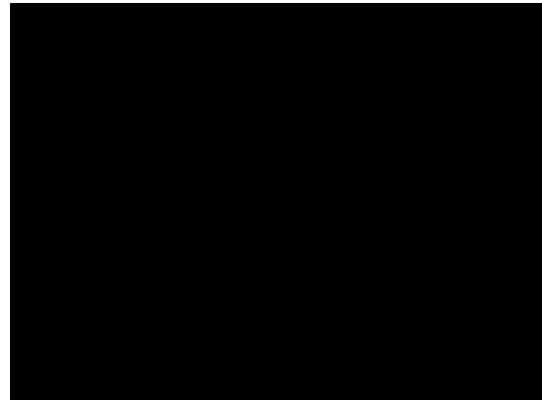
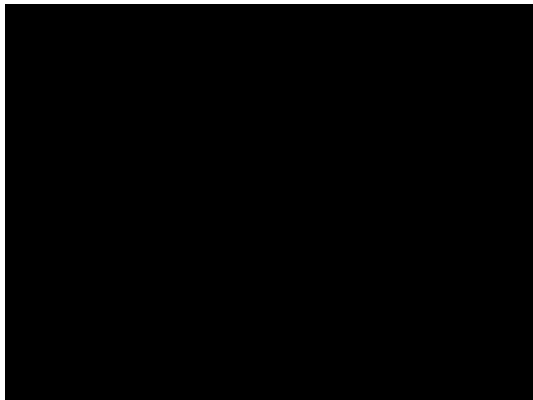
The Beaver section organise an average 5 evenings per year, which need to co- inside with high tides and good weather.

## **Cubs**

The Cub section organises an average of 5 evenings per year, usually to co- inside with high tides

Due the age of Beavers and Cubs, the amount of time afloat is dictated by both good tides and favourable weather. Improved facilities, with inside space for changing or shelter would allow greater flexibility for the sections.

The group development plan has identified a need to increase the amount of time on the water for Beavers and Cubs, and steps are being taken towards this.



## **Specific training sessions:**

4 gig teams

Numerous kayak teams

3 Polo teams

All use the marina for training purposes in the run up to key regattas and events, usually at times to suite team members. As a result, it is not uncommon to see a team training from the marina almost every day, especially during the summer.

## **Weekend events (All year)**

### **RYA courses**

On average, the group runs 5 weekend RYA courses a year, (due to instructor numbers, courses are usually oversubscribed)

### **General Sessions**

The group organises ad hoc boating sessions when weather, tide and leader availability make it appropriate to do so. During the summer months, there is generally something on every weekend.

### **Peer led sessions**

Those members who have been assessed as competent under the Scout Association's adventurous activity permit scheme may use equipment (usually kayaks and rowing boats) outside of organised activity times, and the group encourages this to build independence and develop skills. Young People can usually be found at the marina most weekends, and most days during the school holidays, meaning the group's base is in almost constant use.

### **Events**

The group attend a number of events around the Hamble and Solent area for which they can often be seen departing or returning by boat.

### **Usage patterns and opportunities**

Small boat use at Mercury Marina is dependent on sufficient tide. As a result, the group has evolved to offer sessions for larger numbers when the tide allows, or to offer kayaking when it is not possible to launch larger boats.

### **Predicted group growth (Internal)**

The group is aiming to increase the boating opportunities available to its Cubs and Beavers, and has begun training additional instructors to offer greater opportunities in these sections. This is likely to result in the purchase of boats suited to younger people, (eg Optimists) in time, and will result in greater use of the marina by the younger sections.

The group has waiting lists of over 50 and is actively planning to open second sections to meet this demand.

### **Predicted Group Growth (External)**

There are over 1500 new houses being built or planned in the local area, including 80 at Mercury Marina many of which will accommodate families. As a result the group is preparing for unprecedented demand, and anticipates doubling in size over the next 5 years to accommodate this increase in demand.



## **External parties**

The group often receive requests from third parties or other scout groups to use facilities at Mercury, or to participate in courses run by the group.

The group understood that MDL did not want the group to give permission to others to use the facilities other than as part of group activities, and has declined these requests, while the RYA have made it clear that in view of the very limited facilities, the group should not offer courses to anyone other than members of the group, or on limited occasions to members of the wider scout association, however, if the right facilities were available and appropriate permission given, opportunities for increasing usage could be considered.

## **General Growth potential**

The RYA has identified significant growth potential for clubs and organisations in the area, and has suggested that the group, as a recognised training centre consider innovative membership options, open days or similar to meet demand for increased participation, on top of the groups organic growth potential.

The group has welcomed these suggestions with caution, as its current facilities and indeed structure would not stand an explosion in participation in this way, however, if MDL were minded to encourage such initiatives and suitable facilities were available, the viability of such options could be considered in greater depth.

The Arkenford Watersports Participation Survey identified the increasing popularity of low cost water sports, and the continued popularity of canoeing, which is the only water sport to see year on year growth in participation. The group have considerable experience in providing opportunities and training for small boat use, and in particular canoeing and so an improvement in facilities at the Marina would allow this naturally increasing demand to be met.

Indeed, the growth trend was recognised in 2017 by Sport England who awarded the group a substantial grant in an effort to improve kayaking facilities in the Hamble area, after acknowledging demand. While this has been used to fund additional kayaks, additional infrastructure would allow greater opportunities to meet this recognised demand.

Further research suggests a shift away from traditional boat ownership models towards use of club operated boats and equipment, with people increasingly opting to join a club or organisation and using shared equipment rather than buying and maintaining their own boats. The group have been operating largely on the basis of use of group equipment for many years and are therefore already well positioned to meet the changing face of participation in boating.

While growth brings many challenges, the group are keen to explore all possibilities and opportunities.

# Community involvement

The group is directly involved in the following community events

- Hamble River Raid
- River Hamble Games
- Try a boat/ get wet / demonstration days (for both MDL (Hamble Point) and others in the past)

The group has excellent working relationships with local clubs and organisations, including:

Hamble River Rowing

River Hamble Combined Clubs

Southampton Canoe Club

Sharks kayak club

Pool Harbour Kayak club

Winchester Canoe Club

Langstone Pilot gig Club/ Langstone Cutters Rowing Club

Eastney gig club

Hampshire Scouts

Itchen South Scouts

RN Sea Scouts

The group regularly attends events hosted by these organisations.



A suitable facility and event space would allow the group the opportunity to host events for these and others at Mercury Marina if needed.

# Funding

The group is funded primarily by:

## **Member's subscriptions;**

These are set at a level to be affordable to as many as possible, and provision is made for those on lower incomes in order that no one is prevented from participating.

## **Gift aid**

As a charity, the group is able to collect gift aid on qualifying income.

## **Grants**

The group actively pursues available grants, and has been successful in making applications to Sport England (for rowing and kayaking) and many others.

## **Sponsorship from local businesses**

The group relies on the support of local business, and many recognise the benefits of supporting a charity which is regularly seen out and about in both the local community and further afield.

## **Hamble River Raid**

The River Raid was established by supporters of the group, and now sees over 50 boats compete in one of the largest charity races of its type on the south coast.

## **Sales**

The group welcomes the donation of boats, and boat jumble which it can then use if suitable for the group's needs, or sell on to fund its work, and for this reason it is not uncommon to see changes in the boats kept by the group at the marina, as items are donated or sold. Sufficient space to absorb donations until they can be sold is therefore invaluable.

## **General fundraising.**

The group carries out general fundraising activities such as parties, sponsored events and similar to supplement its income streams.

## **Past fundraising successes**

The group has a strong past record, and in:

- 2001 raised over £20,000 to replace the asbestos roof and re wire its headquarters the building,
- 2014 raised over £80,000 to build a new workshop, storage and archery facility adjacent to its headquarters building
- 2017 has raised around £10,000 towards refurbishing and redecorating its headquarters.



# Development Plan

The group has a detailed growth strategy, which can be summarised as:

- Increased water activity provision for younger sections, in order that skills are developed at an earlier age, resulting in a greater number achieving high level qualifications during their time with the group.
- General organic expansion by opening a second Cub and Beaver groups.
- Improving succession planning by training additional leaders, instructors and volunteers to ensure the group remains sustainable in the long term.
- Improving and modernising equipment to minimise maintenance time and offer first class boating opportunities.

Specific projects currently underway are:

- Building refurbishment:  
To refurbish its meeting hall to provide additional storage space, teaching areas and rifle range
- RIB replacement:  
To replace its No.1 Safety boat with a newer and larger RIB
- Yacht replacement:  
To consolidate its yachting provision into a single modern yacht of around 40ft
- Dinghy replacements:  
To replace its intermediate sailing dinghy fleet with modern low maintenance boats.

For a number of years the group has viewed the position at Mercury Marina as a limiting factor in its development. The redevelopment of the marina therefore represents an unrivalled and exciting opportunity for the group to develop to meet the needs of the community, and could provide the springboard needed for the group to substantially improve its service to the community.

## National Support

The group is working closely with [REDACTED], the British Canoeing regional development officer, and who has pledged the support of British Canoeing to the project.

The group has met with [REDACTED], the RYA Regional Officer, who has offered support and advice, and who is keen to see the Training Centre aspect of the group benefit from improved facilities.

The group has spoken with British Rowing, who have offered support and advice, and with which the group is planning to develop greater links.

# The Future!

The group has assessed the strength and weaknesses of its current facilities in order to form an ideal specification for improved facilities.

## Requirements

Item	Current	Issue	Preferred solution
Boat storage space	The group has 549m <sup>2</sup> of boat storage space available.	The area is at capacity, especially during the winter when some boats are brought ashore. The need to move boats to get to others is time consuming, while lifting boats onto racks has the potential to result in injury, and requires careful supervision. The open nature of the area has resulted in thefts in the past. The area floods at very high tides, which results in trailers having a very short lifespan.	A replacement area should at least be the same size. Ideally, it should allow some room for growth, it should be enclosed and lockable, to minimise the risk of theft, and be laid out in such a way as to allow easy access to all equipment without moving other items, which will also result in a tidier solution, although that may result in a greater surface area. A firm base e.g. concrete would be a significant improvement. The need for storage racks should be reduced. It should be possible to store some high value or fragile boats inside.  (Please see Annex 4 for suggested layouts )
Inside Storage space	The group has a small shed of inside storage (for sails, paddles, life jackets etc)	This is full to capacity! This delays activities, and makes correct equipment storage difficult.  There are many items which should be stored inside, such as high value racing kayaks, which are not able to be kept inside at present.	Increased internal storage would make activities easier to run, while improved storage would mean equipment lasts longer.  Improved boat storage would allow the group to operate at a higher level with better equipment.

Toilets	Toilet facilities are limited	The tenant's toilets have been out of use for some time, while the main marina facilities are a considerable distance from the group's facility, resulting in difficulty in supervising young people over a large area.	Safeguarding considerations mean that use of public toilets is not ideal, as it is not known who else may be using them. Toilets closer to the group's area of operation will make supervision easier.
Showers	None  (other than a hosepipe for washing boats/ engines)	At present there are no showers. Access to showers and changing rooms is a condition of RYA centre recognition which has to date been overcome by explaining that the marina facilities could be opened in an emergency, or members can arrive dressed for boating. This position is subject to annual review by the RYA who may not always be as accommodating, thereby placing the group's ability to offer first class training at risk.	For safeguarding reasons, showers should not be public, further adults and young people should not share facilities. The Group operates in some capacity most evenings and weekends (often at different times to suite the tide) and so shared facilities may not be effective.  Facilities should accommodate at least the groups average attendance = 60 young people, plus instructors.  As a result, dedicated facilities for the group would be the preferred solution.
Changing rooms	None	As for showers, see above. Members are currently able to change discreetly between boats or cars. This will no longer be possible if it is intended to make the site more "public" or centralise the car park.	Average attendance of 60 young people plus at least 10 adults means a need for at least 4 changing rooms, (or 6 smaller rooms) in common with showers.
Classroom/ inside teaching spaces	None (although	Lack of shelter makes group	While the group has a hall elsewhere, a room

	gazebos have been used in the past)	activities susceptible to bad weather. This results in lower attendance as parents are unsure if activities may be cancelled at short notice. Moving people from the marina to the group's headquarters for "dry" teaching is rarely practical.	or rooms suitable for instruction of limited numbers, or to provide shelter in the event of rain would be invaluable in both meeting its obligations as a RYA training centre, and increasing the number of boating opportunities.  Electricity (for charging radios) lights and heat would be greatly appreciated!
Covered outside spaces / wet area	Use of group's box trailer	This is cramped, and not suitable for more than a few people to shelter in.	A wet classroom, or covered space would be invaluable for those in boating kit to receive instruction, or shelter from the weather. Sufficient size/ height to allow practical demonstrations with boats would be invaluable. This could be combined with internal boat storage space.
Security	High value boats currently chained or wired together	Chaining and wiring boats is a time consuming task, especially after sessions have finished and is not fool proof.  Thefts of both boats and small parts have been experienced in the past.  While the group carries insurance, the loss of a boat and wait for insurance monies could prejudice an event or training activities. Theft of	Increased public access will increase the security risk, and items such as kayaks and fuel tanks can be relatively high value but easily stolen. Consideration must therefore be given to security, and the group would favour a lockable compound for larger boats and increased inside storage for smaller boats.

		small items from boats is a significant inconvenience, may raise a safety concerns and disrupts activities.	
Slipway	Use of slipway at any time (roughly 1hr either side of LW for larger boats)	<p>It is sometimes impossible to run boating activities, or necessary to leave boats in the marina dinghy park at low tide, which then require a volunteer to move them on the next available tide.</p> <p>The group risk assessment identifies the slipway as a high risk area due to its shared nature, resulting in members mixing with the public launching boats.</p>	<p>A slipway accessible at all states of the tide would open additional boating possibilities for the group, and reduce the need to leave boats in the marina dinghy park while waiting for the tide.</p> <p>The group's boats vary in size from the smallest of kayaks to large/ heavy boats and so access to a slipway suitable for a verity of boats should be maintained.</p> <p>The group suggests retaining the existing slipway, in addition to restoring/ extending the neighbouring deep water slipway in order that some separation can be achieved between the public launching area (on the restored long slipway) and groups main activities/ small boats (from the current slipway) especially at busy times, albeit the longer slipway could be used by the group around low water.</p>
Safety		<p>There are overhead cables which mean sailing dinghies need to be moved a long way, though car parking areas.</p> <p>Moving boats is both a deterrent to</p>	<p>A design such that young people could be separated as far as possible from other users would improve safety.</p> <p>Use of the current grass area is invaluable.</p>



		sailing, and forces members to mix with other marina users/ cars.	The group would favour a location as close as possible to the slipway to minimise movement around the site.
Safeguarding		The nature of the site makes direct supervision challenging.	Centralising the groups activities, facilities and water access would make supervision easier, benefiting both the group members and general public.
Long term security		Development rumours over the past 15 years have caused concern within the group.	A long lease, or other form of security would allow the group to plan and invest in the future. Security of tenure may be essential for to attract funding if this was required.
Growth (long term)		The group has a large waiting list, and together with the number of houses being built in the local area (including 80 in the marina) and the increasing popularity of the activities offered by the group, it is likely the group will need to expand in the near future.	Due to anticipated demand, consideration should be given to future growth potential, and the solution scaled to allow room for growth.
The Amazon Sea Scout Group	Neighbours	The groups operate independently as neighbours, with no formal restriction on usage times, meaning both can offer as much time on the water as they are able.	Any new facility should cater for continued independent operation of the different groups.

# Possible solutions

The group has considered a range of possible options, and has set out its thoughts below:

<p>Access to public facilities</p>	<p>While access to facilities shared with the public or other organisations could represent a slight improvement, we believe this would not be ideal for the following reasons:</p> <p><b>Usage limitations</b> The group operate, in some form most evenings of the week and many weekends and so use of a facility at as set time or evenings may have the effect of restricting the group’s activities.</p> <p><b>Competition from other users</b> Given the groups existing usage levels, it is not clear how other users could be accommodated within the same facility.</p> <p><b>Safeguarding concerns of using a joint facility</b> Under safeguarding guidelines, it is not usually considered appropriate for adults and young people to share changing facilities, especially public facilities for which other users are unknown.</p> <p>As a result, access to public facilities may be of limited benefit, or may be restrictive to the groups operation.</p> <p><b>Cost/ service charge</b> We appreciate a facility will cost to operate. However an externally set service or cleaning charge may be unaffordable, as it is generally easier for a charity to secure one off funding than annual income. Increasing membership fees may be a bar to participation.</p> <p>The group would therefore favour a solution involving paying for only services consumed, which it has greater control over.</p> <p>For these reasons a dedicated facility would be preferable.</p>
<p>A dedicated pavilion style facility</p>	<p>A bespoke and dedicated facility would allow the group thrive.</p> <p>Architecture could allow the building to fit within the style of the proposed new development.</p> <p>Please see Annex 3 for pictures of similar facilities in use elsewhere, and Annex 4 for indicative sketches from the group.</p> <p>A possible option may be to have a building raised from the ground to allow for high tides, thereby providing storage space underneath for smaller boats and reducing the group’s total footprint. This may be more cost effective than raising the</p>

	<p>ground level around the top of the slipway above the (spring) high water mark.</p> <p>Such a facility could be of a semidetached design in order to provide for the Amazon Sea Scout Group as well in order that savings could be achieved in terms of services and build costs while allowing each organisation to maintain its independence and access its respective proportion of the building independently or simultaneously.</p>
<p>A facility styled or based on the existing shed at the top of the slipway, perhaps refurbishment of the existing building</p>	<p>Refurbishment/ recladding of the existing blue shed may be more economical than a new build.</p> <p>It is anticipated planning permissions would be easier for a refurbishment or like for like replacement as the footprint and visual impact is already set. The existing height could assist in setting a precedent for your own development if this was required, and the visual impact from the river would be negligible, indeed the blue shed is something of a landmark, being prominent from the river.</p> <p>A restored traditional structure may have aesthetic value. Examples elsewhere include the Event Centre in Cowes Yacht Haven, Goodwood circuit, Bicester Heritage or even Shamrock Quay which use period commercial buildings to good effect. A refurbished “boat shed” style facility may add aesthetic value to the redevelopment, and provide a link with the areas heritage.</p> <p>The existing structure would provide ample accommodation for the group, especially if a second floor was added over part. Kayaks or high value boats could be stored inside, along with smaller dinghies which could potentially be left rigged and ready to sail, greatly reducing work for volunteers. A secure compound to the north side of the building would provide hard standing space for larger boats, (out of sight of the redeveloped boardwalk area). A modest extension could allow the same building to accommodate the Amazon Sea Scout Group a well.</p> <p>During the summer months, much of the main building could be available for general tuition, event hosting, or small boat storage. During the winter months, when increased space is needed for boats usually stored on moorings, the facility could be used to provide additional storage.</p> <p>The existing hardstanding around the building could be utilised, substantially reducing the costs to MDL of removal, and providing a useful asset to the group.</p> <p>As an existing structure, buy in from funders, planners and others may be easier to obtain.</p>

	<p>The condition of the current structure, possibility and cost of refurbishment is unknown, although a replacement structure of the same basic dimensions and appearance may be possible, while a building of a similar nature may be relatively economical to build.</p> <p>This would be the groups preferred solution.</p>
Use of a new industrial unit	<p>The initial cost may be lower than a dedicated building, however it would place the group closer to other users/ car park, and it is unlikely that a boat storage compound would be located close by, forcing members to move around the site.</p> <p>The cost to MDL may be higher in the long term as the loss of an asset that could be rented out to others on commercial terms.</p>
Some form of floating facility	<p>A landmark boat, barge or vessel could enhance the area, draw visitors to the area and provide a signature facility. It would not impact on the land, freeing up space for other uses, (such as a dinghy park for the groups dinghies) or “cost” the marina space.</p> <p>A boat would require greater upkeep than a traditional building. Internal space may be limited by size/ layout, and may result in a boat larger than the existing barges. The available depth may impact on the size or style of vessel, and a suitable boat may be challenging to obtain.</p> <p>Consideration would need to be given to both drainage and environmental issues, but the option may be possible if MDL plan to encourage house boat use in the area.</p> <p>Please see Annex 3 for examples of floating facilities in use elsewhere.</p>

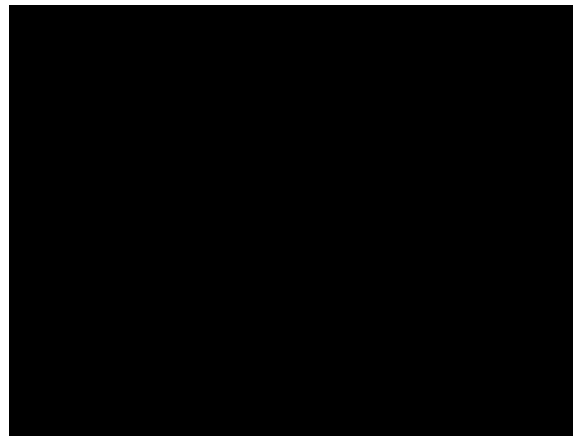
While a turnkey facility would allow the group to focus its efforts on its current activity provision and existing projects the group view this as a landmark opportunity, and as a result it would gladly investigate the possibility of pursuing additional funding if this was required to make a high, or higher, quality facility a reality.

# Conclusion

The group provides a huge range of activities for the local community, and has many years' experience of doing so with great success. The group is facing unprecedented demand, which is likely to increase due to significant residential development in the local area.

The redevelopment of Mercury Marina provides an excellent opportunity for the group to cement its current position as the leading youth activity provider within Hamble and the surrounding area and to substantially improve the facilities and services available to the local community.

Improved facilities for the group would provide a focal point of activity within the scheme and greater opportunities for participation in boating for the local community. Supporting youth to access the water in this way will not only benefit the Mercury redevelopment scheme in the short term, but MDL in the long term as a continued flow of experienced and trained young boating enthusiasts are cultivated who will in time look to buy their own boats or enter the marine industry.



# Key Contacts

**Hamble Sea Scout Group Sailing Centre Principal**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Hamble Sea Scout Group Chairperson**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Hamble Sea Scout Group GSL**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

# Annex 1

## Current facility

Google Maps



Imagery ©2017 Google. Map data

Measure
Total 549.3 (.912.76)
Total 91.6 (300. )



An overview of the group's facility, taken during the winter with keelboats and some dinghies ashore for the winter.

## Annex 2

### Equipment size guide

Boat	Number	Boat length (m) (exc trailer/ engine)
<b>Power</b>		
Rigiflex 360	3	3.6
Ally boat	1	5.4
White rescue boat	1	4.5
Small Rib	1	4.65
Grey Rib (to be replaced with 6.5m+)	1	4.85/ 6.5+
Blue Rib	1	5.65
Speed boat	2	4
<b>Rowing</b>		
Egret	4	3.65
Bursledon gig	2 (+)2	4.87
Longboat	2	6.7
Pilot Gig	1	9.75
Dragon Boat	1	12.19
<b>Dinghy Sailing</b>		
Pico	5 (6)	3.6
Laser	5 (6)	4.19
Bosun	3	4.26
420	2	4.20
Sport 14	1	4.20
Iso	1	4.75
Spice	1	4.25

<b>Catamaran sailing</b>		
Dart		5.4 x 2.29
Hobie		3.96 x 2.13
<b>Small keelboat</b>		
Flying 15		6.1
Mc Wester		4.6
Vivacity		6.1
<b>Boats wintered ashore</b>		
Wayfarer	3	4.8
Trailer sailor	1	5.4
Launch	2	4.8
1720	1	7.9
<b>Equipment / trailers</b>		
Tractor	1	3.5 x 1.62
Box	1	4.7 x 2.10
Canoe	1	4.7 x 2.10
Laser	1	4.7 x 2.10
<b>Kayaks and Canoes</b>		
Dynamo	11	2.20 x 0.54
Master	5	2.66 x 0.64
G force	5	1.94x 0.64
General play boat	5+	1.97x 0.64
Polo	10 (+7)	2.95 x 0.60
WW/ General Purpose	5+	3x 0.60
GP	10	4 x 0.64
Lightning	6	4.21 x 0.53
Wavehopper	9	4 x 0.60
K2	6	6.5x 0.60



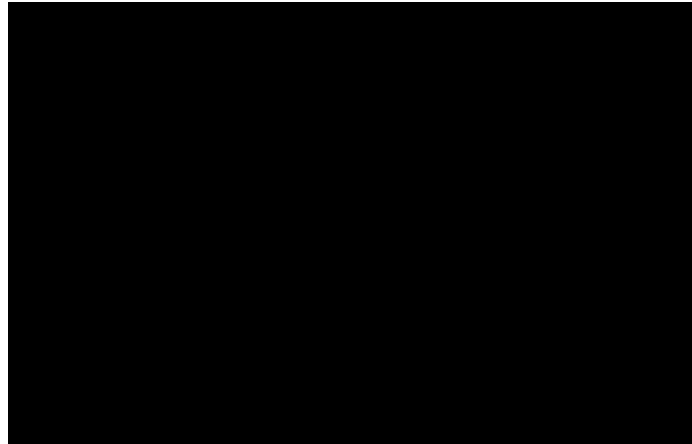
K1	6	5.2 x 0.53
K4	1	11 x 0.60
Canadian	4	4.26 x 0.91
	(Kayak numbers subject to change)	
<b>Future possibilities</b>		
Launch (large)	1	7m
Traditional keelboat	1	6.7
Gaff dayboat	1	6.7
Sculling (rowing) boats	6+	4.5- 20m
Sea Kayaks	6	5m
SUP boards	6	3.65m
Optimist/ beginners boats	6	2.36

# Annex 3

## Examples of facilities

### Pavilion style facilities

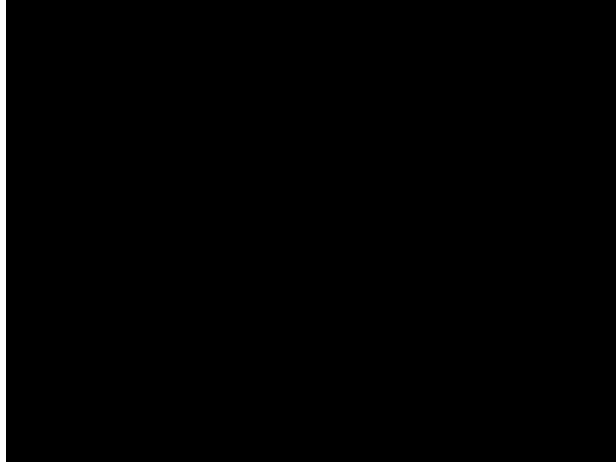
Winchester Canoe Club which includes limited kayak storage, facilities and dry area



Fairthorn Manor (YMCA) boat house (upper Hamble) Showing changing rooms and boat storage space



Woodmill/ Southampton Canoe Club (Changing rooms/ class room only)

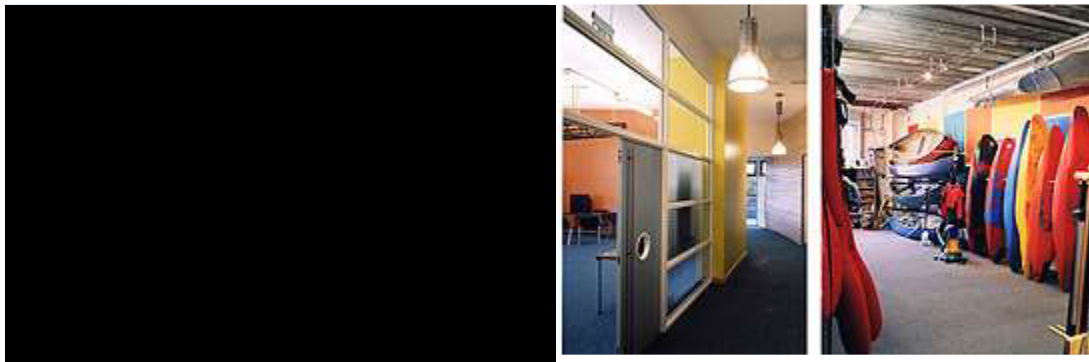


**Buildings with industrial influence, or which could follow the existing building footprint**

Pool Harbour Canoe Club



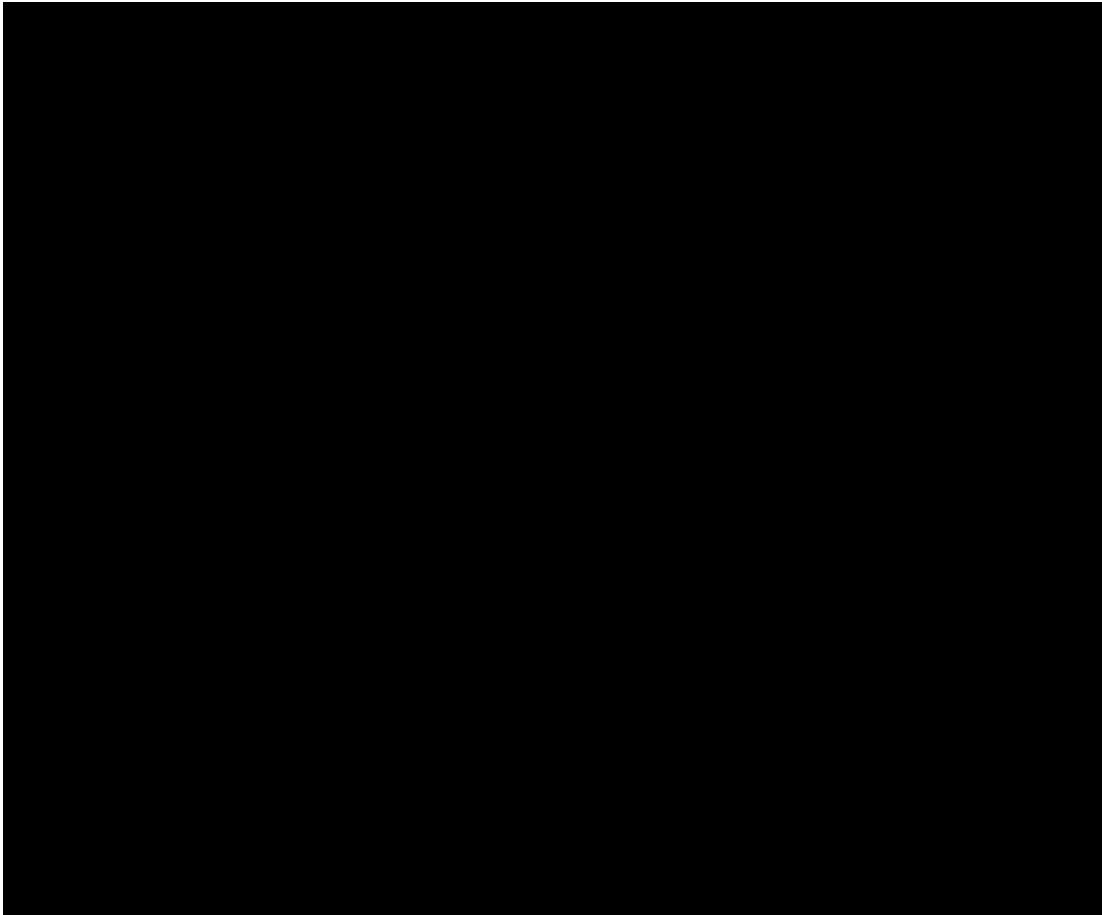
Waterside centre, Reading



School boathouse, Surrey



Watersports centre, South Wales



Reading Sea Scouts

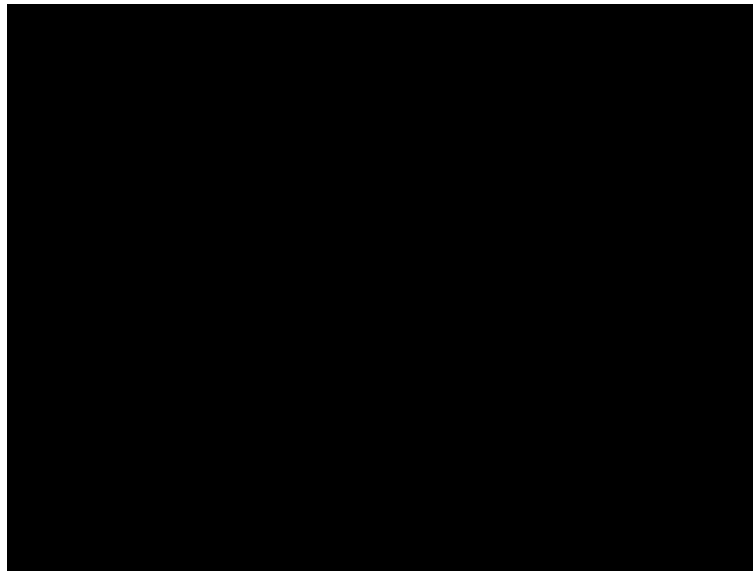
Showing a two story solution with boat storage under part.



Southampton Water Activities Centre, showing a well laid out compound with similar boats



Ealing Sea Scouts, showing what has been achieved recently by a local Sea Scout group



## Floating facility examples

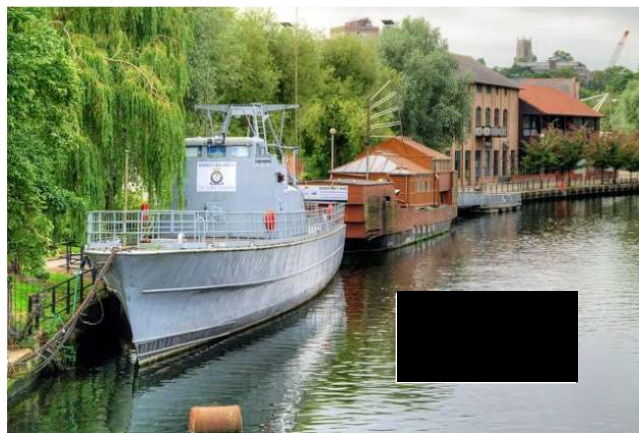
<http://www.fact.org.uk/for-groups/conference-venue>



<http://www.essexyachtclub.co.uk/>



Norwich Sea Cadets



# Annex 4 Suggestions

Suggested location for a storage facility of equivalent size to the group's current area (out of direct sight from new marina facilities/ buildings).

Google Maps



Imagery ©2017 Google. Map data

Measure	
Total	549.2 ( 912.40 )
Total	94.0 ( 308 )

Indicative size of facility equivalent size to both the Hamble Sea Scout group and Amazon Sea Scout facility

Google Maps



Imagery ©2017 Google. Map data

Measure	
Total	1,054.36 ( 11,349 )
Total	130.7 ( 428 )



Suggested building location

Google Maps

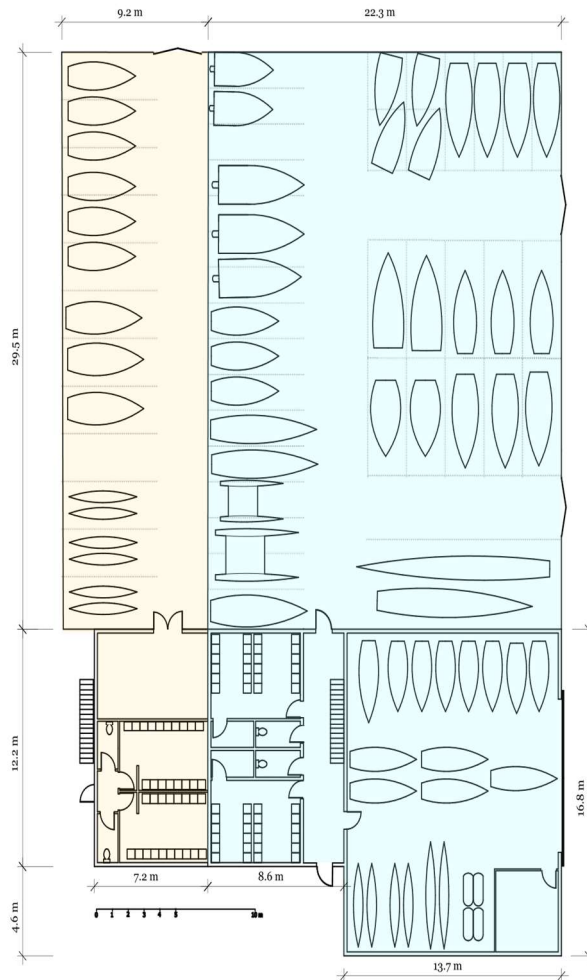


Imagery ©2017 Google, Map data

Measure	
Total	344.6 ( 709.21 )
Total	78.9 ( 258 )

# Proposed Provision for Hamble Sea Scouts @ Mercury Marina

**HAMBLE  
SEA SCOUTS**



- Amazones
- Hamble Sea Scouts

CLIENT  
Hamble Sea Scouts  
Hamble  
Southampton  
Hants

EVENT  
Proposed Provision for  
Hamble Sea Scouts  
@ Mercury Marina

VENUE  
Mercury Marina

EVENT DATE  
N/A

DRAWN BY  
JH

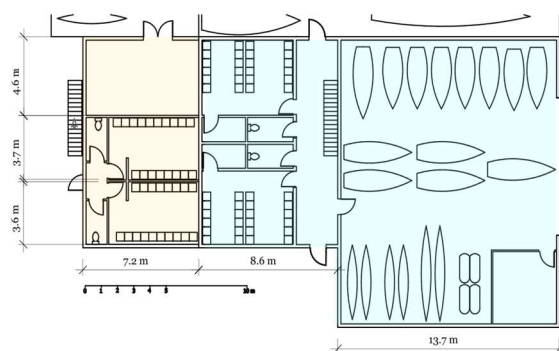
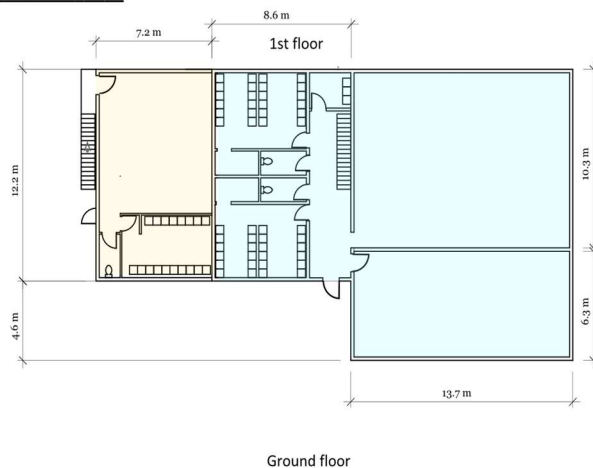
DATE  
November 28, 2017

SCALE  
1:200 @ A3



## Proposed Provision for Hamble Sea Scouts @ Mercury Marina

**HAMBLE  
SEA SCOUTS**



Amazones  
 Hamble Sea Scouts

CLIENT  
Hamble Sea Scouts  
Hamble  
Southampton  
Hants

EVENT  
Proposed Provision for  
Hamble Sea Scouts  
@ Mercury Marina

VENUE  
Mercury Marina

EVENT DATE  
N/A

DRAWN BY  
JH

DATE  
November 28, 2017

SCALE  
1:200 @ A3



This potential layout of a semi-detached facility is modelled around the existing blue shed, and showing indicative layout of boats and changing rooms for both the Hamble Sea Scout Group and Amazon Sea Scout Group.

This provides:

- Both groups with changing rooms/ showers/ toilettes proportionate to group sizes.
- Inside class room space, proportionate to group size.
- Inside storage space for both groups for lifejackets and boat equipment.
- Ability to for the Hamble Sea Scout group to store high value kayaks and smaller sailing dinghies inside (rigged ready for use, and removing the need for outside boat racking).
- Secure compounds for both groups, laid out in such a way as to allow easy access to any boat. (Boats shown are indicative only.)

Notes

- Compound sizes are based on approximate boat size, and further layout options can be investigated based on the equipment size guide in Annex 2.
- Changing room sizes are based on similar facilities, however building regulations/ statutory requirements may dictate alternative sizes or specifications.