

MRC Risk Assessment
Date of Last Review: August 2025
Risk Assessment for normal routine operation and training outings by MRC club members
Exposed persons: varies, typically up to 40
Location: River Wye, Monmouth Rowing Club (51.813132, -2.708317)
Duration of exposure: 1-2 hours, periodic

Hazard	Consequence	Risk without Mitigation			Rating	Controls	Mitigated Risk			Rating
		Likelihood	Severity	Risk			Likelihood	Severity	Risk	
Water conditions, weather	Exposure, many boats affected, potential for casualties to exceed safety launch capabilities.	3	4	12	M	Experienced panel have developed this risk assessment and rules for boating which are reviewed periodically. As far as possible, actual measureable indicators such as water level are used to categories with the risk with an overall message of If in Doubt, Don't Go Out.	1	3	4	L
Inexperienced crews / steersperons	Additional risk due to lack of appreciation of hazards or experience to deal with them.	3	4	12	M	Degree of competence of the crew, especially the cox or steersperson, must have a significant bearing on the decision to go out. If the cox or steersperson is concerned about the conditions, do not go out. Crews cannot pressure an steersperson to go out if they are not comfortable with conditions.	2	2	4	L
Unknown casualty	Rescue not affected.	2	5	10	M	Signing out using the boooking system to ensure that other users konw you are out on the water. Overarching responsibility to ensure adequate cover remains with the individual.	2	2	4	L
Cold water	Exposure, reduced ability to function.	3	4	12	M	Remember general guidlines of 4 degrees. Realise that cold water significantly reduces ability to respond, can cause shock and hypothermia can establish in a quick time. If the water temperature is below 2.5 degrees then no rowing should occur.	2	2	4	L
Debris	Damage to boats, possibly capsize.	3	4	12	M	Visual check on debris levels before and during outings. Any debris must be taken seriously given that it may be partially submerged, hiding the true size.	2	2	4	L
Water level	Increased stream, reduced time to respond. Or increased risk of damage to boats from lack of water.	3	4	12	M	Three water levels indicated by painting steps: Green - no specific restrcitions but consider other conditions, including whether water is too low. Amber (2m-3.5m) - experienced crews only, minimum boat size of 4. Red (above 3.5m) - no rowing.	2	2	4	L
Rowing above the cottages	Additional hazards - fast stream and submerged hazards, less experience of rowing on this section of water.	3	4	12	M	Only go above the cottages when water levels are above the waide concrete step. Even in these circumstances assess all conditions.	2	2	4	L
Submerged hazards	Damage to boats, possibly capsize.	3	4	12	M	Learn the water, brief less experienced crews. The main hazards (submerged rocks) have been identified with buoys or removed where possible.	2	2	4	L
Launch wash	Shipping water, remote risk of capsize.	3	4	12	M	Launch drivers should respect rowers, slow down where possible or at least move to the opposite side of the water to reduce teh size and impact of wash.	2	2	4	L
Emergency response	Delayed action.	3	4	12	M	Area by main entrance is reserved for an ambulance, shouldl it be required. The club posseses a defibrillator and 7 club memebrs have attended training on its use. Mobile phone signal is good to allow members to call 999.	2	2	4	L
Capsize	Immersion, exposure.	3	4	12	M	All members must attend a club run capsize drill. The river is approximately 50 metres wide with vegetated banks, so the typical maximum swim distance is 25 metres.	2	2	4	L

Clubhouse premises	Slips, trips, falls.	3	3	9	M	Facilities Manager to maintain awareness of the overall condition of the premises and report to Committee if hazards are apparent that require remediation. QR codes and an online reporting system is available for members to highlight any hazards that have been observed.	2	2	4	L
Ramp	Slips, trips, falls.	3	3	9	M	The ramp is relatively steep so move slowly and grit during cold weather / freezing spells. Sacks of salt grit are stored in the boathouse near the top of the ramp.	2	2	4	L
Steps	Slips, trips, falls.	3	4	12	M	There are up to 14 steps (depending on water levels) these should be kept clean, particular attention should be made as water levels drop. When carrying boats, be aware of the steps and carry at 'waists' or 'above heads' to ensure visibility of the steps.	3	2	6	L
New members	Drowning, capsizes, exposure, collision.	3	4	12	M	All new members are required to confirm that they can swim in light clothing for 50m unaided and will undertake a capsize drill prior to single sculling. New members with rowing experience are vetted by the coach.	2	2	4	L
Boating circulation	Boats travelling in both directions.	3	4	12	M	Ensure that all boats understand and abide by circulation rules which are stay to the cox's left / stroke side (port) blades to the bank. Take extra precaution when rowing side by side or overtaking for boats travelling in the opposite direction.	2	2	4	L
Turning above the bridge	Risk of stream pinning boat to bridge abutment.	3	4	12	M	All crews must be mindful of turning above the bridge. Start turns early, reflecting the prevailing water / stream conditions.	2	2	4	L
Launch driver competence	Inadequate response.	3	4	12	M	All launch drivers should be RYA level 2 trained. At events, all launches have two personnel, this should be an aim during training albeit it may not always be possible.	2	3	6	L
Kitchen	Hygiene, food poisoning.	3	4	12	M	Only authorised members should use the kitchen, the catering manager has overarching control.	2	3	6	L
Visibility	Impairing ability to see other boats or landmarks.	3	4	12	M	If visibility is below 500 metres (pumping station cannot be seen) no rowing should occur. It is recommended that steers wear high visibility clothing in all circumstances to aid with visibility to other crews.	2	3	6	L
Equipment	Inadequate safety gear.	2	4	8	M	All launches are checked against a written checklist of mandatory equipment and fuelled up prior to events. All launches are used regularly and serviced.	2	2	4	L
Waterborne disease	Exposure to various possible diseases.	2	4	8	M	In the situation of a normal stream there is a low risk of exposure to waterborne diseases, this increases with lower water levels. Do not drink river water and use normal hygiene procedures after each outing.	2	2	4	L
Drowning	Death.	2	4	8	M	In addition to throw lines on each launch, there are a number of (Council provided) standing buoyancy aids along the river. Launch drivers and assistants all wear 150 Newton Class / EN 396 / EN ISO 12402-3 Buoyancy Aids which are annually checked by an RYA Yachtmaster.	3	2	6	L
Child and vulnerable person welfare						Welfare Officer appoint. Contact details recorded for all clubs and members (checked during registration).				

Statement of Residual Risk:
When the detailed control measures have been correctly implemented, the residual risk should be reduced to an acceptable level.