

# Committee Boat Preparation and Setting a Line

Committee boat starts enable a true beat to be set and give a better course to competitors.

## Preparation

- Request that the support boat crew to take you to the committee boat or to moor it alongside the pontoon at their very earliest opportunity- **make it their first task**
- All Race Control equipment is installed on the Committee Boat but you must-
  - Collect a 'petrol' fuel tank from the store
  - Collect the 'Nauti-Buoy' committee boat keys (On a hook in the race hut)
- Hoist flag 'C' on the shore mast (Indicates a committee boat start)

## On the boat

- Connect the fuel tank and follow the starting procedure outlined on 'Engine Starting' sheet
- Insert the Red key into the socket on the control panel- this activates the radio, Autohoot and timer.
- Carry out a radio check, test the hooter (button below the rotary switch on the Autohoot).
- On board equipment-
  - A flag pole in the cabin, mount in the mast step and clip to the wheel house roof)
  - Check that all signal flags are present
  - 2 pillar buoys- (inflate if necessary, a 12v blower is stored in the starboard locker)
  - A Yellow Dan buoy and a red/yellow flag on a flag pole
  - Weights for each of the buoys
  - A stainless steel course board and magnetic buoy number cards
  - A short pole (clipped on the starboard side), insert in holes in rear bulkhead (behind the two seats) for displaying the course board.
  - There is a separate hand held timer together with a case containing pens, clip boards, magnetic course cards etc other items as listed on the front of the case.

## Setting the course

- Motor to the centre of the lake and check the wind direction
- Select a windward mark and a leeward mark or drop a pillar buoy if none of the club marks are suitably positioned. (Do not use, or place, a mark in the wind shadow of trees)
- Motor downwind to give as long a first beat as practical for the prevailing conditions
- The start line should always be laid on the port side of the committee boat
- To set the port end ODM (Yellow Dhan buoy + Red/Yellow flag) motor about 50 metres upwind and to port of the leeward mark, drop the ODM (see separate instruction sheet ), motor at right angles to the wind to set the line. (Do not set a short line - too long is better)
- When the line length is set gently motor upwind until the boat is about 5 metres to windward of the ODM and drop the anchor
- Let the boat settle back on the anchor then finally position the boat by adjusting the length of the anchor line. Check that the start line is either square to the wind direction or preferably a few degrees bias to leeward of the ODM (Too much bias will give an unfair advantage to boat starting on the ODM but a little bias makes the ODM the end favoured and keeps boats away when starting giving a clear view of the line.
- When the boat has settled and is pointing directly into the wind, drop the stern weight to prevent excessive movement due to the wind on the hull.
- Select the course and display it on the course board.
- When the line is set hoist the orange flag and prepare to move into the start sequence (See 3 Minute Start Sequence sheet and associated graphics)