

## **The Rules**

**There are three sections.**

- **Getting In The Boat**
- **Leaving The Jetty**
- **Underway**

**Please ensure you are familiar with all three**

**Getting In The Boat – the gig is tippy compared to practice boats so be careful.**

- Choose who is going in which position before getting aboard to avoid unnecessary moving about in the boat.
- Get into the boat one at a time and sit down in your position directly.
- Avoid stepping onto the thwarts (seats) whenever possible.
- The bottom of the boat is slippery when wet so take care and think about where you're putting your feet.
- Make sure the thole pins/rollocks are in the right places. They are made of hardwood and softwood – put a hardwood pin (darker coloured) in the forward hole and a softwood one (lighter) in the aft hole.
- Find your oar and have it ready to use before setting off. Numbers are Bow no. 1, going toward stroke, no. 4
- Set your footrest so that your legs are only just bent when leaning forward and straight when leaning back.
- All rowers and the cox must be familiar with all commands, and whether their oar is on the port (bow or starboard (stroke) side).

## **Leaving The Jetty**

- The gig is not very manoeuvrable!
- Steering is best done by the oars, rather than the rudder, so be alert to the cox's orders at all times.
- Think about which direction the tide is running (the time of high water is printed in the yellow tide table) and how hard the wind is blowing, and from what direction.
- Usually the tide will have a greater effect than the wind, and you can use it to help turn the boat around.
- If it is windy, the wind will have more effect than the tide.
- You may find it easier to go away backwards in certain conditions.
- Rowers who can't put their oar in the water while the gig is alongside may have their oar up vertically in the air until they can, unless it is windy – take windage into consideration.
- If there is someone left on the jetty, use them to help get the boat away if necessary.
- **DO NOT** leave the gig alongside the end/higher part of the town jetty as it can easily damage the gunwales (edges) of the boat. However, you may wish to move the boat there before leaving if it is windy/a lot of tide running – be careful to fend the boat off all the time, but don't put your hands on the gunwales!

## **Underway**

The gigs demand good technique, but are very rewarding to row. Basics first –

- Sit on the opposite side of the boat to where your oar rests between the thole pins.
- Rowers need to be staggered, and not in a line behind one another.
- Your outboard hand should be over the oar handle, and your inboard hand should be under. This is for better control of the oar, and easy feathering of the blade.
- Don't be put off by the oar slopping around between the thole pins/rollocks, soon you won't notice it.
- Make sure the oar is working on the leather while rowing – don't push it so far out or in that it is working on the bare wood.