



## **CLUB RULES**

### ***Permission to punt***

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In order to book a punt online you must join the Punt Club each year via the HUB <https://hub.wolf.ox.ac.uk> and you will receive an email confirming your membership. You can then book a punt via the HUB. To obtain the boathouse key you must present photo ID to the Lodge and sign it out in the book provided. Permission is for you, and you must **not** allow anyone else to fraudulently use your membership to take out a punt without you.

### ***The punts***

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There are 6 state-of-the-art punts (hand-carved in an assorted array of rare timbers) moored in the harbour (numbered 1 to 6). All punts are in top-notch condition and are removed from the water and spruced-up every year.

### ***Punt accessories***

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The punt accessories (1 pole, 1 paddle, 2 back cushions and 2 seat cushions) are stored in the boathouse (C106), and the college-striped 'straw boater' hats are kept at (and dispensed by) the Lodge.

It is **mandatory** when taking out a punt that you bring 1 pole and 1 paddle. It is further **advised** that you wear a life-jacket (all sizes are available in the boathouse) and this is especially important for children and non swimmers.

**NO MORE THAN SIX PEOPLE MAY USE A PUNT AT A TIME.**

### ***The season***

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The punts are usually put in the water in April and are taken out in October, weather-dependent and at the discretion of the Admiral of Punts, currently Toby Hudson. The Admiral of Punts will also exercise

discretion in times of flood, high winds, poor water quality and goose infestation, at which times the Lodge may be instructed to withhold the punt keys.

### ***To book a punt***

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Please book online. The maximum number of hourly sessions per member per day is **three**. Members are only allowed **one** use of a punt per day. You are advised to book in advance. Telephone and email bookings are not normally allowed – bookings must be made online.

### ***Safety***

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The College is not responsible for the safety of you or your guests while punting and you are asked, when applying for membership, to sign a disclaimer confirming your acknowledgment of this fact. Safety is of supreme importance and you should treat it with extreme seriousness – although it may be a seemingly debonair affair, punting can, at times, be incredibly dangerous. A video and PDF is on our website showing you how to punt. Please watch/read especially if you haven't punted before. The following list of suggestions and recommendations is not exhaustive but may nonetheless be helpful:

- Only take out a punt & equipment in good repair. Any faulty equipment should be reported immediately to the Lodge or to the Admiral.
- All non swimmers should wear life jackets.
- Rowdiness and contretemps cause accidents. Those who fall in the water may be able to swim but can still get into serious and unpredictable difficulties.
- Hypothermia kills – and worse. Excessive alcohol consumption increases susceptibility to hypothermia.
- Should you be involved in an accident, whether involving a third party or not, please report the incident to the Lodge Porter.
- When done properly, punting is splendidly enjoyable. Be sensible of its dangers so that enjoyment does not get the chance to metamorphose into something more sinister.

### ***Punting***

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Collect the punt key and the straw boater from the Lodge and enter the boathouse to collect the other accessories (pole, paddle and cushions). The responsibility for the hat and equipment is now yours.

Check the equipment before you go out. Any breakages or losses incurred while punting should be reported to the Lodge in writing as soon as possible so that a repair or replacement can be made or an insurance claim effected (as appropriate).

Members may be held responsible up to £500 for loss or damage to a punt, pole and paddle and up to £100 for loss of or damage to other punt accessories, including keys and straw boaters. Permission to punt may be temporarily or permanently withdrawn if members are proved to have been wilfully negligent.

Reservations not honoured within 15 minutes of the start of the booked session are void and any member of the Punt Club may take the craft out at their leisure for the remainder of the session.

Punt Club members are strictly required to punt from the Oxford end, i.e. the sloping end. The boxed end is liable to break since it is not designed for standing on, and standing on it makes for slower, wobblier, more Cantabrian and – *a fortiori* – less impressive punting.

## ***Returning the punt***

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Once your time on the river is up, please return the punt promptly to its mooring. Replace the pole, paddle and cushions to their correct places in the boathouse, and return the key and straw boater to the Lodge. Late returns will be reported to the Admiral and a fine may be charged to your battels. Details of fines are in the punt booking folder: to summarise, they start at £10 for up to 15 minutes late, £20 for 15-30 minutes late and increasing by £10 for every 15 minutes late thereafter. All charged to battels.

### **THE PERMITS OF SERIAL OFFENDERS MAY BE WITHDRAWN.**

To reduce the chances of loss or damage, and to avoid disturbing College residents, **all punts must be returned to the harbour not later than 10.30 pm**. Please try to be quiet when bringing back your punt, especially in the evening. If there is nobody waiting when you return the punt, please ensure that it is securely fastened and padlocked to the wooden jetty, not to the concrete harbour walls. The accessories must be returned to the boathouse, ensuring the boathouse doors are locked. **The punt must be bailed of water and the prow must, if dirty, be brushed clean**. You should then return the keys to the Lodge. Please report to the Lodge immediately if a padlock is broken – otherwise the punt may drift downstream and be pinched by our unscrupulous neighbours at Lady Margaret Hall!

## ***Miscellaneous***

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- Please help to keep the punts in fine fettle by removing debris, leaves, water, waterfowl and rubbish from the punt at the end of the session, using the brush and/or bailers kept in the boathouse.
- Please stack the punt cushions vertically on the racks so that they may dry out.
- Life jackets, in a range of sizes and styles, are available in the boathouse.
- Please do not take the punts over the rollers at Parsons Pleasure, as this may cause damage to the punts and/or discomfort to skinny dipping dons.
- Please keep punts away from nesting birds in the harbour. Non-nesting birds are fair game.
- Geese, ducks and swans damage punts and have, in the past, been known to aggress punters. As such, any punt club members caught feeding waterfowl from or near the punts will standardly be required, as a fair penalty, to pay £10 into the punt maintenance fund via battels.
- If you have any questions, please direct them to the Admiral of Punts or the Common Room Administrator.

### **THE SCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW PERMISSION TO PUNT WHEN IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY DUE TO UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR**

*Admiral of the Punts / Common Room Administrator, Season 2020*

To contact the Admiral, Toby Hudson, e-mail: [punting@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:punting@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

To contact the Common Room Administrator, email: [common-room.administrator@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:common-room.administrator@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

The club website can be found at <https://www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/punts>