1. The Starting Position

- Feet apart for stability
- 1/3rd of way across punt or 1/2 an arm's length from edge.
- Start with pole just out of water and slightly sloping with lower end just to rear of feet & angled very slightly in towards the punt side.
- Place pole in the water adjacent the seat backrest.

Bow Platform

Distribute passengers & luggage evenly

5th Passenger to Sit on left to balance Punter

2. Drop Pole until it hits the river bed - but don't let go.

3. Begin to push as shown.

- Veer slightly to RIGHT
- Straight Ahead
- Veer slightly to LEFT

Direction of PUSH (The punt will rotate about the centre of gravity of the punt)

Centre of Gravity

N.B. How close to the side of the punt you plant the pole will determine the initial veer or lack of it.

LEFT - Very close to the side - even angled slightly underneath it will make it veer to the left.

RIGHT - Well away from the side will make it veer to the right as you push yourself away from the pole end.

STRAIGHT - Slightly away from the side or just touching it but push slightly angled in towards the punt (it should be slightly away from the side and angled in towards it to compensate for pushing from the right hand side of the punt).

N.B. Slight Angle to compensate for punting from side of punt

N.B. The raised slippery platform at one end is the bow unless one is from Cambridge where it is the stern and the Oxford stern the Bow.

Position about mid-way along rear of punt behind one of the seats

Start with Pole just out of water and slightly sloping with lower end just to rear of feet & angled very slightly in towards the punt side. Place pole in the water adjacent the seat backrest.

2a. The secret of success is always to be steering by pushing and pulling the punt towards or away from the pole as you push on it.

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4. Stop pushing

5. **Twist the pole** (to break mud suction)

6. Raise pole from river bottom

7. Momentarily trail pole in water & use pole as a rudder to correct course (only if needed as this will slow you down)

8. Rapidly raise pole to original position with end _just_ out of the water
   (arch wrists very slightly downwards to prevent water dripping down sleeves)

9. Repeat from 1.

**EXTRAS:**

For a rapid 180 degree turn:
Place pole as shown near the water surface (but beneath it) and sweep around - this may need repeating to turn the punt fully. The Punt will turn about it's centre of gravity but in the opposite direction.

- Build up speed before Bridges & Trees to coast under them
- Use punt pole stuck in mud to pinion the punt to the bank when mooring at the bankside rather than a jetty
- If the pole gets stuck - try twisting it but if all else fails _LET GO_ (of the punt pole) rather than fall in! Use the paddle to return to the pole afterwards.
- If you fall in don't drink the water. If you do - see a doctor!
- Only let one person stand at a time especially when changing over punters.

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