CLUB RULES

Permission to punt

The Common Room Administrator will inform you once your application to punt has been approved. 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 fraudulently to use your permit to take out a punt without you.

The punts

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

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. The boaters are numbered 1-6.

It is mandatory when taking out a punt that you bring 1 pole and 1 paddle. It is advised that you bring 1 straw boater (to be worn by the person punting) as well as your full complement of cushions.

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

The season

The punts are usually put in the water in -1st or 0th Week of Trinity Term and are taken out in October, weather-dependent and at the discretion of the Admiral of Punts, Frederick Hamilton. (The Admiral of Punts will also exercise discretion in times of food, high wind, poor water quality and goose infestation,
at which times the Lodge will be requested to not issue punt keys). Ill-informed advice regarding punt management from over-enthusiastic, happy-go-lucky members of the college community (usually given on the college facebook page…) will **not** be taken on board by the Admiral.

**To book a punt**

Enter your name against the appropriate sessions on the booking sheet in the file in the Lodge. 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 well in advance. Telephone and email bookings are not allowed – bookings must be made in person. Weekly booking sheets are placed in the Lodge reservation file. Neither the Admiral nor the Common Room Administrator have the power or time to take bookings for you.

Unless circumstances are exceptional, you may not change **which** punt you have booked within 24 hours of taking it out. If there is water in the punt, bail it out – do not offload the problem onto the next punter by surreptitiously adjusting your booking. The lodge maintains the right to refuse punt changes in these circumstances.

**Safety**

The College is not responsible for the safety of you or your guests while punting and you are asked, when applying for a permit, to sign a disclaimer confirming your acknowledgment of this fact. Safety is of supreme importance and you should treat it with grave seriousness – although it may be a seemingly debonair affair, punting can, at times, be incredibly dangerous. 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.
- Children should be able to swim &/or wear life jackets available in the boathouse.
- 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 record the incident and hand your report in to the Lodge.
- When done properly, punting is splendidly enjoyable. Be sensible of its dangers so that your enjoyment does not get the chance to metamorphose into something more sinister.

**Punting**

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 both the Admiral of Punts and the Common Room Administrator 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 of damage to a punt and up to £100 for loss of or damage to poles and other 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

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 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 and are chargeable for every 15 minutes late.

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 by 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

- 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 2018

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To contact the Admiral, Isabel de Berrie, e-mail: punting@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

To contact the Common Room Administrator, email: tracy.fuzzard@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

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