

Lagan Scullers Club - Fine Boat Application Form

1. Why?

Why do we restrict who can use our fine boats? We do not do this for any personal favouritism or ask for extra financial contribution. We do this primarily to help preserve the fine boats. The fine boats are generally of a more delicate construction and do not handle knocks and scrapes as well as the sturdier general use boats do. If we let everyone use them, they would soon (after a few accidents and repairs) no longer be fine boats and no longer suitable for racing – their primary purpose. Most of the major repairs are usually on the general use boats, confirming our view (which common sense would tell you) that it is usually the beginner/intermediate scullers who have accidents or mis-handle a boat. As we get more proficient we learn how to handle the boats properly and avoid accidents.

2. Which Boats?

The Club boats are colour coded on their racks as to whether they are general use or restricted use fine boats. There is also a list of the fine boats and their approved users on the notice board. If in doubt, don't use a boat that you don't normally. Note that the split between fine and general use boats is not always clear from where they are stored. We have general use and fine double sculls and quads too – the same rules apply. Private boats obviously should only ever be used by their owners, or by LSC members with owner's permission.

3. Criteria

Applications to use a fine boat are considered by the Committee based on the following criteria:

- **Being a member** – i.e. you need to have paid your membership fee for the year.
- **Sculling proficiency** – there is no point in trying a fine boat if your technique does not warrant it, in fact it will probably slow down your learning. You should be proficient in all the aspects of technique, balance, rhythm and physical performance (suppleness, strength, co-ordination).
- **Care on the water** – you need to show the ability to (and practice of) steering correctly in the river. You should be able to look round and make steering corrections without interrupting your sculling rhythm.
- **Care off the water** – you need to demonstrate good boat handling skills manoeuvring a boat on and off the racks and on the steps. If you have problems lifting a boat yourself without hitting the riggers or other objects or ever require assistance on the steps, you are not ready for a fine boat. You need to know how to care for and maintain a boat (how to wash and service the various elements of a boat, how to adjust it correctly).
- **Purpose** – Wanting to race competitively is a suitable purpose. However the fine boats are also available for recreational scullers of suitable ability who want to refine their sculling. In either case your outings will already be a couple of steady full trips in duration – if you are coming in after a trip to the Ormeau or have to stop every five minutes, then you aren't ready.
- **Demand** – We need to control the number of people using each boat to reasonable levels.
- **Responsibility** – Even if you satisfy all the above, you need to show responsibility, in terms of respect for the equipment, for other members (e.g. helping others out, sharing your fine boat with other approved users), respect for the Club rules and the Club itself (e.g. helping at work parties, or generally keeping the place tidy and in working order).

The Committee may require demonstration of any of the above.

4. Conditions

In return for granting use of a particular boat (sometimes with a second choice boat), we stipulate that:

- You re-apply each year. Approval is only for each membership year, normally October to September.
- You only use the boat(s) you are approved for.
- If you are approved for a double/quad scull, you ensure that the other sculler(s) are also approved for that boat. In the case of a quad, the person steering must be on a list of steerer names approved by the committee.
- You do not let or encourage anyone who is not approved, to use that boat, or any other boat.
- You take appropriate care of the boat – as if it was your own! Remember you may be asked to pay for any damage you do, particularly if it was due to your negligence (we meet the cost of wear and tear and accidental damage).
- You report any damage or critical wear and tear on the equipment, whether caused by you or not.
- You must request permission before using the boat at an event (in case someone else wants it too).
- Act responsibly (see above) and promote the Club and the sport.

Contd. Over/

5. APPLICATION TO USE A FINE BOAT (Please return this or give similar information, and retain page 1 for reference)

Name: Age: (If under 18) Height: Weight:

Application for: Single Double Quad Name of boat, if you have a preference:.....

Application for the membership year 20....to 20....

Summary of experience (e.g. how long have you been sculling, competitive history)

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Intentions for the coming season (e.g. competitions (for which club?), recreational, level and frequency of training)

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I have read the above criteria and agree to the above conditions,

Signed: AND, if under 18, by parent: Date:

Address:

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FOR LSC COMMITTEE USE.

A decision may come to you after the Committee reviews your request.

- Do not use a fine boat until approved or given temporary permission by the Captain.
- A period of grace will be given ONLY for 1 month for those approved for a fine boat from the previous membership year, after which a new application (and membership fee) is required.

You have been approved until the end of the membership year 20....to 20.... to use

You have been provisionally approved untilto use after which you should re-submit this application for re-consideration.

Your application has been refused for the reason(s) stated. Please contact the Captain or a Committee member to see how we can assist you to improve.

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Signed Captain

Date