



'MEIKLE' Light Support Boat conditions and instructions for use

Description - Meikle is a T3.2m Honda Honwave Air V floor inflatable fitted with a 15hp Honda tiller steered 4 stroke outboard. She is rated as 'C' under the Recreational Craft Directive for up to 4 adults (RCD C = inshore (coastal) navigation, winds up to Force 6 & waves up to 2 metres).

Purpose of Meikle - She is available for the use of individual Club members supporting on the water activities for Club members known as '**Member Organised Activity (MOA)**'. She may also be used as a support boat for Club activities known as '**Club Organised Activity (COA)**'. She is intended for use where there are not enough members present to launch and recover a 5m RIB.

Crew - ideally Meikle will have a crew of 2, at least one of whom must be a current Safety Officer volunteer or Instructor or Coach. In benign conditions, when supporting fewer than 7 dinghies, a crew of one may be appropriate, that person to be a current Safety Officer volunteer or Instructor or Coach.

Familiarization - Club members who wish to use Meikle must arrange a familiarization session well in advance of their first use of the boat. Sessions can be arranged by contacting training@chanonry.org.uk.

Booking/ Permission - permission for use of Meikle must be requested in advance from one of the following: Safety Boat Lead (primary contact - safetyboats@chanonry.org.uk), Sailing Secretary (sailing@chanonry.org.uk) or the Commodore (commodore@chanonry.org.uk). Multiple sessions can be booked. Once this has been agreed the person granting permission will add an event in the Club Calendar so that other Club members can see when Meikle is being used and by whom. Participants in the session should add their names (Signup) to the event in TEAMUP via the Calendar. The organizer can also advertize the activity on the Club Facebook pages.

Charge for use for MOA - there is a charge for the use of Meikle towards the cost of maintenance and fuel - this is set at £5 per day/part day. Payment by PayPal to treasurer@chanonry.org.uk with a reference 'Meikle' is preferred.

Logbook - there is a Logbook for Meikle in the Race Office - this should be completed after each use. Any fault which renders the boat unserviceable should be reported immediately to the Safety Boat Lead.

EQUIPMENT

First aid kit, tow line, bailer, spare kill cord and anchor are to be carried; these are stored in the Side Store and contained in a **labelled ruck sack**. You should place a **safety knife** from the Side Store into a ruck sack pocket. There is a **pressure gauge** in the key cupboard in the Race Office should you want to check the sponson & floor; there is a **dedicated foot pump** in the Side Store. The **oars** should be left on the boat fitted to the rowing pins.

The **kill cord** is kept in the key cupboard. It is essential to use the correct, Honda, kill cord and this is labelled. There is a **small tool kit** under the engine cover in a tray which includes an emergency kill cord.

A **handheld VHF** is to be carried and is stored in the Race Office – this should normally be set to Channel 37A and a person ashore should also carry a VHF; however, if there is no designated person ashore the VHF should be set to Channel 16. Carry the radio on your buoyancy aid threaded through its lanyard to a shoulder strap or waist belt or attached to the boat through the rope grab handles.

The **fuel tank** is kept in the Fuel Store, it has the fuel line attached. In the boat it is stored forward, secured by the straps provided, with the fuel line kept tidy in the 2 Velcro loops low down on the inner starboard sponson. The outboard is 4-stroke and uses ordinary unleaded petrol.

LAUNCH/RECOVERY AND DRIVING

Parking Meikle is kept between the RIBs, secured on the chain passed through the “D” ring on the bow. She should be parked with the wheels chocked and the engine lowered carefully with the skeg resting on a block of wood and with the bow supported on tyres and with some chain draped over the trolley handle to keep the bows down. There is a cover which should be fitted to the bows first then secured at the stern.

Launch/ Recovery – Engine raised with the tiller locked into the central position, she can be wheeled by one person. It is easier if the fuel can and rucksack are temporarily placed at the stern while manoeuvring on land, then stowed in the forward position prior to launching. Reverse for recovery.

Prior to Launch at the bottom of the slip stow any items forward (the fuel tank has its own straps, everything else should be tied to a forward internal ‘D’ ring). Make sure the kill cord is fitted and the fuel well bubbled with the tank breather open. Insert the drain bung in the transom.

Push the boat into the water until she floats off the trolley. Ensure the trolley is left sufficiently far up the beach that it will not be covered by the tide.

Row the boat into water sufficiently deep to lower the engine completely clear of bottom debris. Stow the oars. Lower the engine fully and check that it is locked down. Release the tiller lock and check that the engine is free to turn (steer). Sit on the starboard sponson and attached the kill cord to your left leg (helms with short arms may prefer the port sponson). Check that the throttle is closed, and the engine is in neutral. Pull out the choke. Take-up the slack on the starting cord and pull smartly and return the cord under control (do not let it fly back). Repeat until the engine starts then check for a coolant tell-tale. Allow the engine a couple of minutes to warm-up (longer in cold conditions) then push in the choke slightly and engage forward gear. Motor for a few minutes at low RPM then push-in the choke fully. When ready to plane, sit well forward (or in the boat if solo), ensure the tiller is central and smartly open the throttle to about 50%. The bows will rise quickly but then level out as the boat planes, you can then back-off the throttle. The transom bung can be removed on the plane to drain water (but should be inserted in displacement mode).

Recovery before reaching the shallows, stop the engine (by pulling the kill cord), lock the tiller in the central position and raise the engine. Row to shallows and float on to the trolley. Secure the boat with the painter to the trolley with the bows as far forward as possible to aid balance. Recover to slipway then adjust items for balance and pull or push to the parking space.

Post activity, place the bows on one tyre, attached the muffers to the engine, and flush the engine for at least 2 minutes running (with the engine on low tilt and with the bows on one tyre, the engine should be close to vertical, the skeg needs to be clear of the ground). Remove the transom drain bung and thoroughly hose off the boat paying particular attention to metal parts. Return all kit to storage. Follow the ‘Parking Meikle’ instructions. Write-up the log with the approximate hours run.