



## Operator Guide – Electric Winches



**Winch operation can be dangerous! Have a SAFETY-FIRST attitude to every action.**



**Do not operate the winch unless you are authorised and trained to do so. Only to be used by those on the Approved Operators list.**



**Familiarise yourself with the risk assessment before using the winch**

**Note:** there are two electric winches. No. 1 (the original upper winch) for light boats. No.2 (red, front mounted winch) for the recovery of heavier boats such as Falcons. Both operate in the same way.

### Start

Connect power to the winch, ensure cable is loaded properly in drum and looks in good condition. Check the chain and ensure the hook snaps shut securely and is not damaged – else DO NOT use winch!

Test the emergency stop button.

The Winch Operator controls the total winch operation and must ensure they have a clear view of the slipway and its surrounds. Maintain a clear view throughout the operation, if your view becomes blocked – stop!

Anyone on the slipway must wear a buoyancy aid and follow guidance from the winch operator.

Ensure launchers understand the clear hand signals and use them.

### Launch/recovery

Ensure the boat is secured to the launch trolley

Ensure the winch is secured to the trolley (chain should be passed through a structurally secure part of the trailer and snap-hook locked back to the retaining ring on the chain. and that there is no slack in the cable.

Make clear contact with the sailors who are launching the boat and ensure they stay above the boat.

Ensure no one is below the boat during winch operations and that the apron spanned by the cable is kept clear.

### Low water recovery

For first few feet of recovery put winch cable on wall hook to ensure correct line of pull.

Chock wheels of boat to prevent run back. Unhook winch cable from wall to realign pull.

Continue as above.

### End of Session

Ensure cable is in a good state and loaded properly on the drum.

Put the control unit in the overhead protective box.

Switch off power from the clubhouse.

report any issues encountered during its use.

