

4th. Epping Forest South (Bancroft's School) Sea Scout Group

www.bancroftsseascouts.org



Charity Registration Number 1037676

Pulling Orders

When a pulling boat is under way any order to the oarsmen is obeyed on completing one full stroke after the order is given.

All such orders should be given at the moment when the blades of the oars are in the water.

On obeying a pulling order the crew take their time by the stroke oarsman, who is usually the next senior rating to the coxswain. (In the absence of the coxswain the stroke oarsman takes charge of the boat; in double-banked boats he pulls the starboard stroke oar.)

When “port” or “starboard” is included in a pulling order, it refers to the bank of oars on the port or starboard side of the boat, respectively.

Before saluting by tossing or laying on the oars, the cautions “*Stand-by to loss oars*” or “*Stand-by for oars*” should be given.

Give Way Together is the order to start pulling, and it is obeyed together by the whole crew. If only one bank of oars is required to give way the order “*Give way starboard*” or “*Give way port*” is given.

Oars is an order to cease pulling. At this order the crew sit squarely and upright on their thwarts, with their oars horizontal and at right angles to the fore-and-aft line of the boat and with the blades “feathered”, *i.e.* parallel with the water. The order “*Lay on your oars*” allows the crew to relax from the position of “*Oars*”; they may then either rest on the looms of their oars or lay in their oars athwart the boat with the grips under the gunwale.

Back Together is the order to back water together by pushing on the looms of the oars instead of pulling. If only one bank of oars is required to back water the order “*Back starboard*” or “*Back port*” is given.

Hold Water is the order to reduce or stop the way of the boat by holding the oars at right angles to the fore-and-aft line of the boat and with their blades in the water. If required to hold water with one bank of oars only, the order “*Hold water*” is followed by “*starboard*” or “*port*” as required.

Easy All is the order to pull less vigorously, so that the speed of the boat will be reduced. If the boat is being turned the order “*Easy port*” or “*Easy starboard*” may be given. To resume normal pulling the order “*Give way together*” is given.

Stroke Together is the order for all to give one stroke together. If only one bank of oars is to give a stroke the order “*Stroke port*” or “*Stroke starboard*” is given, according to which bank is required.

Way Enough is the order to stop pulling which is given when the oars are about to be boated or tossed. If the oars are not to be boated or tossed, the order “*Oars*” is given.

Boat Your Oars is the order to unship the oars from the rowlocks or crutches and lay them fore-and-aft in the boat on their respective sides.

Ship Your Oars is the order to place the oars in the rowlocks or crutches in readiness for pulling.

Toss Your Oars is the order to bring the oars smartly to a vertical position with the looms resting on the bottom boards and the blades fore-and-aft; it is not given in single-banked boats or in boats fitted with crutches.

Oars Down, which is only ordered in double-banked boats when the oars are tossed, is the order to bring them down into their rowlocks ready for pulling, *i.e.* with the oars horizontal, at right angles to the fore-and-aft line, and blades fore-and-aft.

Mind Your Oars is a warning to the crew to keep the blades of their oars clear of some obstruction. If the warning concerns only one bank of oars the order "*Mind your starboard oars*" or "*Mind your port oars*" is given, as required.

Bow is the order to the bowman of a single-banked boat to boat his oar and be ready to fend off the bows of the boat with his *boathook*. In double-banked boats the order is "*Bows*", and in obeying it the bowmen first toss their oars and "kiss" the blades together before boating them.

Bear-off the Boat is the order to thrust the boat off with the blades of the oars from the ship or landing place alongside which she is lying, or from the bottom if the boat is grounded.

Eyes in the Boat is an order to the crew to keep their gaze from wandering abroad, and to pay attention to their duties.

Pulling Drill

GETTING UNDER WAY IN A WHALER

At the order "*Bear off*" the bowman bears off the bows of the boat and lays in his boathook, the stroke oarsman lays in his *boathook* and fender and springs the boat ahead, and both then sit down on their thwarts; Nos. 2, 3 and 4 lay in the fenders on their respective sides. At the order "*Ship your oars*" Nos. 2 and 4 ship the crutches and oars of No. 3 and Stroke, while Stroke and No. 3 ship the crutches and oars of Nos. 4 and 2, and the bowman ships his own crutch and oar. At the order "*Oars*" each man grasps the loom of his oar and brings the oar to the athwartships position, with the *oar* and blade horizontal.

GOING ALONGSIDE IN A WHALER

When the boat is within about 50 yards of the accommodation ladder or landing place the order "*Bow*" is given. At this order the bowman lays in his oar athwartships, *unships* it and boats it amidships with the blade forward, and then takes his boathook and stands in the head sheets facing forward with the boathook vertical. At the same time Nos. 2, 3, and 4 and Stroke put out the fenders on their respective sides. At the order "*Way enough*" the crew pull one more stroke, and then, taking their time from Stroke who raises one hand, they allow their oars to swing fore-and-aft in the crutches and then fleet their looms forward. Stroke and No. 3 boat the oars of Nos. 4 and 2 and *unship* their crutches, and Nos. 2 and 4 boat the oars of No. 3 and Stroke and *unship* their crutches. Stroke then stands up ready to check the way of the boat as she goes alongside, and then holds the boat alongside either with his boathook or the *manropes*. Nos. 3 and 4 square off the oars on their respective sides.