



Safe Rowing Incident Report

Subject	Boat Collision
Alert number	2
Date of incident	05 October 2024
Location of incident	River Severn, near Kingsland Bridge
British Rowing Incident Report no.	34912 and 34923

Lessons Learned

When steering on the River Severn, particularly around bends, crews must:

1. be on the correct side of the river;
2. check regularly for oncoming river traffic – typically every **5th stroke** or more frequently;
3. provide audible warning to nearby oncoming traffic; and
4. be practiced in emergency stops.

This is explained in '[Safe Rowing Note 11 – River Navigation](#)'.

While only minor injury experienced, this incident had potential to result in more serious injury to a rower. **Therefore, all club members can learn lesson from this to reduced risk of further boat collisions or rower injuries.**

What Happened

On Saturday 05 October 2024, a Pengwern 4+ boat collided with a Pengwern 2x boat. The bow-seat rower in the 2x suffered a minor bruising injury to back/ribs. No damage to the boats occurred.

How it Happened

At the time of the incident, the river level was in the 'green' risk zone.

A 2x boat was rowing with the stream, just downstream from Kingsland Bridge. It was reported to be on the correct side of the river (starboard side, i.e. Clubhouse side).

A 4+ boat with a mixed-experienced crew and an inexperienced cox was rowing upstream on the straight stretch of river downstream from Kingsland Bridge. The boat was not on the correct side of the river (starboard side, i.e. Quarry side) and was reported to be moving slowly/stationary and slightly across the stream.

The two boat were on a collision course. An oar from the 4+ boat struck the bow-seat person in the 2x. The two boats then separated.

Learnings

Reminder and clarification of existing safe rowing rules, now contained in Safe Rowing Note 11 – River Navigation.

Feedback and Suggestion

Everyone is encouraged to provide suggestions on how to improve the Club's safety guidance.

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