

Coping with Antisocial Behaviour

From time to time, members may have to deal with antisocial behaviour by other water users and members of the public. This is most common during the summer months, especially when the weather is warm and sunny

Incidents can range from relatively minor to more serious incidents resulting in injuries and distress to club members.

Antisocial behaviour is defined as behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress. This can be by dumping rubbish, animal nuisance, vandalism, property damage, graffiti, antisocial drinking etc.

Below is not an exhaustive list, but provides some examples of the types of antisocial behaviour we may encounter in and around the club:

- Graffiti
- Dumping rubbish (either on club property or by the lake/river)
- Damage to club property/boats
- Indecent/threatening behaviour by other water users (on the river) or members of the public
- Throwing objects from bridges (at the cut and over the river where the public have access) or from the bank (river or lake)
- Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour by other water users (on the river) or members of the public
- Aggressive animal behaviour such as dogs being aggressive, not controlled by owners etc.
- Speeding (boats on the river) or cars on public/private roads/car parks

Notifying the Police, Water Authority and other members of the club

Clubs should notify the police and, if appropriate, the water authority, the council or Nene Park of incidents.

Call the police

If someone is in immediate danger or an actual crime (as opposed to antisocial activity) is being committed, then call 999.

Normally antisocial activity (damage or threats) is reported later, or is over quickly, in which case use 101. Go through to the local force and explain what you want to do (either set up the ongoing URN - reference number or if one already exists and you know it, quote it and then add a new complaint to the file).

If there is a pattern of antisocial behaviour, whether caused by one person or by several different people, call 101 to discuss with the local police force the idea of creating an ongoing URN (ref number) for those incidents, so that a file of misbehaviour can be compiled. The URN, and how to file a complaint, can be circulated to all members of the club and other local clubs.

Contact the council

You may also want to report the incident to the council. You can report antisocial behaviour via their website www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/saferpeterborough/anti-social-behaviour

Contact Nene Park

You can contact the Duty Ranger on 07860 308081 call at the following times.

April to October: 8am – 6pm

November to March: 8am – 4pm

Outside of these times call the police on 101.

Make other members of the club aware

If you are aware of an incident, please let other members of the club know . You can do this by emailing Paul Scutts, the club safety officer at paulscutts63@gmail.com, or Nickie Livett, the deputy club safety officer at nickie.livett@gmail.com or your coach with evidence of when, where and what the issue is so that it can be handed over to the appropriate authorities.

Psychological Support for Members following an incident

Members, especially juniors, may be affected by an antisocial behaviour incident and require psychological support.

Mental health support is available for British Rowing members through their insurance. To access the service, a member needs a referral from a medical professional and it needs to be following an incident occurring within a rowing environment. Details of the scheme can be found at <https://www.marshsport.co.uk/ngb-schemes/british-rowing.html>

Further information can be found at the Supporting Positive Mental Health pages on the British Rowing website.

Incident avoidance

- If an incident occurs there should be coaches or helpers available to take care of juniors while someone else is dealing with the incident
- Additional coaches or more helpers available if there is a known issue with antisocial behaviour, especially when juniors are training on or around the club
- Not rowing/training at places or times when an incident is likely to occur
- Not rowing/training alone if there is a known issue with antisocial behaviour or if you feel uncomfortable
- Always be aware of your surroundings and who is around

Further Information

- Supporting Positive Mental Health - <https://www.britishrowing.org/mental-health/>