

HISC Mooring Guidelines

Mooring Buoys

Yachts moored on swing moorings in the tidal streams that HISC moorings experience inevitably 'over stand' their mooring buoy when wind is blowing over tide. This causes the buoy to rub against the topsides, risking scratching of topsides if the mooring buoy is not perfectly smooth. The buoys are designed to be reasonably soft to minimize scratching. However, barnacles love the environment and grow very readily. Make sure that your mooring buoy stays 'barnacle free' by cleaning it regularly. As a minimum, a mid-season scrape is recommended.

Mooring Strops

The club supplies a chain-strop and this should be always attached to a strong point at the bow. However, it is supplied at a standard length that is designed for the largest yacht likely to use the mooring and therefore is almost certainly over-length for your particular yacht. Although providing ultimate security, it should be viewed as a back up rather than the main mooring. Many mooring holders fit a second rope strop. This strop provides a much 'kinder' mooring that reduces 'clunking' and general bow roller wear. It also should be significantly shorter than the chain strop. A rule of thumb is 1.5x the freeboard at the bow. A short strop minimizes 'over standing' and limits any topside scratching to a much smaller area as well as minimizing the risk of the yacht getting the mooring riser entangling the keel.

Furling Headsails

Every year, someone's headsail ends up 'auto-deploying'. This is disastrous to the headsail, a few minutes of flogging is enough to destroy a sail, It also puts intolerable strain on all the components of the mooring, including the yacht's equipment; cleats, fairleads, bow roller. In extremis, it causes the mooring to drag with potentially the total loss of the yacht together with very real chance of significant damage to your fellow member's yachts. Believe me, a difficult conversation in the bar best avoided. A sail-tie, tied around the furled headsail with a turn through the clew, is a simple and reasonably bulletproof minimal precaution.

Spray hoods and other high windage items

Windage is an aggravating contribution in most of the incidents that occur on the moorings. If there is a hint of significant wind in the forecast, prepare your darling. She is in a somewhat exposed location and going to take something of a battering in a blow. Minimizing windage is going to make a significant difference to her happiness. At the risk of batting on about 'over standing' the mooring, windage makes all the difference.

Notifying HISC of overnight absence

We all rely on being able to berth somewhere else, when we set off for a jaunt. In our part of the world, there are few spare moorings or berths. Please inform the club (easily via Selene or even via a 'radio check on CH37' to 'Hayling Club') whenever you know that you are going to be away for at least one night. It allows the club to let your mooring for the night to a fellow yachtsman. This helps fund the club and enhances HISC's reputation. It also ensures that HISC can expect your return and ensure your mooring is not taken upon your return.