

## **Safe use of the Mini Tractor. [Version 1. 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022]**

As an aid to safe use of the club tractor. All drivers should take careful note of the following points and be sure that they fully understand them and their ramifications.

The current tractor is a Yanmar YM165D.

### **Drivers.**

The only persons permitted to drive the tractor as those named on the register held by the Vice Commodore, or a third party contracted to carry out maintenance.

### **Slope & slip**

It must be clearly understood that the tractor should be kept on the upper, more level, part of the slipway: Its weight will not prevent it sliding on a muddy i.e., lubricated surface. Safe practice demands use of the long haul-up cables/ropes to keep the tractor on the mud-free upper part of the slipway.

### **Passengers**

Passengers are not to be carried on the small tractor under any circumstances.

### **Tractor speed.**

The tractor should always be driven about the site at low speed and in low range. With the boat/trolley connected the tractor should only be driven at the walking pace of the steersman.

Under no circumstances should a driver free-wheel or lower the boat down the slipway on the brakes. It will inevitably result in a series of runs and snatches. Nor should it be thought that a launch can be speeded up by slipping the clutch! The launching trolley can only make a controlled launch with someone steering it and that person can only proceed at a walking pace.

If the final entry into the water is speeded by clutch-slipping or free-wheeling to create a lifeboat launch, the momentum built-up will cause the tow rope to become slack. Then, as the boat is arrested by the loose tow rope, it will be propelled violently backwards to the great danger of both the launching crew and the boat. None of the foregoing is necessary and is grossly irresponsible; it is courting disaster. Never allow slack to develop in the tow rope. the shock of the resulting snatch will result in damage and possible personal injury.

**Be sure to use it to maintain a slow, safe, progress!**

**Fuel, Oil and Water.**

Diesel for the tractor is stored in yellow plastic containers located in the Old Tractor Shed. To prevent contamination, under no circumstances is diesel from any other source to be used. Fuel should only be poured into the tank through a funnel having a fine mesh filter gauze. Before starting the tractor, fuel, oil and water levels must be checked.

**Proper use of signalling.**

Make sure that the team you are working with fully understand that voice communication with the driver may be impossible and that appropriate hand signals are to be used. (See appendix). Agree with the team who is going to give the signals.

**Public crossing the footpath.**

Be aware of the dangers to the public when crossing the footpath. Warning signs must be placed on the footpath and at least one banksman must stay there to warn public of tractor movements. Be aware of any public in the vicinity of the slipway and be prepared to stop to allow members of the public to cross the slipway.

**Members of club or public on dinghy park and slipway.**

Be aware of members of the club, or members of the public, in the dinghy park or slipway areas. Ensure any people are aware of tractor and safety boat manoeuvres by making eye contact or calling out to them. Be prepared to stop if anybody is unaware of your manoeuvres and ensure area is clear before continuing.

**Security.**

**Do not** lend your key or allow any unauthorised driver to use the tractor. If the tractor is to be left unattended the key is to be removed to prevent unauthorised use.

*Adapted from Ted Reddish's operating instructions for the CASE tractor by Chris Wood. Commodore. September 2021*

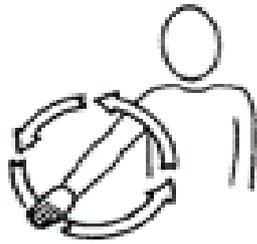
### **Launching Process.**

1. Manually remove safety boats from the boats shed, fit to tractor front tow hitch.
2. Slowly manoeuvre safety boat onto slipway until safety boat trolley wheels are at the top of the lower slope.
3. Chock BOTH safety boat trolley wheels.
4. Disconnect tractor from safety boat trolley, reverse, and connect to safety boat trolley rope.
5. Safety boat helm boards safety boat, final check on steering and engine operation.
6. Disconnect safety boat from trolley winch, loop painter onto trolley and back to helm.
7. Take strain of trolley on rope/cable, remove chocks, and launch safety boat at slow walking speed with steersman controlling trolley direction.
8. Start safety boat engine, and reverse off trolley.
9. Recover safety boat trolley at walking speed back onto hard using cable/rope and with steersman controlling trolley direction.
10. Repeat with second safety boat if required.

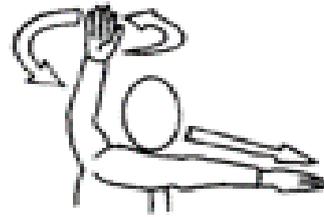
### **Recovery Process.**

1. If tide covers slipway fully, manoeuvre tractor to just above tide line, **do not drive tractor into sea water. Do not drive tractor onto lower area of slipway if covered in mud!**
2. Manoeuvre safety boat trolley onto slipway to such a depth that the safety boat can be brought onto the trolley, connect safety boat trolley rope to tractor.
3. Land safety boat onto trolley, connect to trolley winch, turn engine off and raise outboard.
4. Recover safety boat trolley and safety boat at walking speed up the slipway onto level area of dinghy park using safety boat rope and steersman controlling trolley direction.
5. Repeat with second safety boat if required.
6. Wash any mud or salt spray from tractor before putting into shed.

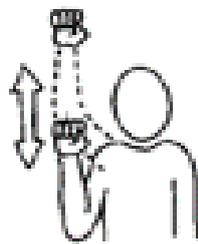
## Use Hand Signals



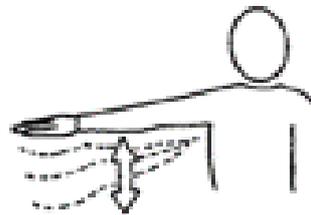
Start the engine



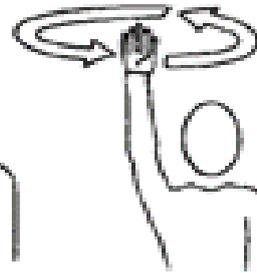
Move out



Increase speed



Decrease speed



Come to me



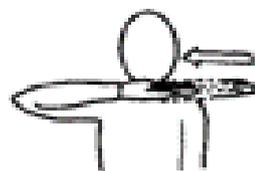
Move toward me



This far to go



Stop



Stop the engine