

Slip Cleaning May 2020

Overview

Following the Coronavirus lockdown both Slipways have a heavy build-up of weed which will take a much bigger effort than normal to clear. We hope to achieve this by recruiting more volunteers than normal. In light of the Coronavirus restrictions and guidance as well as the bigger effort required this note has been drafted to plan how we may deal with the problem.

Following discussions between Barry Grant as Grounds Manager and Grace Martin as Rear Commodore Shore, Grace has agreed to act as a Covid coordinator for this plan.

Phil Tysoe

17th March 2020

Prerequisites for GC Consideration

The Sail Store and Workshop are generally closed to members by order of the General Committee. It is important to note that in order to carry out the slip cleaning we need:

- Authorisation for one person to enter the workshop to retrieve and replace the Pressure Washer on every day that slip-cleaning is to be carried out (minimum 2 days, maximum 5 days)
- Authorisation for one person to enter the sail-store on 1 day to retrieve a spade – which will be left with the pressure washer for subsequent use on the slipways
- Direction on whether I can access and disinfect club ear and eye protection prior to each session, or, whether I should purchase new (approx. £10 per set)

Please see the 'Volunteers and Equipment', and 'Covid Risk Mitigation Plan' at the end of this document for further details.

Record keeping

We will keep a record of everybody participating in the working-party. Should any person start to show Coronavirus symptoms in the days following their participation they must inform Grace as the Covid coordinator so that their team-mates can be warned of the potential risk of their infection.

17th March 2020

Viable Dates based on Tides and Weather Forecast*

* - Based on 10 forecast on 17/5/2020

Date	Low Tide	Pressure	Adjusted Tide Height	Weather Forecast
20 th Wednesday	11:03	1023	0.20	Sunny
21 st Thursday	11:46	1018	0.25	Dull but dry
22 nd Friday	12:23	1019	0.24	Sun/Cloud
23 rd Saturday	12:55	1018	0.25	Sunny
24 th Sunday	13:26	1026	0.17	Sunny
25 th Monday	14:00	1028	0.15	Sun/cloud
26 th Tuesday	14:36	1018	0.25	Sunny

Resources Required

Western Slip

2 sessions of 2 hours cleaning: rotations of 1 person operating the pressure, 1 resting

Eastern Slip

This slip is more difficult to clean due to its shallower angle at the bottom and the fact that sand tends to accumulate on it.

2 sessions of 2 hours cleaning: rotations of 1 person operating the pressure washer, 1 scraping the slip, 1 resting

Number of Volunteers vs. Outcomes

No. Volunteers	Clean	Reference
2-3	Western slip only	Plan A
4-5	Eastern slip only	Plan B
6-7	Both slips	Plan C

We have some flexibility on this because the overall order of work on each slip will be:

- Clear the centre of the slipway, bottom to top
- Expand the cleared strip to the left, bottom to top
- Expand the cleared strip to the right, bottom to top

As a minimum we should therefore have a cleared route down any slipway we've worked on.

If we have insufficient volunteers to do both slips then we should schedule another cleaning session for the 3rd – 8th June.

Once we are back to clean slips then a monthly clean of about 3 hours is sufficient to do both using the rotary head.

Outline Plan

Sunday – Wednesday	Seek volunteers
Wednesday	GC Meeting – review and seek authorisation for plan
Thursday	I'll spend 2 hours cleaning according to whether we are doing A, B or C. This is so I can check that everything is working, and to get some idea of how hard the weed is to shift.
Friday	<i>Meet at 12:00 – dependent upon volunteers</i>
Saturday	<i>Meet at 12:30 – dependent upon volunteers</i>
Sunday	<i>Meet at 13:00 – dependent upon volunteers</i>
Monday	I'll check the status and do any last cleaning if needed

What happens Friday through Sunday will depend on how many volunteers we get and when they are available.

In each case:

- I'll be present at the start of each cleaning session to get the cleaning equipment out
- I'll ensure the Pressure Washer is full of petrol at the start of each session – this will be sufficient for a 2 hour cleaning session and save anyone having to go into the petrol store or handle the petrol cans
- I'll make sure a pack of wipes is available so that the equipment and any surfaces touched during the remainder of the session can be cleaned
- I will brief everyone on the Covid measures in this plan as well as giving them an introduction to the Pressure Washer procedures

Volunteers and Equipment

From what I have seen of the slips I think it unlikely that the rotary cleaning head will cope with the thickness of the weed build-up.

Therefore it is likely we will have to use the lance a lot this time – which is messier, slower, and more dangerous than using the Cleaning Head. Also we will not have access to Club safety equipment or facilities.

Volunteers will be needed for 2½ - 3 hours from the arrival time

Volunteers should bring:

- Eye protection
- Ear protection
- Work-gloves (nitrile gloves not strong enough) are suggested in the Pressure-Washer operating instructions but this is down to personal preference
- Wellington Boots
- Waterproof clothing
- Hand sanitizer

PPE for Covid:

In terms of Covid protective equipment – I have purposely not put gloves or face-masks on this list because:

Face-masks: The task is open-air. Only 1 person will ever enter a building - see Covid Risk Mitigation Plan below.

Gloves: In this instance the danger is in touching your face after touching a contaminated surface – gloves will not prevent this (the fact that it is a dirty job may do so though!)

Club Equipment Alternative

It may well be that some volunteers do not have their own ear or eye protection. We will try to establish this beforehand, but as mentioned under Prerequisites we have 2 alternatives:

- I could thoroughly disinfect some club equipment before each session; or,
- I could purchase new equipment on the club account with Neil Stroud's company beforehand at approx. £10 per set (up to £60 total)

Covid Risk Mitigation Plan

This is an outdoor task with 2-3 participants who will be generally and obviously dirty. There is little Covid cross-contamination risk in general. As previously stated, Covid facemasks and gloves are not mandatory for this task.

The following analysis addresses the various activities, their potential risks, and any steps we can take to mitigate them.

Update 21/5/2020: Upon review, the points relating to Surface contamination on exterior surfaces were dropped because:

- a. It is known that the virus cannot survive in these circumstances, especially in direct sunlight*
- b. Volunteers hands would be filthy anyway, and they would be very conscious of touching their face even without Coronavirus risks*

These items are shown shaded out in the table below.

Activity	Risks	Mitigation
Retrieving equipment from workshop	Close contact in an enclosed space	Only 1 person will enter the building and lay the equipment outside the workshop for the others to retrieve
	Surface contamination	Person accessing will disinfect all surfaces they touch with particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door handles • Switches
	Surface contamination – equipment	Person retrieving the equipment should disinfect handles, triggers etc.
Retrieving spade from gardening shed/sail store	Close contact in an enclosed space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 1 person will enter the store • Spade will be left with Pressure Washer (i.e. not put back in store) so that no further access is required to gardening shed
	Surface contamination	Person accessing will wipe all surfaces they touch with particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door handles • Switches
	Surface contamination – equipment	Person retrieving the equipment should disinfect handle, shaft
Filling Pressure washer with petrol / access to fuel store	Surface contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will fill the pressure washer with petrol before each cleaning session – no further refills will be necessary • I will wipe down the cans, padlock, funnel and anything else touched when accessing the fuel store
Moving about the site in general	Close contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everybody will maintain social distance at all times • No piece of equipment needs more than 1 person to manoeuvre

Activity	Risks	Mitigation
Set-up at slipway, connection of water supply, starting washer	Surface contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate padlock and handles should be disinfected before use • Tap and hose connectors should be disinfected before use • Only 1 person should make the connections and connect/start the pressure washer
Equipment handling during slip cleaning	Surface Contamination	<p>It is inevitable that equipment will pass from one person to another without being cleaned, whether that be the pressure washer lance or spade etc.</p> <p>Everyone will have to be alert to this fact and conscious of touching their faces or any other part of their anatomy during this time.</p> <p>They will be generally and obviously dirty during this time anyway which lessens the risk.</p>
	Close contact	The lance and other equipment should be laid down or simply passed at arms-length. Note that the lance must not be passed by holding one end of it due to the risk of activating the trigger while it is pointing at somebody!
Packing-up at slipway	Surface contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taps and hose connections should be disinfected • Gate padlock and handles should be disinfected
Equipment cleaning	Surface contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All buttons and handles on Pressure-Washer should be disinfected • Lance should be disinfected • Hose connectors should be disinfected
Equipment return to storage	Close contact in an enclosed space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment should be left at Workshop door • Only 1 person should enter the workshop to store the equipment
	Surface contamination	<p>Person accessing will disinfect all surfaces they touch with particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door handles • Switches