

Tacking a Dinghy By Martyn Bromley

At Penarth Yacht Club we have both aft and centre mainsheets on our boats.

Techniques for tacking with both are included here.

Aft Mainsheet

- Look over your shoulder to see if water is clear of boats and obstructions to tack.
- Call "Ready About"
- Change hands on tiller and mainsheet so that they are in the correct hands for the new tack.
- Push the tiller away from you and call "Lee Oh"
- Step across the boat putting your front foot first and turn in the middle of the boat facing aft.
- As the boom crosses the boat, step completely across the boat and sit down, straighten the tiller when the sails fill on the new tack.
- Trim the sails and sails straight ahead.

Centre Mainsheet

- Look over your shoulder to see if water is clear of boats and obstructions to tack.
- Call "Ready About"
- Push the tiller away from you and call "Lee Oh"
- Step across the boat putting your front aft foot first facing forward.
- As the boom crosses the boat, step completely across the boat and sit down, holding the tiller extension behind your back.
- Straighten the tiller when the sails fill on the new tack.
- Change hands on tiller and mainsheet so that they are in the correct hands for the new tack.

Crew's Role

- When the Helmsman calls "Ready About", look over your shoulder to see if water is clear of boats and obstructions to tack.
- Uncleat the jib and say "Ready"
- Cross the boat as the boom comes across.
- When the jib starts flapping, release the old jib sheet and pick up the new one.
- As the jib fills on the new side, pull in the sheet to trim the sail.
- Balance the boat.

Main Points

- **Aft Mainsheet:-** Change hands before tack - face aft - front foot first
- **Centre Mainsheet:-** Face forward - aft foot first - change hands after tack