

TRANSPORTATION / TOWING OF GIGS



Charlestown
Rowing Club

www.charlestownrowingclub.org.uk

All Towing for the Club is voluntary. Only Persons listed with the Club as a 'Volunteer Tower' shall tow Gigs and Trailers - in an emergency, a club tower may delegate the towing to a competent individual who will act under their supervision.

The safe transportation of Gig(s) is the responsibility of the person(s) towing the Gig(s) All Members who tow club trailers must be conversant with the requirements for safe and legal movement of boats by road and hold a correct driving license. Those volunteering to tow boats on trailers are responsible for ensuring that they are capable of doing so and that their vehicles are in a safe and suitable condition and their vehicle is covered by their own insurance. Unfortunately the Insurance cover that the Club can access does not cover the tower, the tower's vehicle or any other third party damage or injury.

For information, a racing Gig weighs approximately 350 kgs - with a trailer between 300 - 500 Kg and oars and kit for an event up to 150 Kg the total weight could be around 800 - 1000 Kg

The Gig trailer is approximately 9.2 m (30 ft) long, from the tow hitch; and (with the current Charlestown trailers - April 2015) the Gig overhangs the rear of the trailer by 1.5 m giving a total length from the tow hitch to the rear of the Gig of approximately 10.7 m

Towers are also referred to the guidance of British Rowing [BR Rowsafe 2017](#) and National Trailer and Towing Association [NTTA](#) for more information regarding safe towing.

The following information is included as guidance only and should be considered in addition to all Road Traffic requirements.

1. Towers are responsible for ensuring that:
 - They are properly licensed, capable, and competent to do so and that their vehicles are roadworthy and suitable for towing.
 - They and their vehicles are comprehensively covered by their own insurance and that, if necessary, their Insurers have been advised.
 - They are conversant with the requirements for safe and legal movements of boats and trailers by road.

2. Before each towing movement the Tower must check and be satisfied that
 - the Gig Trailer is operational and roadworthy, including correct tyre pressures and the trailer is in good order including brakes and lights.
 - Gig is properly supported and strapped down with sufficient ratchet retaining straps (including a stern strap) and all loose equipment within the Gig is secure and the cover is properly secured.
 - The emergency brake strap is fitted
 - A rear projection marker must be fitted (in daylight use a coloured rag, red/white plastic warning tape or a red/white warning triangle). During the hours of darkness the rear projection requires a red rear tail light and a red reflecting device within 1.00 m of the end of the rear projection.
3. When towing trailers, drivers must ensure that:-
 - The towing load of the vehicle is within the manufacturer's limits and the tower is aware of the nose weight of the trailer.
 - All Mandatory and Advisory speed limits are adhered to and a generous amount of time is allowed to complete the journey
4. When parking:
 - When parking or stowing the gig on the trailer, the correct method is to lower the rear trailer legs and wind the jockey wheel down to take the load off the wheels. The handbrake must be properly applied and the wheels chocked, especially on slopes.
 - The gig should be set up so that water freely drains from the gig, i.e. keep the bow slightly higher than the stern with the bung removed.