

Sail4All

Saturday 24 July

Coming Alongside

During a dinghy sailor's career, there will be a many occasions when he/she has a requirement to come alongside; perhaps to a jetty, another boat, a mooring buoy, a piece of equipment that has fallen overboard or, indeed, for a myriad of any other reasons.

Coming alongside in a controlled way requires good boat handling skills, understanding of the points of sailing (in particular the "close reach") and control of speed by sail setting ("fill and spill").

Click on the link [Coming Alongside](#) for a short video demonstrating the technique in a two-person dinghy.

Tips:

- Be aware of conditions; in particular wind speed/direction and any tidal influence
- Approach cautiously from leeward, on a close reach if at all possible
- Control speed of approach by powering/depowering main and jib ("fill and spill"), rounding up into wind when alongside
- Aim to hold dinghy alongside at the (dinghy's) windward shroud
- Raise centreboard and rudder if likely to remain alongside for a period of time
- In windy conditions, consider lowering the mainsail before approach
- If circumstances dictate an approach from windward, lower the mainsail