

# Securing boats at the club

Dinghies berthed at the club should, at all times, be securely tied down to ground anchorage points. The preferred method of anchorage point is a 3 foot section of scaffolding tube, or similar, angled away from the boat at about 10 degrees and driven in with a sledgehammer or similar. There are a



few of these prepared at the club. The stake has a hole drilled in at the top through which the tie down rope is passed. This method allows the stake to be driven below the surface in order to save injuries to feet, mower blades & trolley tyres. For monohulls with stayed masts (shrouds), stakes should be positioned alongside the shrouds with securing ropes up to the shroud bases or over the boat with turns around the mast. For dinghies with unstayed masts and flat covers (eg Lasers), ties should be about third of the way from the trolley wheels to bow

The below picture shows a Supernova secured in this way using the shroud bases as anchor points. In addition, the boat has a tie down rope at the bow so that the boat is anchored at three points, stopping the boat “bouncing” in high winds. This particular boat is pointing into the prevailing west wind which, certainly with monohulls, is a good idea. However, whilst raising the bow to ensure water drains from the cover and the hull is a good idea, this has the unwanted effect of increasing windage. It could be better to turn the boat round and let the natural slope of the hill help drain the water whilst keeping the boat lower down.



As to catamarans, there are a number of different points they can be secured at, but the principle remains the same. In addition, due to the catamaran's higher windage, they do need at least two anchorage points, ie one at the bow and one at the transom.



In the picture on the left, the rear tie down passing over the cover would be better passed under the cover so that the tie down rope can be kept tight whilst allowing the cover to be raised to let the water drain off.

In the picture on the right, the rear beam, facing the prevailing west wind, is secured down to a single central anchorage. The bow is secured by a rope passing underneath the cover.

In winter, boats are best taken away from the club and stored under cover. If left at the club, it is essential that the mast is taken down and laid in a safe place. The boat cover should be securely tied on with support so water drains off. Another option is to turn the boat upside down, tied down and raised off the ground on tyres, a plentiful supply of which can be found at the club.