

# Your Dinghy

Rowing and sailing dinghies are fun. Dinghies allow you to moor on a mudweight in the quieter waters of the Broads but still get shore for refreshments or provisions.

## **Towing your Dinghy:**

Fasten your dinghy so that it follows closely, never trailing yards behind, but allow enough painter so that the dinghy doesn't get trapped at the end of a tack. The rowlocks should be unshipped whenever the dinghy is not being rowed, and especially when being towed, otherwise they may catch on ropes or on other boats.

Never tow your dinghy with its mast up or with the centreboard lowered. When you unstep the dinghy mast, stow and secure it in the dinghy so that the mast does not protrude over the bows. Alternatively, stow the mast, etc on the cabin top.

**Never** allow anyone to ride in the dinghy when it is towed.

## **Boarding your Dinghy:**

It is recommended that you always wear a buoyancy aid or life jacket. Ensure the dinghy is tied securely and step into the middle from the side. Never attempt to get in over the bows. Never overload the dinghy, two is enough when sailing.

## **Sailing your Dinghy:**

Step the mast, fix the rudder and tiller in place and lower the centreboard. Hoist the sail with the dinghy head to wind. Hoist the sail up to full height, making sure that the mainsheet is free, and fasten the halyard (downhaul).

## **Rowing your Dinghy:**

No guidance here – just have fun.

When sailing or rowing in a river, watch out for the wash from motor boats as few drivers are aware of what happens behind them. Remember you will make excellent progress with the breeze behind you and the tide running with you but getting back against wind and tide can be a long and tiring process.

## **Safety Code:**

- Always wear a buoyancy aid, even if you are an excellent swimmer.
- Once underway, never stand in a dinghy.
- When getting in or out, avoid stepping onto the edge of the dinghy.
- Never overload your dinghy.
- If you should capsize, stay with the dinghy until help arrives.