

Falcon Boat Club Launch – COX 902

1. Locating the Keys, Launch Bag and Paddles

The keys are kept in the launch bag which is stored in the Clubhouse in a secure location. If you want use of the Launch and don't already know where it is, then you need to speak to the Rowing Captain or the Kayak Captain. There are policies and procedures surrounding the use of the launch, as it is shared with CORC, that need to be respected.

The paddles are located in the side panels on the launch as below :



2. Falcon CORC Launch Agreement

There is a contract in place that allows for CORC to maintain and use the launch, whilst it remains in Falcon ownership. This contract was renewed in Autumn 2022 and a copy is posted on the Falcon website, under Rowers FAQ.

Essentially it allows for preferred use by CORC on Saturday mornings, and by Falcon on Sunday mornings. A google calendar has been established (See Rowers Useful Links on Falcon Website) under the control of Rowing Captain and some others to allow the two clubs to manage use.

Whenever planning to use it, it is best to advise CORC (Andy Weekes and the Club Captain – see their website or Rowers FAQ for contact email) beforehand that it is going to be used since it is not certain people will effectively use the booking calendar.

A key requirement is that anyone using the launch must have their RYA2 certificate.

3. How to find the launch

The launch, designated COX902, is moored at Iffley Lock, on the other side of the lock keepers Island from the lock. Go to the lower lock barrier, cross to the island and go through the gate, walking in front of the cottage with the lock on the left, to the top of the island and walk around to the other side – the first launch you see should be COX902.



4. How to prepare the launch

There are a number of things you need to do before freeing the launch from its mooring

- Turn on the battery
- Put petrol into the fuel tank
- Prime the engine with fuel using the hand pump
- Ensure the propellor is clear
- Fit the safety cord and set the safety switch to on
- Insert the key and start the engine
- Confirm the water coolant system is working
- Unmooring

Having done all these things you will need to use the padlock key to release the rear securing chain so you may have to turn the engine off again to remove the key set to do this.

IMPORTANT : The fuel tank is generally left near to empty, so its essential to bring a tank of fuel or you won't get very far. There should be a minimum of 1L of fuel always in the tank.

When you return the launch please make sure the battery is turned OFF, and the launch is secured at the bow with the mooring rope and at the stern with the chain and lock. Please make sure the two metal boxes under the seats are secured and locked, and the engine is left in neutral. ALWAYS LEAVE ABOUT 1L OF FUEL IN THE TANK.

Turning on the Battery

The battery and fuel tank are in the secure metal boxes under respectively the driver and passenger seats. The large key on the key set unlocks both of these padlocks as well as the padlock that secures the mooring chain.



The Battery compartment is under the drivers seat and should look like this when opened for the first time (left hand picture) with the red switch on the right of the Battery housing in horizontal position (OFF). Turn it to a vertical alignment and it should now be ON, making it possible to turn over the engine.



[OFF]



[ON]

Refueling the Tank

The tank will be left mostly empty so you need to bring a filled portable tank with you to the launch. The tank is in the right hand steel box under the passenger seat and looks like the below picture. There are filling cups and pipes to one side – just unlock the cap, fill and then relock the cap fully.



Priming the Engine with Fuel

The system is not very well gravity fed, instead depending on suction, so you need to pump fuel into the engine using the inline hand pump, picture below. Keep pumping until the rubber pump capsule is very firm, meaning it is full of fuel and there is fuel pressure into the engine.

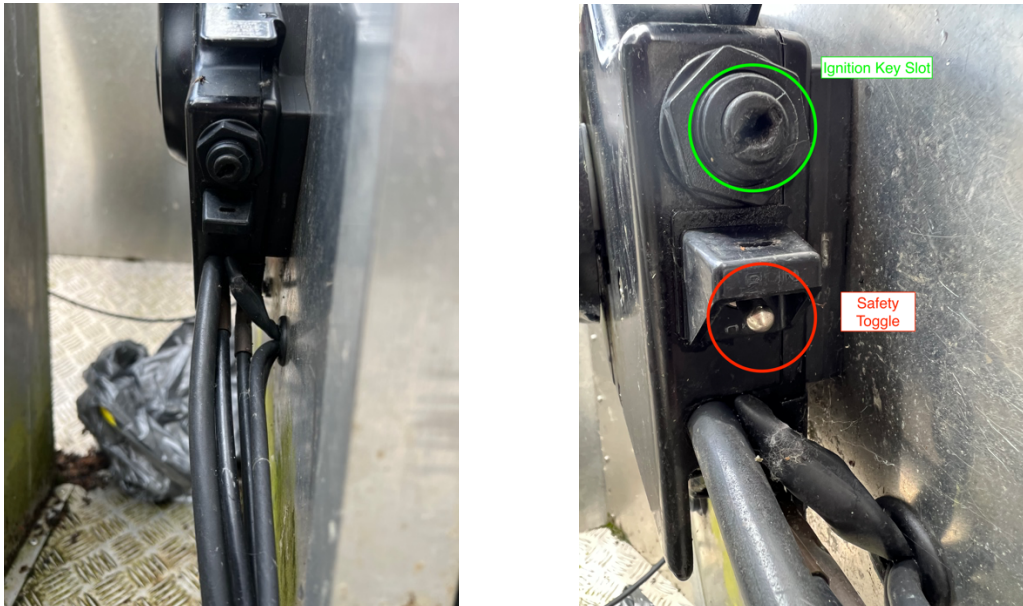


Ensure the propellor is clear

Whilst at the engine this is a good time to inspect the propellor to make sure it is clear and not tangled with rope or other debris.

Fitting the Safety Cord

In the below picture you can see, below and to the right of the steering wheel, the ignition slot and underneath is a small black shield inside which is the safety toggle switch.



You will need to place the loop at the free end of the safety cord over the Safety Toggle and then flip the toggle upwards to enable the ignition. The cord should go around your leg and then up to the ignition slot, as below.



Turning on the Ignition

First making sure the gear is in Neutral (the central position)



Then insert the key as below and turn clockwise, which should start the engine – then release the key, which will rotate slightly back anti-clockwise, and the engine should continue running, at this point you are ready to unmoor and drive off.



[INSERT POSITION]



[TURN CLOCKWISE]

Confirm the water coolant system is working

With the engine turning over and the propeller in the water you should see a steady thin stream of water flowing from the top of the engine, being fired to starboard of the launch. This is from the water cooling mechanism and if you cannot see it (you really cannot miss it) then you need to turn the engine off and clear the inlet and outlet otherwise you risk overheating and damaging the engine. There should be a coil of stiff wire in the Launch Bag to help with this.

Unmooring

The launch is tied at the front by a rope, which stays on the launch once underway and at the back by a steel chain with a padlock, which stays at the mooring location unless there is need to moor the Launch unattended elsewhere.

The steel chain is secured with a padlock, operated by the larger key on the key set, the same key also opens the steel boxes holding the fuel tank and battery under the passenger and drivers seats respectively.



And finally

Best of luck, please drive carefully, respecting other river users and keep in mind your wash and its effect on them. Any issues please advise the Falcon Rowing and Kayaking Captains.

[Document written by Jon Crooks, Falcon Rowing Captain, 20th June 2023]