

# Onshore winds

You will be more confident with your ability to sail;

By being able to manoeuvre from the slipway, sail, and arrive back again competently without thinking you have made a fool of your self. You can achieve this in several ways.

Knowing how to rig your boat for the conditions you will be sailing in.

Having found out the wind strength and conditions for the day (whether the wind will increase or decrease) and the direction of the wind. You will certainly need to know this to be able to launch the boat into wind.

You will find it much more difficult to launch and get going in an onshore breeze.

Point 1. Have the sails ready to hoist in the dinghy park. (A tip) raise and lower the sails before you get down to the waters edge to make sure everything will work beforehand. With a topper, rig, but remove the outhaul and let the sail flap, or roll it up on it self and make a temporary tie around the mast before launching stern first into the water. It might then be a good idea to ask someone to hold the bow into the wind while you re-attach the aft end of the sail.

If the wind is light you might get away with launching stern first with the sail in position. It's a case of judging the wind strength.

Launch your dinghy stern first with the sails down, remove the trolley and turn the boat into wind before hoisting the sails. Hoist the mainsail first before hoisting the jib. With a topper, ask someone to hold the bow while you re-affix the outhaul, always keep the bow into the wind.

When sailing off in onshore winds, the difficulty is to get the boat sailing without going sideways and landing back on the shore again. This is because the water will be shallow when you first get into the boat and the centre board or dagger board will not be down far enough to grip the water and stop the boat from going sideways.

Also you may find that the rudder will not be down far enough to give you steerage way.

One way around this is to ask a kind soul to wade out, holding your boat with you in it while you get yourself sorted, and push you off, enabling you to progressively push the board and rudder down as you sail off.

Another way, is to launch off of the slipways. Pull the boat into wind and raise the sails, and walk out as far as you are able as close to the edge of the slipway as you can, get into the boat, pull the sails in and quickly push the rudder down followed by the centre board, as you move sideways out into deeper water.

A word of warning! The edge of the slipway will go into very deep water so it pays not to get too close to the edge.

