

CHERWELL BOATHOUSE

CONDITIONS FOR COLLEGE PUNT HIRE

2025

1. **STARTING OUT:** The punt should be booked through the college system, and a valid ticket or membership card presented at the Boathouse. A plastic tag with punt number will be given in exchange for this at the Punt Office. If the previous tag has not been returned, there may be a delay while the position is checked. If all the college boats are out, no punt will be available until one has returned. Any dispute over lateness or incorrect booking will be between the parties concerned; Boathouse staff cannot check College bookings. Rowing boats or canoes may be supplied in place of punts on request, if available and at the discretion of the Staff.

Paddles, poles and cushions should be collected from and returned to the Boathouse. Each punt is supplied with the equipment detailed below. Extra equipment may not be taken; if less is used this should be noted at the Punt Office. Where punts return with equipment missing, it will be assumed that a full complement was taken, unless so noted. Replacement costs, which will be charged for loss or complete breakage are also given.

1 set Floorboards	£25 each	1 Pole - wooden	£240
2 Backboards	£80 each	- metal	£80
4 Cushions	£70 each	1 Paddle	£60
1 Plastic Tag	£ 8		

Wooden poles need more careful handling and will only be supplied, if available, to experienced punters upon request. All damage to boats or equipment must be reported. Impact damage which makes boats unrivertworthy will be repaired as soon as possible. A replacement punt will only be supplied if this cannot be done in a reasonable time.

2 **LIMITATIONS AND CHARGES:** Punts are available from 10.00 AM to 10.00 PM (9.00PM in the first week of term and dusk at each end of the season). It is important that boats are returned by the specified closing time and a late charge will be applied for all late boats at a rate of £10 for each 15 minutes overdue. A boat arriving back at 11.00 in term time will therefore incur a charge of £40. A boat arriving back with excessive water aboard, needing Boathouse staff to bail it out will incur a 'wet' charge of £10. Where possible these charges and any equipment charges should be paid when the punt returns. If this is not possible, any outstanding charges will be billed to the JCR Treasurer at the end of the period. If not paid they will be deducted from the deposit held, and no further hire made until this deposit is made up to the current value.

Punts not returned by 11.00PM will be charged to the College at £40 plus the cost of any equipment missing on inspection on the next morning. If the boat is not back by 10.00AM on the next morning, the college lodge will be informed and Boathouse staff will search for it. A further fee of £60 will be charged and no other boat will be made available until the missing boat is recovered. **HIRERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FULL VALUE OF BOATS AND ALL EQUIPMENT UNTIL CORRECTLY BOOKED BACK INTO THE BOATHOUSE.** All punts are taken as fully equipped unless otherwise noted by the Punt Office.

Because of damage in earlier years, no punts will be available on **MAY MORNING** until the normal opening at 10.00 AM. Punting will be restricted on the evening of April 30th: no punts will be let out after 6.00PM, nor allowed downstream after 5.00PM.

3. **RIVER/WEATHER:** When river conditions are dangerous - too high, too fast, strong winds or other danger, no punts will be let out. This decision will be made by the senior Boathouse staff member present and will not be open to dispute. In sustained bad weather when no one is punting the Boathouse may close. It will reopen as soon as practicable after the weather improves. If in doubt of conditions or opening please check before coming.

4 **SAFETY:** It is the responsibility of the hirer to so behave that he/she does not endanger him/herself nor any other river user. Those actually punting must be able to swim. Intentional swimming from the boats is not allowed. The river can be dangerous with variable depth and reedy areas. Life jackets are available, and the cushions have some degree of buoyancy and should be used as buoyancy aids in an emergency. A heavy punt moving fast can cause considerable damage on impact, so always be aware of and be courteous to other river users. Customers should be aware of the dangers of excess alcohol consumption and punting , and will be not be allowed to take a punt out if deemed to be in an unfit state .

J.Verdin for Cherwell Boathouse Limited