

## BOAT CREW

### Instructions: (mates read aloud)

This crew packet contains important information for you to know aboard the Balclutha, and it will help you complete your project. First, read the part about your roles. The mate will assign roles to everyone in the crew. If there are not enough roles for everyone, then the mate may assign 2 people to 1 role. Once the mate assigns the roles, there is no switching, but you are allowed to help each other. Once everyone has a role, read the ENTIRE packet through once, taking turns reading aloud. After you have read through once, you can go back and re-read different sections if you need to.

### Roles:

Recorder	While the crew is taking turns reading the packet out loud, the recorder is responsible for writing down important information for the presentation. The recorder should have legible handwriting, and the rest of the crew should be sure to give the recorder enough time to write things down before moving on.
Researcher	The researcher is responsible for finding new information online or in books that will help with the presentation. The researcher should come up with at least three different sources to get more information from. Once the researcher has come up with the three sources, the mate can assign some other crew members to help with the research.
Designer	The designer is responsible for the layout of the poster that will be presented to the class. He or she should come up with a theme for the poster that includes how big (or small) items will be, how many pictures to use, color scheme, and other elements of design.
Artist	The artist is responsible for either picking or drawing the images that will be displayed on the poster during the presentation. The images should fit into the theme determined by the designer.
Writer	The writer is responsible for writing one to two sentences for each image, to be displayed on the poster. These sentences should answer the Presentation Questions and should be coordinated with the images on the poster.
Presenter	The presenter is responsible for coming up with a script for the presentation. The presenter should NOT be the only person who talks during the presentation. This person will decide what can be read off the poster, what should be said that is not on the poster, and what order different people in the crew will speak in.

### Presentation Questions:

1. Why do large ships carry small boats with them?
2. What are some important parts of small boats? Are they the same or different than large ships, and how?
3. Why is it important for a crew to complete commands at the same time and at the same speed when lowering the boat? What about rowing the boat?

## **About Ships and Small Boats:**

Large ships need to carry small boats for a number of reasons. When people think of small boats on ships today, many think of lifeboats. In the unlikely event that it starts to sink, a ship should have enough small boats to hold all of the people on board. (Can you think of a famous ship that did NOT have enough lifeboats for all the passengers?) Today this is the most common reason that ships carry small boats, but historically there were many other reasons as well.

When ships used to go out to sea fishing and whaling, they would bring small boats with them for that purpose. The ships would first sail out to the fishing grounds, sometimes a whole month's journey away. Once they reached their destination, every day the sailors would launch the small boats and sail or row away from their ship. They would spend all day out fishing, hunting seals, or whaling, and return in the evening with their catch.

Ships also used small boats to get into port, or to get their cargo into port, before there were docks with deep water to tie up to. In some ports, the sailors would have to lower the small boats miles from port and tow the big ship all the way in to the harbor. When the ship was anchored in the harbor, the only way for anyone to get ashore was on the small boats. Even if they were willing to get wet, most sailors did not know how to swim. Many captains were very strict with their crews about when they were allowed to go ashore, and how much time they were allowed to spend there.

## **Boat Crew Responsibilities**

The boat crew is responsible for the proper handling of the small boats (dory, longboat, etc.). The Boat Crew must be able to prove their capabilities to the Captain, and be prepared to carry out any order he may give them regarding these boats. In addition, the Boat Crew must have knowledge of the proper use and location of safety equipment (i.e., life jackets), proper use of lines, and small boat operating orders for both the dory and longboat.

The Boat Crew will lower and raise the dory to the commands given by the Mate. The mate must make sure that the boat is level, or "even keeled", as it goes up and down. If it is not level, the Captain or whoever is in the boat could fall out! This means that the crew must work together to let the boat down and pull it up at the exact same speed. It is up to the mate to make sure that the crew does this. It will also be the Mate's responsibility that all lads are properly handling the lines.

## **DORY PROCEDURES**

Lowering the dory: These are the commands the Boat crew must know/learn

1. **"SECURE THE BOAT PLUG"** - The boat is always hung in davits with the plug open so that the rain water will drain freely from the boat. The plug needs to be secured so the boat does not fill with sea water.

2. **"STAND BY"** - The crew is divided into two (bow line and stern line) and the **last** person in line scoops up the coil and carries it away from the cleat at a 45 degree angle to the pier. Once it has been laid out with enough room for the crew to hold it, capsize the coil, taking care not to block the entire pier. Once everyone is holding the line (with everyone on the same side of the line), stand ready for the next order.

3. **"MAKE READY"** - The **last** person in line goes forward to grab the fall line, shouts "line secure" and continues holding it while the cleat hitch is taken off the cleat by the **first** person in line. The **first** person gets back into position, shouts "line secure" and then the person on the fall goes back to his position at the end of the line.

4. **"PREPARE TO SLACK AWAY, SLACK AWAY TOGETHER"** - Lower the boat evenly using "hand-under-hand" motion  
(Note: DO NOT LET THE LINE SLIDE THROUGH YOUR HANDS AT ANY TIME). When boat reaches the water, the order of "avast" is given.

To recover (lift up) the dory:

1. **"PREPARE TO HAUL AWAY, HAUL AWAY TOGETHER"** –

Using a chantey or "heave-ho", pull the boat up keeping the dory level. When you haul keep your feet in one place. The chanteyman must keep an eye on the position of the blocks to know when the boat is raised to the proper location.

2. **"AVAST"** - When the boat reaches the upper block, the order "avast" is given.

3. **"MAKE FAST"** - Using the same procedure as "Make Ready," secure the bow and stern lines with a cleat hitch.

4. **"COIL DOWN"** - Lines are coiled clockwise directly on the horn.

5. **"FREE THE BOAT PLUG"** – Unplug the boat plug.

If the Boat Crew proves to the Captain their capability in working together and following orders, the Captain may decide to send the crew rowing; part of this decision is dependent upon weather and tidal conditions. Just as the crew must work together when handling lines, the crew must work together while rowing a longboat. Each oar will be handled by one or two crew members. If the whole crew makes the same movements at the same time, the boat will glide quickly through the water in the right direction. If some crew are pushing while others are pulling, or the timing is off, the oars may hit each other, the boat will move slowly, and everyone will have to work harder.

## **ROWING ORDERS**

**These commands will be learned by the boat crew**

**"OUT OARS"** - Oars are held in a horizontal position (parallel to the water) with the blades perpendicular to the water.

**"PREPARE TO GIVE WAY"** - The crew bends over and extends their arms, lower than chest height, which sets the blade forward (remember that the crew is facing aft and where the bow is), ready for the next command.

**"GIVE WAY TOGETHER"** - Pulling the oar handle up, which lowers the blade into the water pull toward the body and row, taking full strokes, keeping in unison with the first oarsman on the port side, known as the "stroke" oar.

**"WAY ENOUGH"** - Stop rowing by pushing down on the handles which brings the blade out of the water and wait for the next command.

**"PREPARE TO BACKWATER"** - Holding the oar handle close to your body at chest level, prepare to row in the opposite direction, pushing the handle away from you as you extend your arms.

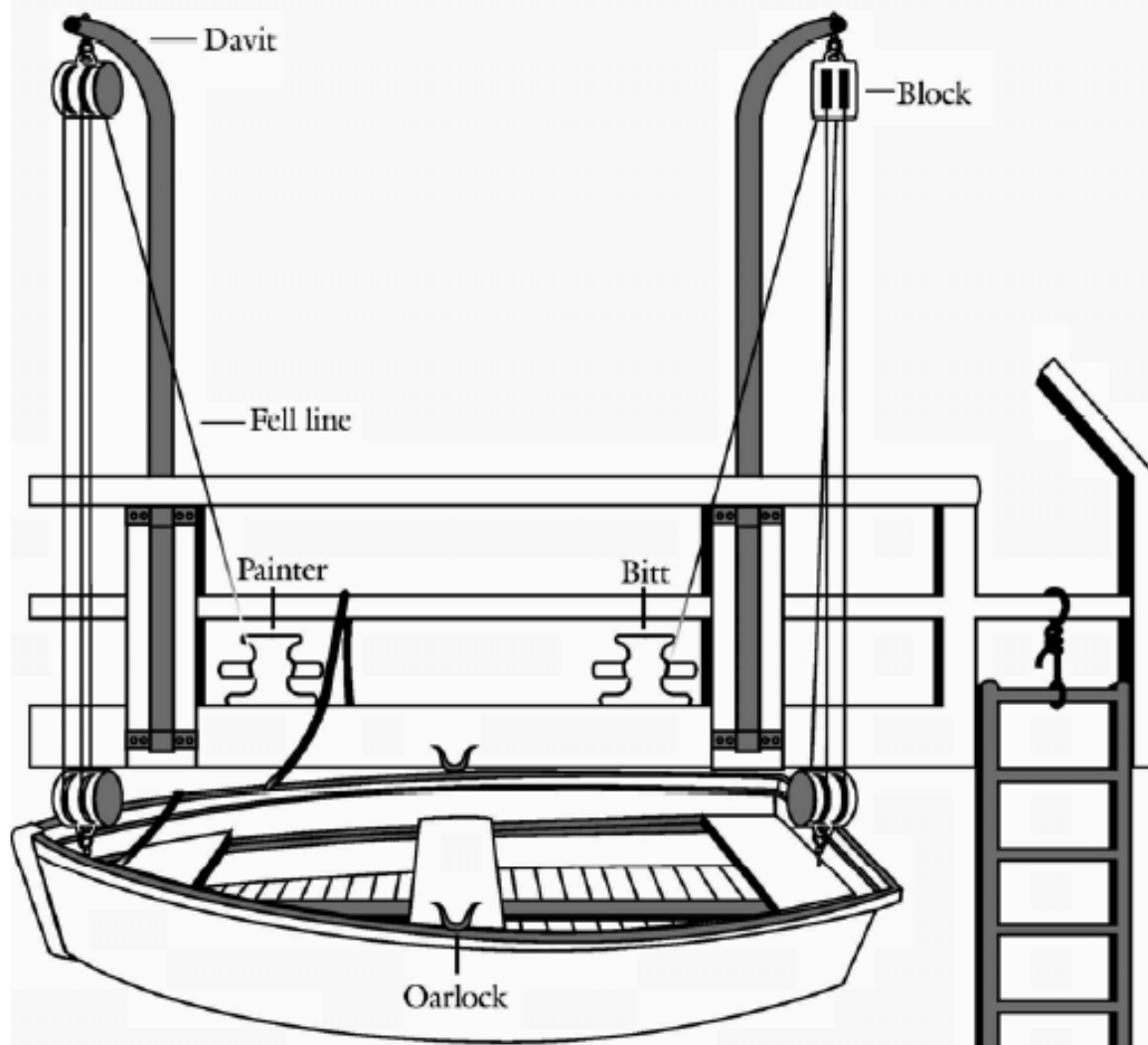
**"BACKWATER TOGETHER"** - All hands keeping in unison with the "stroke" oar, push the handle away from you as you extend your arms.

**"PREPARE TO HOLD WATER"** - Hold the oars, ready to dip the blade into the water.

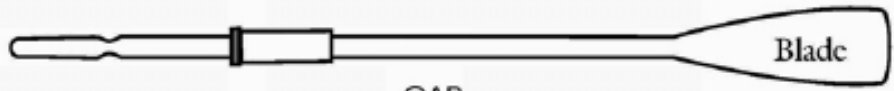
**"HOLD WATER TOGETHER"** - Dip the oars into the water; this will act as a brake, so if there is any momentum be prepared for resistance.

**"SHIP OARS"** - Pull oars across the boat so that they lay on the gun'1 from port to starboard.

# DORY ILLUSTRATION



DORY



OAR



BOAT PLUG

## VOCABULARY

The crew must have knowledge of the following nautical terms:

**Aft** - in the rear or towards the stern of a vessel

**Bitt** - small posts or timber heads fixed through the deck of the ship for fastening lines or cable

**Blade** - the flat end of the oar which moves through the water

**Block and tackle** - block, a wooden or metal shell pulley device used with line (called tackle) for mechanical advantage or to redirect the line

**Bow** - the forward (front) end of the ship

**Chantey** - chorus songs sung by the crew to help keep rhythm as they work

**Cleat** - piece of wood or metal used for belaying (tying off) lines

**Coxswain** - person in charge who gives longboat orders

**Davit** - light crane on a ship's side (or pier) for lowering and raising boats

**Dory** - flat-bottomed boat, usually kept hanging in davits

**Fall** - the line to be hauled on as it comes from the top block

**Gangway** - narrow platform or bridge passing from one deck of a vessel to another

**Gun'l or gunwale** - top rail of the dory or longboat

**Horn** - the wooden hook for holding the coil

**Longboat** - strong rowboat over 20 feet long propelled by eight or ten oars

**Oarlocks** - U-shaped metal piece for holding the oars

**Rudder** - instrument which steers the boat

**Thwart** - seat on a small boat

**Tiller** - handle for the rudder