

DBSC Launch/Recovery RIBs Checklist 2017

1	Tractor drivers	For safety & insurance purposes, only trained drivers may operate the tractor – see https://dbscweb.wordpress.com/members/regulation-safety-information/tractor-guidance/ Drivers know how to access keys.
2	Which RIB to use?	This can be a matter of preference but check tides at launch/recovery times since the Humbers are difficult to launch or recover with less than 1.2m of water.
3	Tractor operations	When there are many people around, especially younger ones, a banksman should guide the driver. A hi-viz vest is available in tractor. At busy times and on Tuesdays, the area between top boat shed and training room must be roped off for safety while tractor is manoeuvring
4	Hitching trailers	Trailers are attached to the tractor tow ball with a locking hitch. It is helpful to the tractor driver to guide direction and distance with clear hand signals. A safety stop must be fitted – wire/chain fitted to trailer in case of XS and material for Humbers. Jockey wheels and RIB engines must be raised before moving.
5	Launch	Keep clear of tractor and trailer. Boats are secured with a rope and winch. Drivers should enter RIB, untie painters, tension the rope with a half turn and then release the winch, which is on a ratchet, and unhook. The rope can then be led back to the RIB drivers seat. Ensure the second painter is on board and not able to catch on the trailer. The tractor will drive into water and the RIB reversed off slowly
6	Recovery - XS	Unfurl winch line so hook is on back axle. The tractor will position the trailer so that the rear rollers are clear of the water. Slowly nose the RIB into the gap between rollers, keep throttle ticking in gear and attach the winch hook (easiest if someone in wet gear does this) or use a rope to haul the RIB partly onto the trailer. The driver or crew can winch the RIB up to stop roller after resetting the ratchet mechanism via the lever next to handle
7	Recovery - Humber	The trailer will be positioned so that the front support is in the water but the tractor axle cannot be immersed. Drive the RIB onto trailer with sufficient throttle to push nose against wooden pole, then attach rope. The winch is used to secure the RIB and can drag it forward if the loaded trailer is tail heavy
8	Final recovery & cleaning	After trailer is out of water, lower elephant trunk to drain RIB. Do not walk behind tractor or trailer while it is towed up the slip. RIB cleaning etc is described in DBSC Rib Driver checklist https://dbscweb.wordpress.com/members/regulation-safety-information/
9	Unhitching trailers	Tow balls are unhitched by pressing the lock release mechanism on the handle. Jockey wheels should be lowered first. Lower RIB engines
10	Leaving RIBs afloat	RIBs can be left afloat only between April and October if they are needed the following day and forecast winds gusts are under 25kts. Both mooring ropes should be tied to the shackle under the red mooring buoys.