

Trailer Towing Guidelines

Day before use checks	That the truck has been run during the week before to ensure battery is charged (important in colder weather when combination of cold and less use drains the battery) That there is sufficient fuel (diesel), oil and windscreen cleaner, tyre pressures are OK, and that all spare wheels are at the required pressure and are usable Key for steering lock is on truck keys (ensure that this is refitted post use) Correct number plate is attached to the trailer.
Same day checks	When starting truck, turn key to just before engine turnover position and allow 5 to 10 seconds for glow plugs to heat up, particularly in winter or when the engine is cold With someone guiding, SLOWLY reverse truck up to trailer, ensuring truck windows are all open so that communication is clear. The idea is to position the tow ball on the truck directly under trailer coupling hitch (the height of this hitch can be adjusted using the screw mechanism at the top of the jockey wheel on the trailer) Once the tow ball is directly under the trailer tow hitch, the locking mechanism on the trailer hitch handle should be moved to the open position (by moving the handle lock mechanism) and held in this position (the trailer handle should be tilted slightly upwards which allows/opens the hitch mechanism to fit over the tow ball) while simultaneously lowering the trailer height using the jockey wheel screw mechanism. When the coupling hitch is perfectly seated on the tow ball, the handle lock mechanism should click back into the locked position and the coupling hitch should be firmly fitted on the tow ball. It is recommended to give the handle a good push/shake in order to ensure the coupling hitch is over/around the tow ball, rather than just resting on it. Connect safety brake cable (carabiner type clip to hole on the side of the tow ball plate). Connect trailer light coupling to corresponding truck coupling using twisting motion – lift plastic cover and starting point is 90 degrees to the left and twist to the right while pushing forward. Undo jockey wheel securing lever and slide jockey wheel to maximum height before using the securing lever to ensure that the jockey wheel is secured in the up position. Ensure that the trailer handbrake is in the off position (handle downwards and facing forwards). Check lights – running lights, brake lights, indicators are working on the trailer.

Trailer checks	All boats have straps on and straps are secure Hazard ribbon in place at rear of trailer No seats left in boats No straps left hanging down on trailer and nothing left on trailer mudguards All equipment in both trailer and truck bed is properly loaded and secure Tow hitch securely fastened
Driving	A minimum of one passenger in the truck – either the driver or passenger must be experienced in towing a trailer Truck windows open and hazards on when exiting the club Two watchers (one front and one rear) while exiting / entering club entrance Have a follow vehicle to drive behind trailer to highlight any issues Maximum speed while towing is 60mph Take corners/roundabouts wide and slow to allow for trailer/boat clearance Allow adequate/extra time and space/distance for slowing/stopping/accelerating – a fully loaded truck and trailer is heavy and driving style will need to be adapted...think driving a bus rather than a car!
Maneuvering	Ensure two watchers/truck windows open, etc. Be aware of jack-knifing the trailer (where the trailer ends up at 90° to the towing vehicle). Should never happen with watchers/checking mirrors. When reversing, move the truck steering wheel the opposite way to the way in which you want the trailer to go If trailer parking is a challenge, unhitch the trailer and push it into place: • Put the jockey wheel down (unscrew locking lever, slide jockey wheel down as far as it will go, retighten securing lever) • Disconnect brake safety cable • Disconnect trailer light coupling (lift locking clip and turn anticlockwise 90 degrees and gently pull back to disengage) • Open trailer coupling mechanism by pushing locking point and lifting handle slightly • Use screw mechanism (turn clockwise) on top of jockey wheel to jack up/lift trailer hitch height until it clears the tow ball Push trailer to where it is needs to be parked and engage handbrake (fully upright position)
Return	Post towing protocol is to refuel the truck with diesel (after dropping the trailer back at the club) at the Shell garage in Broxbourne, before parking the truck back at the clubhouse (remembering to put the steering lock back in place) and returning the keys to the key safe.
Other	There is a basic first aid kit in the truck – if anything is used, let your VC know so that this can be replaced Wheel spanners and wheel jack are under/behind the back seat in the truck and the trailers/truck do have spare wheels in case of a flat tire Towing – full standard UK car driving license (B code) allows towing trailer above 3,500 kg (BE code) The insurance and breakdown cover documents associated with the Truck are held in the glove box.