

## SAFETY NOTICE

19<sup>th</sup> July, 2010

It will be a while before we need to consider lighting up the boats for evening outings; however, the PLA has just relaxed its rule on the matter of flashing lights so this notice is an aide-memoire on the subject.

### Lights

The PLA is very specific about what an oar-powered vessel should carry as lights -

**All boats to carry a WHITE light that can be seen through 360 degrees (all round). If this presents a problem then two lights (one at each end) to give the 360 degree cover. NO RED LIGHTS.**

Flashing lights are more noticeable than fixed lights, especially in areas with pools of ambient light such as central London. As such their use is now recommended by the PLA, but with the following provisos:

- Upstream of **Putney Bridge** (so that includes the Twickenham reach) only the bow light should flash, allowing other river users to easily tell in which direction the vessel is travelling.
- Flashing lights can seriously impair night vision so if travelling in a group they must be above or below eye level

[Tip: Many fixed LED lights can be converted to flashing by turning the battery over or by buying a different battery type rather than replacing the whole light. ]

### **DIFFUSED LIGHT**

All-around lights can be expensive and difficult to get hold of. A normal directional light, such as a torch, can be modified into an all-around light by fitting it with a diffuser such as a translucent plastic bottle shaped to fit over the light. Such bottles can be found in most bathroom cabinets!

More information is available from the PLA at <http://www.boatingonthames.co.uk/Rowing>

Thank You

Paul Davis

*Water Safety Advisor*