

HOLBORN DIVER R.I.B.

TOWING PROCEDURE

Firstly check you have all the equipment, i.e.

- O_ sets,
- Echo sounder
- GPS
- Three yellow boxes
- Shot lines
- Spare fuel tank
- Jerry cans
- Large black boat box which is padlocked to seat rail and holds jack, wheel brace, spare wheel nuts, foot pump, torch etc.
- Small grey boat box, hand held radio, hand held GPS, two spare trailer wheels.

Then check boat is secure on trailer.

- Check bow line and strop have been fitted and are holding boat to trailer securely.
- Fit and secure the two rear retaining strops, make sure they are adjusted and tight.
- Engine raised high enough so skeg is well clear of road and prop cover fitted.
- Remove ball hitch, lock, cover and wheel clamp and stow in boat.
- Fold up boat cover and stow in boat.
- Use wheel brace and check all wheel nuts fully tightened.
- Use foot pump to check tyre pressure all round 76psi, inflate if required. Spare wheels 76psi.
- Remove hub cap covers to grease up bearings if required. Use high melting point grease from toolbox to pack out bearings.
- Fit tail light board and check indicators and brake lights are working. Any problems use small wire brush from dry box to brush over plug pins, also brush over plug socket on towing vehicle.
- Hitch up trailer to towing vehicle, making sure to fit safety wire from trailer to towing hitch, this will stop trailer being lost in the very unlikely event of it coming free from towing vehicle.
- Handbrake – make sure it is in “OFF” position and the steel wedge is not in place. This is **only used when reversing trailer and must be slotted in place first.** When reversing into parking space or boat yard, as the trailer finally comes to a stop just pull forward a few inches, this free off the brake shoes and stops them binding on the drums, so the next time the trailer is used the wheels will be free to roll.

Finally check all round trailer and tow bar area before moving off.

I find it pays to go say five miles and pull into a layby and just make sure all is OK again and then proceed onwards to destination.

MIKE MALONEY
APRIL 2007