



Make your oars last longer by using them properly

Trinity 500 oars are somewhat fragile if not used correctly. There are two simple ways to increase their life markedly:

When rowing, the oars should be pressed out gently against the rowlocks. This ensures that the wear from the surface of the rowlock is taken, as it is designed to be, on the plastic protective sleeve on the oar, and not on the varnished wood. Crews will find this easier if they sit slightly off the boat centreline, toward their rowlock, so that at the end of the stroke the outer hand comes in to the hip rather than into the pit of the stomach.

Row with the nail securing the plastic sleeve on the oar facing forward, towards the rower. This ensures that the nail is in the side of the oar which is under compression during the stroke. If you row with the nail facing aft, away from the rower, the nail is in the side of the oar under tension, and forms a stress concentration which can lead to the oar breaking where the nail is driven in, particularly when rowing flat out in competition and competition training. To make this more obvious to crews, you may find it useful to mark Trinity oars with a conspicuous blob of paint near the handle to line up with the position of the nail, and instruct crews to use the oars with the blob facing towards them.