The patrols are intended to dissuade would-be criminals, you are not expected to be a vigilante. Try to carry some means of personal identification and a mobile phone if you have one.

Ideally, patrols should be carried out by not less than two people using a member’s craft or the clubs launch Margeruite. In this way, there will be comfortable accommodation between patrols and somewhere to sleep afterwards.

There are two Patrol Boards for positioning on the side of your boat should you wish to use them, stored in the Nissan Hut. Please remember to return them when you finish your duty. Thank you for volunteering.

Make at least three patrols as follows:

a. The first during the evening whilst still light, making a point of noting who is out and about and which craft are occupied. Speak to occupants of craft to ascertain if they are staying aboard and/or setting sail. Observe the attached tender(s) to ascertain they are appropriate to the craft.

b. Make your second patrol at about 2300hrs. Use a powerful torch or searchlight (see above) and make yourself as obvious as possible. Use the Patrol Boards. Speak again to crews if they are still up and about.

c. Make your third patrol between 0100 and 0300hrs.

In the event of restricted visibility or strong wind conditions modify the above as you think appropriate.

Action in the event of an Incident

In the event that you discover or suspect that a crime is being committed: Do not expose yourself to risk of personal injury. Do not attempt to apprehend any intruders or suspicious persons.

Make a note of as many details as possible: type of craft and name, description of persons, what they were doing, to which boat, at what time, and where, and what you did about it, where they are escaping to, etc.

Call Medway Ports on VHP Channel 74 or telephone them on 01795 580 003, or the police on 01622 690690 or if the situation demands dial 999. If necessary stay “on scene” till the authorities arrive and finally, complete the Report Form issued with your patrol dates and return it to the address shown as soon as possible. If you phone 999, keep talking giving as much information as you can as it is all recorded and can be used as evidence.

There is no river police patrol on the Medway, but the Port Authority will send their launch if the situation requires it.

Area to patrol

Clubs participating:

Royal Navy Sailing Association (RNSA) Mike Waring 01634 683295
Royal Engineers Yacht Club (REYC) Barry Woodman 01634 719547
Upnor Sailing Club (USC) J-P Declery 01732 851309
Medway Yacht Club (MYC) 01634 718399
Hoo Ness Yacht Club (HNYC) To be confirmed