Pilotage into Penarth Quays Marina

Once clear of the Barrage locks, vessels should turn immediately to port where they will see the marina entrance. Vessels should call Penarth Marina on VHF Channel 80 to inform us of their intended arrival whilst they are waiting in the Barrage Lock or immediately after entering Cardiff Bay.

The level of water within Penarth Quays Marina is normally held at the same level as the water within Cardiff Bay. This means that vessels are able to pass between the marina and Cardiff Bay on freeflow and avoid locking.

Normally, vessels will be able to proceed straight through the lock into the marina basin. Visiting vessels may be asked to wait on a reception pontoon in the lock where they will be met by marina staff and allocated a berth.

It is important to note that if the level of water has been dropped within the bay it may be necessary to lock the vessel conventionally into the marina. Skippers should be aware that a slight flow may be experienced within the marina lock barrel.

Traffic Lights

Vessel movements into the marina are controlled by traffic light signals and are as follows:

- **Double Red:** Danger keep clear of lock
- **Single Red:** Lock in use, keep clear.
- **Green:** Enter lock on instruction from marina staff

Charts and Waypoints

- **Admiralty No 1182**
  - Large Scale Cardiff Bay and Approaches
- **Admiralty No 1176**
  - Small Scale Steep Holm to Avonmouth

Berth Holder’s Tip

Berth Holder Neil Cunningham has passed on this handy bit of local knowledge that he uses each time he approaches the Barrage aboard his yacht “Synergy”. Thanks Neil.

“Are the Barrage approach buoys out of position for dredging? Do you need to find the barrage approach channel? If so stay in the white sector of the Wrach channel until the sectored light to the far left of the barrage wall lines up with the centre of the end wall of the (derelict) building to seaward of The Custom House. Make your turn and maintain this transit before turning to starboard (guided by the Chevrons on the barrage wall) for your final approach. Simple!”

“This works well even when the buoys are in position, and is useful on a falling tide. I teach all my crew to take this approach on each and every occasion and they find this greatly reassuring. It works - try it and see”.

© Crown Copyright and/or database rights. Reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office and the UK Hydrographic Office (www.ukho.gov.uk).