

## **9. Picking up a mooring buoy**

- Ensure the dinghy painter is tied off short on the bow or amidships and is clear of the prop.
- Approach the mooring buoy, keeping the bow into the wind or current, whichever prevails.
- Have a crew member on the bow to pick up the mooring pennant with the boat hook.
- The bowman will direct the helmsman to the mooring, using the already established non verbal communication system. Once at the mooring, inspect the buoy and line for any signs of wear and tear; if you are unsure about a mooring buoy's integrity, choose another location to moor up.
- Once set your mooring buoy will be attached either on the port or starboard cleat and the yacht will be head to wind. Remember to centralize the wheel and lock in place to avoid the yacht sailing around the buoy.
- Next attach a second back up line directly to the mooring ball. There will be a metal ring at the top of the ball or a shackle just under the ball. Attach a line from the opposite bow cleat and if possible run the line through the ring or shackle and back to the cleat. It is always easier to do this from the dinghy. Do not try to make the lines of equal length, the first line should be taking all the weight of the boat.
- To depart, release the back up line first. Slowly motor the boat forward to create slack, release the line from the cleat and allow the pennant to slip from the line into the water. Fall back with the wind or current, and be careful not to foul your prop on the pennant.
- Remember to tie your dinghy away from the stern whenever you are maneuvering in close quarters.