
LASER FLEET NEWS

Are you ready?

By Jon Williams

For most of us, our Laser stays in the boat park all winter, a few of us even sail during the short cold days, but we all



need to make a good inspection of the boat now and again - it's called good seamanship. The coming month is a good time to do this chore as we will all be joining the Spring racing series, won't we? We need to be confident that our equipment is not going to let us down so we can concentrate on the racing. If you garage the boat all winter it's better to do all this before the winter. So here is a checklist I have thrown together.

Pre-season boat preparation

[and stuff you should have done at the end of last season!]

- **The Hull** - Even if your hull has never leaked you need to check it every so often, especially if you will not be using it for some time, ie last autumn for many of us. If it does leak, now is a good time to fix it. If you want to diy it there are guides on the internet to find leaks, eg <https://www.lasersailing.com.au/service-your-laser/>
- **Cleaning** – Deck- scrubbing brush and soapy water should get most dirt off. A clean boat is a happy boat!



- **Underside**- turn the hull over and clean with sponge and soapy water. Inspect the bailer. If you know it leaks it probably needs new springs. The original rubber rings do not last too long. Alternative metal springs are currently available on ebay, which I have been using for several years and can recommend. Ebay search – ‘Laser dinghy - fit and forget self-bailer springs’. Footnote – when you turn the hull over you may hear some rattling. There can be two reasons – the hull contains three large plastic containers to provide buoyancy if the hull is damaged, also excess mastic used in the deck to hull seam may break off, nothing to worry about.



- **Spars** – Check the mast top section is straight at the collar. If bent the options are – leave as is [slight effect on speed and pointing], straighten or end for end [see Youtube] or buy new. Luckily we do not have to worry about salt accelerating corrosion of metal parts but corrosion and wear can still occur so check all rivets. If there is any movement they should be drilled out and replaced. If the hole in the spar has enlarged or there is cracking a backing plate may need to be inserted. This is really only practical if it's near the end of the spar and accessible, [eg the rear block on the boom]. Pay particular attention to the kicker tang for cracks in the tang itself and around the rivets. Also check the wear at deck level on the mast. I had an old mast break at this point.



- **Sail** – Check stitching especially on the head reinforcement. Spinnaker repair tape can be used on small tears if it's not in a high stress area.
- **Foils** – If the surface is rough sanding with wet and dry will help. Use plenty of water while doing this. Start with about 320 grade and work up to 800 or further. For a proper job spray paint after 400 grade, a can of car primer spray paint is ok. [Tip- Some Laser foil bags are not breathable so do not leave wet foils in for any length of time. I always partially remove the foils at home to let them dry.]

- **Sheet and Control Lines** – if the mainsheet is dirty [algae, weed or grit from dragging up the slipway] a wash is needed, then rinse thoroughly. Check for wear at the point the sheet runs through the ratchet block and cleat when beating. If there is a bit of spare length cut three inches off the outer end to move the wear point. Reversing the sheet is also an option, which also applies to all control lines to move the wear points.



- **Cleats and Blocks** – if any are not working properly spraying lubricant is a temporary solution. It's better to get any dirt out by washing in hot water. Some cleats can be taken apart [eg Ronstan] and the inner workings cleaned. Do not add any lub if this is done, it just attracts more dirt. The original type block [blue] at the boom end is weakened by the twisting it endures. Check the amount of plastic worn against the stainless eye. It can take a lot but replace in good time.

- **Tiller** – check the universal joint for cracks. Renew if any can be seen. Storing ‘unfolded’ ie tiller extension at 90 will increase the life of the UJ.
- **Cover & Trolley** – A cover out all winter gets covered in a slime. Now is the time to give it a good scrub and hose down. I am not keen on using a pressure washer because of the damage it can do. But if you do use one spray at an oblique angle to reduce such risk. After a thorough cleaning an older canvas type cover can be reproofed with builders waterproofer, eg Thompsons Waterseal. Pump up trolley tyres if needed and check the hull supports are doing their job properly.



If you have any questions about the above please contact me jonw2132@gmail.com

Now it’s just the job of preparing yourself for the season. How is the gym going? Do you have the Laser training days in your diary?

The Great Rutland Sailing Club Quiz

After the success of last year’s quiz we’re doing it all again. Make sure you order your food in advance. All

The Great Rutland Sailing Club Quiz

Thursday 22nd March 2018

£10 per person which includes dinner

Choose from:

- Fish and Chips
- Sausage and Mash
- Chicken and Bacon Pie with Chips or Mash



Maximum of 6 members per team
Teams can be formed on the night so
Just come along and join in



Arrive at RSC from 6.30pm with first question at 7pm.

Book your place, and more importantly your food order, by contacting
Damon Westwood
(damon.westwood@nokia.com)

Hosted by the RSC Laser Fleet

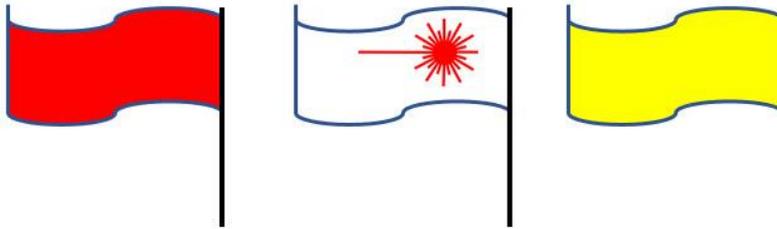
details below.

Thursday Night Racing

From the start of this season, Thursday night racing will be changing. We will be moving to just 3 starts:-

- 1 Asymmetric, Catamaran and Cruisers
- 2 Lasers
- 3 Dinghies

The Laser class flag will still be used to indicate our start, but our flag will be the second to go up and we will now start 3 minutes after the cruisers.



2018 Laser Focus Regatta Series

Would you like to win one of these lovely trophies?

It's easy! All you have to do is enter the 2018 Laser Focus Regatta Series and one of these little beauties could be yours to keep.

The Series will run on the following dates:

Sunday 20th May

Sunday 22nd July

Sunday 7th October



Make sure you keep those dates free and in your diary. Come and join the fun.

Calling all Club Members

YOUR Sailing Club



Our club boasts some excellent facilities, most of which are provided directly to support the sailing of our members. This includes yearlong rescue cover provided for people sailing at weekends and Thursday evenings during the summer season. This gives all of us the opportunity to not only improve and test our sailing abilities but also enjoy casual sailing activities in a safe environment. But all these activities rely on our members volunteering or being rostered for duties to either help on rescue or provide assistance on the race committee boats. It is extremely important that we all make sure we attend any allocated duties to ensure the smooth running of the club's activities. If you cannot attend for any reason then please either arrange to swap with another member or let the office know in good time.

It is now even easier to book duties, they can be booked by returning the duty forms to the office, or by contacting the office directly, and now you can even book your duties online by accessing:- https://www.rutland-sailing.org.uk/rutland_members/

If you need a reminder of your username and password then contact the RSC office.

Why not try and book duties together with friends or other members from your fleet. Several of us from the Laser fleet have coordinated duties within January so that we have not only provided all of the race management team but also most of the rescue cover.

We all need to pull together to help make our club the best possible.

*Dates for your
2018 diary*

Situations Vacant

We are looking for new committee members.

The present committee have been working hard to organise events for the fleet over the last few years but we need new ideas so we need some new committee members. If you would like to join an enthusiastic team, in the pub, to help organise events then do join us. Contact

Damon Westwood if you are interested

(damon.westwood@nokia.com)

**Sunday 4th March
Laser GP**

**Thursday 22nd
March Great Laser
Fleet Quiz**

**Saturday 28th
April
Training Day**

**Sunday 20th May
Spring Focus
Regatta**

**Sunday 17th June
Laser Fleet Fun
Day and BBQ**

**Sunday 22nd July
Summer Focus
Regatta**

**Sat 1st September
Training Day**

**Sunday 7th
October
Autumn Focus
Regatta**

**Sunday 4th
November
Laser Fleet Club
Championships**

WANTED

If you have anything you would like to include in a future newsletter e.g. Top tips, photos, comments, or you would like to write an article, then please send it to Fiona MacDonald (fiona@macdonaldonline.co.uk)

All contributions gratefully received

Rutland Laser Fleet

Keep up to date by visiting us on

[Fhttp://www.facebook.com/Rutland.Laser.Fleet](http://www.facebook.com/Rutland.Laser.Fleet)

<http://www.YouTube.com>