

pre-season CHECKLIST



With the 2013-14 sailing season just around the corner, now is a good time to ensure that your pride and joy won't let you down at a critical mid-race moment. The following is a brief checklist of things to look for.

DOLPHIN STRIKER

- Correct main beam pre-bend.
- Deformation of strap at attachment bolts or centre strut.
- Deformation of main beam at strap attachment bolts.
- Bent centre strut.

BEAM BOLTS

- Loose bolts.
- Deformation of beam at bolts (beam won't sit flat on deck)

TRANSOM AND PINTLES

- Loose pintles
- Bent pintles.
- Cracking or flexing of transoms around pintles.

CENTREBOARD CASE

- Cracks at base of centrecase.
- Wear at lower back of centrecase.

TRAMPOLINE AND CENTREBEAM

- Worn stitching.
- Damaged or loose attachment points.
- Bent or cracked centrebeam (especially at mainsheet block)
- Tension.

HIKING STRAPS

- Correct and even strap tension.
- Broken stitching.
- Damage to strap at attachment points.
- Bent attachment fittings.

TRAVELLER TRACK

- Damaged end stops.
- Loose track fastenings.
- Smooth operation of traveller car.

HULL SURFACES

- Surface penetrating damage.
- Cracks, or blisters on foam hulls.

RUDDER STOCKS

- Loose or bent bolts and rivets.
- Cracked frames.
- Worn and loose-fitting gudgeons.
- Splits in plastic universal joints.
- Worn blade pull-down ropes

FOILS

- Cracking at high stress areas.
- Surface damage and chipped edges

SAIL HALYARD

- Broken wire strands or frayed rope (slug type)
- Cracks in halyard locking-ring (beak type)
- Smooth operation of halyard sheave.

MAST HOUNDS

- Cracks or deformation of stay attachment hole.

MAST BASE

- Cracking or deformation of mast.
- Cracks in mast spanner attachment point.

MAST SPANNER

- Cracking or deformation.
- Bent or cracked attachment bolt.

GOOSENECK

- Condition of sail track slug.
- Deformation of mast at gooseneck position.

STAYS AND THIMBLES

- Broken or corroded wire strands.
- Cracked or distorted thimbles.

SHACKLES

- Cracks or distortion.

BLOCKS

- Damaged sheaves.
- Smooth operation of sheaves.
- Effective operation of ratchet block.

CLEATS

- Worn cam teeth.
- Smooth operation of cams.
- Cracked fairleads.

ROPES AND WIRES

- Broken or corroded wire strands.
- Frayed ropes, especially where cleated.
- Swollen mainsheet.

SAIL

- Worn stitching.
- Shroud damage to sail batten pockets.
- Batten condition.
- Batten tension.
- Frayed or missing sail telltales.

CORROSION

- Anywhere stainless steel and aluminium are in contact .

Check out the "FAIL SAFE" articles in APT issues 2 and 3 for a more detailed coverage