

# Tips from Phipps



## *"Keeping your hulls on-line"*

**Sprint 15** sailors spend a fair amount of time fiddling with their rudder system to make sure they are in good condition and the blades are held firmly in the stocks, but the first place to start may be with the hulls?

**The** rear beam clips look like they are there to prevent the hulls from sliding apart, but in fact Sprint 15 hulls can only come apart if the trampoline is removed, the shrouds detached and the beam sockets slide at the same time. That is unlikely unless you are taking the boat apart.

**The** rear beam clips do have an important job though and one that may need a small adjustment so they can do their job correctly. The Sprint 15 hulls do vary very slightly in width, due to the joining up of the two halves. The roll of the rear beam clips is to allow for this variation and maintain the hull alignment.

**With** the inside of the hull hard up against the beam thrust pad the rear beam clip should just slide over the outside of the hull and be held in place by the retaining spring. If the clip is too far out there will be a gap and under mainsheet load the bridle wires will compress the bows which in turn pulls the sterns out of line and that is where the clips come in, keeping the back of the hulls hard up against the beam thrust pads and in line.

**How** do you adjust the clip?? Well behind the beam clip spring on the batten is a s/s nut which when slackened allows the clip to slide in and out on the leaf spring. If your leaf spring slot is not long enough you may need to extend it with a file or drill. With the clip adjusted correctly the s/s nut can be tightened holding the clip in place. The high loads on the rear beam can cause the clip adjustment to creep so it is a good idea to fill the adjustment slot with resin, epoxy or similar to prevent any movement.

**With** your hulls held firmly in line you can now get to work on your rudders and checking the alignment and tracking.

**NB.** Check your hull alignment by measuring bow to bow and stern to stern at the centre-line. Should you need to use a small packing piece attach it to the surface of the thrust pad.

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Pictures left to right

Rear beam thrust pad and inside of hull contact

Rear beam clip and leaf spring

Adjustment slot filled to prevent creep

Rear beam and clip in correct position

*Brian Phipps*

