

July 03

S III - REBUILD

PART 9 - BOOM AND SLAB REEFING

The standard arrangement for mainsail reefing is different on S II's and S III's.

S II's have a dinghy type square shaft on the gooseneck and a square socket on the boom end, whereas the S III's have a worm arrangement. To reef the S II you have to pull the boom off the shaft, rotate it to roll the sail around the boom, then replace the boom on the square shaft.

The S III is less clumsy and involves winding the handle to rotate the boom.

In neither case does the reefed sail have a reasonable shape.

If you are stuck with rolling the sail on the boom you can get a much better shape by inserting a length of foam, the length of the boom, and of about 2"x 2" section. The firmer the foam and the better it works.

By far the best way is to have a row of reefing points put on the sail and fit slab reefing.

This is very simple and applies to both S II's and S III's.

Fasten securely a s.s.hook about 1/4" diameter onto the forward end of the boom, using a through bolt, through the casting on the S II, and using the hole for the worm drive handle on the S III. This hook must be shaped so that the forward reefing eye can be hooked on to it. If you wish a snap shackle of the right size may be used.

Measure the distance between the forward and aft reefing eyes, add 3 or 4 inches to this measurement and put a mark on the boom this total distance from your hook. At this point on the boom, on the same side as your hook, fasten a side block and on the other side an eye and halfway along the hook side, a cleat.

All you have to do now is to attach one end of line to the eye on the boom, up through the reefing eye, down through the side block and forward to the cleat - you have a reefing system!

I find that in any wind force above force 4 the boat will perform better with the mainsail reefed. If you are racing you will get to the windward mark faster and more comfortably than the boats carrying full sail. This is particularly noticeable with the S III which is over canvassed anyway.

You can always shake out the reef downwind to maintain your lead!

Denis Heald.