

Original Comment:

01/10/03

Ref: Bilge pumps and floor boards

The floor board over the bilge pump has a design flaw. Bavaria have machined it out to quite a depth to clear the top of the pump. As a result, the floor is very weak and has sagged onto the top of the pump. Opal say that Bavaria have not brought out a modification for this problem and have ordered me a new floor board. However it is likely to happen again. Has any one designed a decent modification to solve this problem, please?

Any help is much appreciated as we sail all through the year and need a decent resolution to the problem before we break the bilge pump.

Chris Lloyd (Rhapsody)

Replies:

Chris

I had the same problem with my 32.

There's probably a more sophisticated solution, but I unscrewed the adjacent board and glued and screwed a thick ply strip to the underside which protrudes about 2cm along the length of the join with the weak board, which rests on it.

The weak board does not flex now but I'm not convinced my strip would hold if someone landed heavily on it, so I am also going to use ply to double the thickness of the board where possible, leaving space for the filter pump and lips at the edges. I hope this will do the trick.

It does seem extraordinary that a basic problem should be allowed to exist in an otherwise well designed yacht!

James Parsons (B32 Satine)

Dear James,

Thanks for the reply. My sailing colleague has also suggested screwing a piece of stainless steel angle under the offending board. It would have to have a small section to clear the pump. In the short term I will try your solution. If I come up with a better idea, I will pass it on.

Chris Lloyd (Rhapsody)

Since I raised this matter, Opal have manufactured a new floorboard (they had one on order from Bavaria from September 2003 until February 2004 but Bavaria would not supply the part. Unfortunately, this did not fit as the recess machined to fit over the bilge pump was too small. They have arranged for Dale Sailing at Neyland to rectify the problem and it should be done this week.

Chris Lloyd (Rhapsody)