

Janice & Michael Douse have been suffering real problems with the gear/throttle lever. Apparently the press in button refused to engage and thus they were unable to engage neutral. Whilst the boat is out of warranty Opal did agree to look at the problem. Below is an E:mail from Janice reproduced with the permission of both Opal and Janice.

Geoff Cutts, Commodore

Dear Geoff

Many thanks for your help in resolving our problem. Brian Sunderland came to see Sepilok on Friday 1st April as arranged by the telephone call you mentioned below. After many tests on the binnacle gear/throttle lever the mechanism operated intermittently sometimes working sometimes not. It was also noted that on occasions the drive remained partially in gear rather than in neutral. Having removed the binnacle compass Brian was able to confirm that the control mechanism was in good condition and not damp or in need of further lubrication. On inspection at the gearbox itself he ascertained that the control cable from the binnacle lever was not connected at right angles to the clamp/terminal on the gear change rod (possibly about 10-15 degrees out of line). By repositioning the clamp on the gearbox the effect on the binnacle mechanism was sufficient to produce a successful operation every time it was tested.

A motor sail on Friday afternoon and another today confirmed that all now seems to be well. So either the clamp has always been out of line and the effect gradually caused the problem or the clamp has slowly moved out of line because it was not tightened properly when built. Either way I hope no one else has this problem.

Well done Brian. Thank you Steve and Opal for your customer support.

Best wishes

*Janice and Michael
Sepilok B36*