

Original Comment:

Sept '04

Has anyone else found that on a B34, when reefed, the boom tends to rub along the top of the spray hood. The boom is quite low even when not reefed but even putting just one reef in seems to drop the boom by another couple of inches. Has anyone found a solution for this short of major surgery on either the sail or the mast/boom/goose neck.

David Roache

Replies:

Not sure what the 34's come with, but have you tried lifting it with your Rod Kicker or Kicking Strap?

Regards,
Carole

My B34 is fitted with a rod kicker but if I lifted the boom with that then the sail has far too much belly in it. When reefed and sailing up-wind the main-sheet car is usually down the track so the boom lies to one side of the spray hood, but when I tack the boom scrapes across the spray hood as it comes across. I have to keep the kicker on to try to get the sail as flat as possible - sailing down wind is not so bad but the boom still scrapes the spray hood when I jibe. It seems that the leach of the sail is too long by a couple of inches (or the boom is too low, which amounts to the same thing)

David Roache

Yes - I have the same problem but not as restrictive. I suspect your sprayhood may be fitted too high ie the side brackets perhaps can be replaced with a different type or moved back. My sprayhood is made by

NV and the angle on the side coaming brackets was quite critical to bring the top of the sprayhood back and down.

Alternatively if I'm racing I fold the sprayhood down so as I can adjust the traveller and sheet in the main really hard if I need to.

SJJ

We had the same problem on our B34 but we have managed to overcome it by adjusting the gas strut into a position that just gives clearance to the grab handle on the spray hood. The clearance has to be set too high and then checked with tension applied on the main sheet. Make sure the topping lift and the main halyard are allowed to run free during the check.

I may be stating the obvious, but when reefing, the kicker needs to be released, and the mainsheet allowed to run free to ensure that the reef is set. On several occasions in strong winds, we have not pulled the reef in hard enough and on those occasions we had the boom touching the sprayhood.

There is no doubt that the clearance is very small and difficult to deal with and we found that the fitting which connects the gas strut to the boom has a habit of sliding out of the set position. We have now manufactured our own fitting to replace the one supplied by Selden and it has never moved since.

If anyone is interested i can take a photograph, but you would need to make it yourself or find a local engineering shop to make it for you.

Regards

Alan Burns

Saloma