

RS200 Tuning

Thanks to Dave Derby for taking the time to produce these setting tables from the last 2 RS200 National Championships. There are quite a few things that strike you from these lists.

There is quite a range in crew weights in the top ten at Nationals ranging from 18.5 stone to 23 stone (there is no truth in the rumour this is Greg on his own). As a general observation the all-up weights has increased since the very early days of 2000s particularly with the arrival of the telly tubbies in 6.7.8 on the 2002 list.

The heavier crews are altering their rig set ups for different wind strengths, having the mast very upright in light airs and raking the mast back as the wind increases. Similarly they are varying their rig tension with reduced rig tension in light airs. I was parked next to Geoff Carveth in the dinghy park at the 2001 Nationals and he had quite a table of settings drawn on the fore deck of his boat. Nicking his idea, Trudie and myself drew up a similar chart last year and laminated it; the chart is always in the halyard bag. With the help of quick pins we can change the set up of the boat between races on the water.

Spreader lengths very clearly vary with weight, the light crews are on 370mm length whilst the heavier crews jump up to 390/395mm. Generally speaking heavier crews are having less deflection; this combined with long spreaders keeps the mast straighter and powered up for longer. Steve Dunn may be carrying a good idea to its extreme at 120mm deflection!!

RS200 last year was horrendously close throughout the year with all these set ups performing well across wind strengths. It looks as if you need to have very different set ups for different weights rather than having a magic set of numbers that work for all 200s.

Pete Vincent