

PERFORMANCE

# SAILING



 allen

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*Liz*

Liz Adams, Managing Director

2020 is set to be an exciting year and the team here at Allen certainly can't wait. To kick start the UK season we will again be exhibiting at the RYA Dinghy Show and this time can be found on stand No B34. The Merlin on our stand is fully fitted with Allen performance hardware and we are running a competition to guess how many fittings have been used, so come along and have a go. The Allen technical team will also be available to answer any questions. 2020 also heralds a new decade with an ever-increasing awareness of the damage plastic is doing to the Oceans, a subject which is close to all sailor's hearts. Here at Allen we have been thinking about what we can do to mitigate our impact. We've developed a range of eco-plain bearing blocks using recycled material and have also teamed up with the Big Blue Ocean Cleanup, a charity with a mission to remove pollution from our Oceans – small steps that will hopefully lead to more sustainable practices this decade. The highlight of 2020 will of course be the Olympics in Tokyo and we wish all our Team Allen sailors representing their countries good luck.

## #Equipped With Allen

Tag us in your fitout pictures on social media using this hashtag.



1. A2024 – 20mm Triple Block
2. A2030HL – 30mm High Load
3. A2360Wave – Wave X2 AutoRatchet
4. A2030Tii – 30mm Tii-On Block
5. A5819 – Blue Carbon Tiller Extension
6. A4043 – Keyball Handle
7. A4272 – Vernier Adjuster
8. A2040XHL-B – 40mm XHL Block

Cover Image © Elena Razina

## Design Matters Innovation, Evolution & Performance

with Darren and Tom Designers



60mm Tii Block

Our Tii blocks are designed for soft attachment applications, ideal for use in systems where weight saving is a priority, there is no requirement for a metal shackle or maximum performance is demanded. The new **A2060Tii** has a breaking load of 1400Kg and as a result has become a "Go-To" block for World class boat builders in the International Dragon, Etchell and Development Mini classes.

### Plain Bearing Blocks

We are pleased to announce a new range of plain bearing blocks which will be made using 100% recycled plastics as well as 20% less material than the previous version. The new range will also feature a grey sheave to differentiate them from the existing dynamic range, which has black sheaves. Plain bearing blocks offer great static loading capabilities at a low weight and cost.



This makes them perfect for take-up systems or applications that don't require high dynamic performance.



ILCA Specific XHL Vang Block

Introducing our new ILCA specific vang block, the **A2031XHL-873**. This block features the same extreme high load dynamic bearing technology as the rest of the Allen XHL range, but has been specifically adapted to work as the ILCA dinghy's top vang block. By adapting the 30mm XHL block to incorporate a beefed up Vang key we have solved a solution that is not only capable of withstanding the Laser vang loads but also looks sleek and stylish.



REGULAR SHEAVE WAVE SHEAVE



Wave Ratchet

This year we have launched an additional option for our range of ratchet blocks, dubbed the Wave Ratchet, which will offer between 20 to 40%\* more grip without adding any additional wear to the rope. The Wave Ratchet sheave has an offset V style grip, made from a hard-wearing recycled plastic nylon. By adjusting the V formation in the sheave to be slightly offset, the ratchet now grips the rope at additional points around the sheave, resulting in more grip. However, the new Wave Ratchet not only improves grip but as a result of the design it also allows for a less 'jumpy' feel when easing the sheets. \*rope dependant.



# The Sun Is Rising For Team Allen

The countdown to Tokyo 2020 is well underway and around the world national sailing teams have been selected to represent their countries. Among those already selected are eight Team Allen sailors.



*The A4866XB-Angled is great, especially on the start line. It makes un-cleating and adjusting the jib super easy from anywhere in the boat” – Charlotte Dobson*

The first to be announced were the 49er Men’s pairing of Dylan Fletcher and Stuart Bithell, who narrowly beat their Team Allen colleagues, the World number one pairing of James Peters and Fynn Sterrit. Also representing GB are Women’s 49erFX sailors, Charlotte Dobson and Saskia Tidey.

Dylan, who previous represented GB at the games in 2016, commented “We are super happy to have performed when it mattered most and to get selected at the first available opportunity. We are proud to use Allen fittings on our 49er, hopefully we will come back with Gold.”

Dylan and Stu are long-standing members of Team Allen and have worked alongside our design team to contribute to development and ensure all the Allen products they use on their 49er perform to optimum levels.

Charlotte Dobson and Saskia Tidey both competed at the 2016 Olympics, sailing with different partners. Having paired up for 2020 and in good form after their recent 3rd place finish at the Ready Steady Tokyo event, Charlotte “We are delighted to be representing GB in Tokyo, it makes it even more special when you have Allen onboard.”

Allen is a global brand, with getting on for half its turnover generated overseas, so overseas Team Allen sailors also feature on the entry list. Martine Grael and Kahena Kunze, from Brazil, are looking to repeat their 2016 Gold medal victory in the 49erFX class, the girls are on great form too after winning the RST event earlier in the year. “This is going to be an exciting year and we can’t wait to defend our Gold in Japan. We are new to Team Allen but using the hardware has now given us greater confidence” explained Kahena.

Representing Spain, Diego Botin and Iago Marra are hoping to improve on their 9th place in 2016. Iago told us, “We’ve been working hard with Allen over the last year to improve our boat fitout. Its now perfect and we have been performing well recently. The 4th at the Europeans has got us pumped for more!”

In the non-Olympic classes Megan Pascoe continued to dominate the 2.4mR design after she took her second World Championship title at Genoa, Italy. Megan commented “It was a tough and windy event which made for super challenging racing. I sailed well and consistent throughout the event. Lots of my competition had breakages due to the extreme conditions, so I’m thankful I was fully prepared with Allen onboard.”

Kite Foiling will be included into the 2024 Olympics. With it, the push to find up and coming kite surfers grew. It wasn’t long until the women of the British Sailing Team started to shine through and make some serious impact, leading to Ellie Aldridge, Maddy Anderson, Hannah Peters and Jemima Crathorne joining Team Allen to contribute towards our Research and Development programme.

September marked a momentous occasion for the Kite Foiling girls when Ellie Aldridge came away from the Formula Kite Europeans with her first ever major Kite Championships win. “It was pretty mental on a start line with 80 other competitors. Hang loose beach is an epic place to kite, and the conditions were dreamy with big swell and 25knots, it was so gnarly.”

To all Team Allen sailors who have worked so hard to represent their countries, we are with you.

[Instagram/twitter-@allen\\_sailing](#)  
[Facebook-@allensailinghardware](#)

**Diego Botin & Iago Marra**  
**49erFX**

Image © Mark Lloyd

# TECH TALK

## Setting up your rig correctly

by Steve Hall

Everyone wants their boat to go faster for free. One of the easiest ways to do this is to set your rig up correctly, everything mentioned here is written for a boat with shrouds, forestay and one pair of spreaders but the same principles will apply to boats without standing rigging and also boats with two or more pairs of spreaders.

Look on your class association website or your sailmakers website there will almost certainly be a tuning guide for your boat which will give you measurements to start from. However, there are a few things the guides may not say which will almost certainly make your boat go faster.

**“Spreaders need to be parallel to the shroudbase/chainplates on the boat, otherwise they will impart different amounts of pre-bend from one tack to another.”**



Ensure this is the correct position fore/aft as shown in your tuning guide. Too far back and it will generate excessive weather helm. Too far forward and it will generate lee helm. If possible, also ensure that it's central in the boat and parallel to the centreline. If your boat has controllable rigging whilst sailing like on a Merlin Rocket for example, you could consider also using a pivoting mast foot, such as the Allen A9100. This will help to keep a more consistent mast bend each time you sail as well as reduce the loading points on the deck.

### MAST FOOT



A9100  
Pivoting Mast Step



A9100 & A9150/51/52  
Pivoting Mast Step with Heel

### SPREADERS

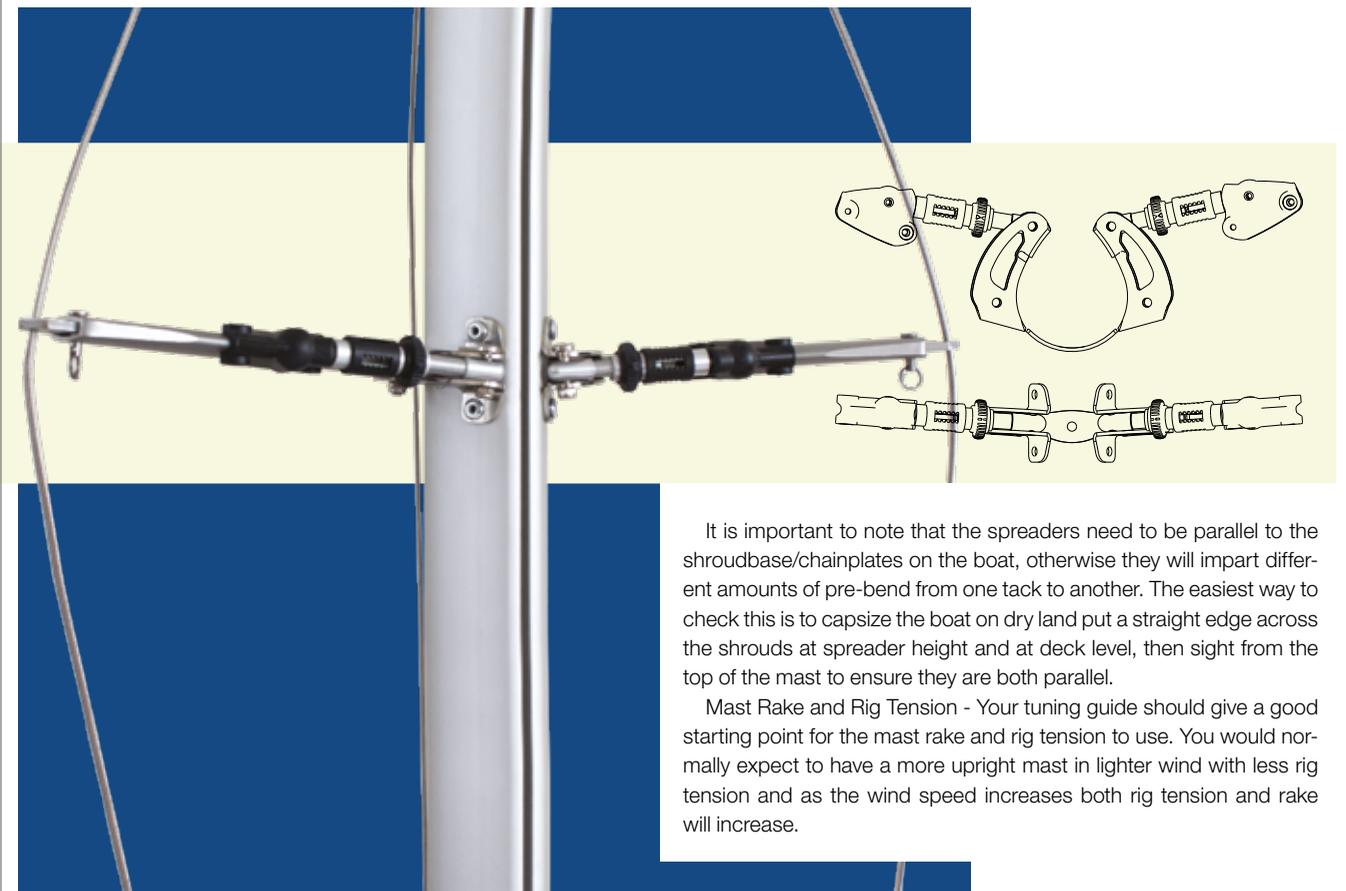


A4791  
Spreader Angle Adjuster



A4791  
Spreader Angle Adjuster

Your tuning guide will give you a length measurement which defines how much sideways support they give to the mast; longer spreaders will support the mast more and give more power but also make the boat less forgiving in gusty conditions. There will also be a deflection measurement which defines the angle of the spreaders and the amount of bend they will induce into the mast. The further aft your spreaders are angled the more induced pre bend you will get resulting in a flatter sail. Spreaders angled further forward will result in less pre-bend and will give a fuller sail. For easy adjusting you could use our spreader barrel adjusters (A4527) or angle adjuster (A4791).



It is important to note that the spreaders need to be parallel to the shroudbase/chainplates on the boat, otherwise they will impart different amounts of pre-bend from one tack to another. The easiest way to check this is to capsize the boat on dry land put a straight edge across the shrouds at spreader height and at deck level, then sight from the top of the mast to ensure they are both parallel.

Mast Rake and Rig Tension - Your tuning guide should give a good starting point for the mast rake and rig tension to use. You would normally expect to have a more upright mast in lighter wind with less rig tension and as the wind speed increases both rig tension and rake will increase.

# Push yourself to your limit



The Allen Endurance Series has grown in strength and popularity since being launched in 2018. Changes for 2020 include a five race format spread across the country with two discards to open the series up to a wider geographical spread, and an increased prize fund, now totalling over £1,500. Each race meeting takes place over a weekend with a social event on Saturday night.

The Series has proved highly popular with fast cat crews, especially F18 sailors, with the high-performance catamaran claiming all 3 of the top overall podium spots for the second year running. However, with a total of 150 different entries over the 4 events last year, it is by no means a series of one horse races. Fast skiffs and International Moths have also made successful appearances and the only common factor is the desire of the crews to push themselves to the limit.

Previous winners Grant Piggott and Simon Northrop have confirmed they will be back in 2020 and with extra races bringing new crews into the series it will be both competitive and rewarding.

For further information go to [www.allenenduranceseries.com](http://www.allenenduranceseries.com)



The dates now published are:

Whitstable Forts Race Weekend: **23rd – 24th May**

Solent Forts Race: **13th – 14th June**

East Coast Piers Race: **27th – 8th June**

Anglesey Offshore Race: **1st – 2nd August**

Sheppey Round The Island Race: **5th – 6th September**

Image © sportography.tv



## Power With Precision

A2069/A2169  
10:1 Quint Mainsheet System

Combine the engineering quality of Allen Dynamic Ball Bearing blocks with 60mm sheaves and a 10:1 purchase and you have the ultimate mainsheet control system for fast catamarans. Developed on foiling cats such as the Nacra 17 and A Class by Team Allen sailors used on race winning boats in National and European F18 events, the Allen A2069/A2169 10:1 Quint Mainsheet System has a winning pedigree.

The lower blocks feature a switchable ratchet to manage the load and an adjustable cam cleat with fairlead for accurate control.

The A2069/A2169 10:1 Quint Mainsheet System is available from Allen stockists or to buy direct from [allenbrothers.co.uk](http://allenbrothers.co.uk)