

Laser 4000 Conversion to RS800

Reason for Change

The Itchenor Laser 4000 fleet has struggled to gain enough members to get good racing. It is thought that the RS800 has greater potential. The 4000 is no longer supported by Laser. At the HISC open meeting 4000s managed 22 boats, the RS800 40+ boats. Many club members have experience of the 800 from sailing holidays. The RS800 is more modern and seen as more desirable by the 18 – 30 age group.

Why the 800

- The 800 is an easier boat to sail, keep upright and recover from capsizes, this can usually be done by the helmsman while scooping up the crew.
- Not a fully battened Main making the boat more manageable on deck and in the water.
- Self tacking jib.
- Easier to right because the hull is narrower, the RS seldom inverts because the mast is carbon fibre and much lighter.
- The design of the deck including the raised gunwale is user-friendly and more modern than the 4000.
- Lighter than the 4000.
- Fully supported by RS, they are keen to support ISC on this and will provide the club with a trophy.
- Affordable, discounted from RS at £9,500 fully fitted out and £3,000 to £7,500 second hand.

Laser 4000 Class members

- All active class members have given me written agreement to change to the RS800 next year, with one exception who has already decided to go on the Laser 4000 circuit next year.
- At the moment we have written commitment for four new RS800 for next season.
- There will also be three second hand boats.
- In addition one club member already has a RS800.
- Total boats 8.
- We have had a lot of interest in the boat from other club members and potential members.