

Curlew review of the trial Batt sails

We sailed in the morning of 7 August with Jib #2, 2 up (21 stone) in 10-15kts, and in the afternoon with jib #1, 3 up (35 stone) in 12-18 kts.

Relative boatspeed to windward against heavier crews (Whimbrel and Buccaneer) in am was marginally better; pm there was a significant advantage with (largely windward) gains leading to a winning margin of nearly 3 minutes, over nearest boat and considerably further over other boats.

Main

This set easily - luff length was right on the max to fit between black bands. Sail very tractable, able to use kicker to hold leech and depower with judicious use of backstay. The mast 'over bent' for the sail's luff curve very easily (ie with excess use of backstay) = would need to sort better support for lower half of mast (? use inner shrouds) especially for use in stronger winds. We chock our mast aft at the deck to keep it as straight as possible so the luff curve is critical. We tightened the GNAV mini shrouds which took care of kicker thrust low down. The bottom third of the sail appeared relatively flat (not much draft) and despite this there was some backwinding from the #2 jib in the morning. We were very pleased with performance on a tight reach up to Star in the afternoon, depowering with a minimum of fuss. The ensemble would look even better with the boom shortened to suit the reduced length foot.

Jib #2

This sail appeared cumbersome, and maybe with more time to play with the sheet lead and luff tension we might have got more out of it. However we found that the longer slot made for slightly more pitching stability but the boat still did not 'flow' nicely over the waves - seeming to be a little out of balance (no lee helm though).

Jib #1

This set very well and the boat seemed to go better; again the lead position seemed critical, and we may not have found the best position. Acceleration from tacks was good, although we were in depower mode near the top of the wind range at around 18 knots.

Chris, Oliver and Simon