



2021 Noble Marine Streaker Nationals at Staunton Harold Sailing Club

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Chairman's message

The new sailing season is now very fast approaching, and it's shaping up to be an exciting season for the Class. Our stand at the Dinghy Show will feature two boats - one from our long established builder, Butler Boats, and the other from Hartley Boats.

It's great for the Class that we have two builders of FRP boats. Not forgetting that we are almost unique as a class because we can also offer competitive, professionally built composite and all wood boats, along with the option to build your own from wood.

Not long after the Dinghy Show, our sailing season starts with the first open meeting at the end of March at Tamworth. There is then a full calendar with events spread across the country, from Scotland to Kent and most places in between.



The highlight of the year, not to be missed, will be the Nationals, though every event should be good. For those who've not sailed at a Streaker Class event before, please do give it a try. You'll find a warm welcome from other sailors, and competitive, friendly racing.

See you sailing soon.

Ian Priest, SCOA Chairman



Streaker vs Laser – a personal view

by **Veronica Falat**

I came to Streaker sailing some 10 years ago having sailed a lot in Lasers and Europes (plus in other things!) and had enjoyed doing so. Then Steve Cockerill suggested I have a go in a Streaker and I went to look at some sailing at Alton Water. My first impression wasn't that good because the Streakers were sitting on the foreshore in amongst a load of Phantoms and they looked very basic compared to the carbon-rigs and complicated control lines around them. But then I saw the Streakers sailing and just thought "Wow, don't they go well!" So I bought a second-hand one without trying one first – and was really pleased with it straight away.



I also had a Laser at that time and in my first year of Streaker sailing was doing the Laser Eastern Region and Home Counties Circuit, so I was hopping from one boat to the other and having to keep readjusting to their differences.

Rigging

The first noticeable thing is obviously the way you rig the Streaker compared to the Laser. A sail on a halyard is such a good idea! At my club we usually moor up between races and the Lasers are left with their sails flapping while Streakers look neat and tidy! Also the weight of the Laser mast is annoying, especially when putting it up and down on a windy day.

Once rigged, though, you're struck by the similarities. Most Streakers use the Laser-style mainsheet system, they have daggerboards and their rudders are much the same size as a Laser's. The Rooster Streakers were also fitted out much like Lasers with the cunningham, kicker and outhaul cleats on the deck just aft of the mast.

On the water

Then you go sailing – and you notice how light everything feels! In comparison, the Laser seems like hard work! Firstly, the Laser needs the traveller really tight across the tiller and this makes the tiller feel quite stiff with that friction. Meanwhile, the Streaker rarely (if ever?) needs the traveller super tight so steering is much nicer! Similarly the sheeting is harder work on the Laser. When you think about it, when you're sheeting block to block in the Laser, you're bending those heavy old tubes that you just put together to make the mast, so no wonder it feels hard work! I particularly notice the difference at a leeward mark when you're rounding up – it takes way more effort in the Laser than in the Streaker to sheet in fully and get going to windward.

Hiking

The Laser hiking position is different to what you see in most dinghies. Personally I think that straight-legged pose looks great – but it's not something you have to do in the Streaker. The Streaker side-decks are comfortable and the depth of cockpit plus the relatively low position of the toe-straps means you can hike out hard but not with your quad muscles in such pain! In shifty conditions, Lasers have a tendency to capsize to windward when you're fully hiked out and totally committed – and the wind backs! Doh! With the backs of your knees on the top of the side deck, it's hard to get your feet down into the cockpit to lever your body up. But in the Streaker, with its angled side decks you can usually recover much better from a sudden heel to windward.



On the race course

Performance-wise the boats aren't hugely different, at least in the smaller inland places that I spend a lot of time in. The Standard Laser is generally faster but not by a lot. In club handicap racing, Streakers and Lasers are often mixed together. With no shrouds, the Lasers can run by-the-lee very effectively but the Streakers tend to have quite slack shrouds so can also run quite deep. Going to windward in shifty conditions the Streaker is great. It just seems to love tacking!

In very light airs the Laser can be annoying because you often have to push the boom out downwind as there's not enough pressure in the sail to force the mast to rotate. No such worries in the Streaker with its normal sort of gooseneck.

Setup and layout

I still have a Laser and do enjoy sailing it but, for me, the Streaker comes first by quite a margin. Owning a Streaker seems so different to owning a Laser. The Streaker allows you to make your boat your own – you can choose what make of sail to have, what foils to use, etc. If you're light or heavy, you can ask your sailmaker to supply the right sail for you. Recently the Streakers have allowed carbon booms and lots of people have either bought them ready to use or bought carbon tube and completed them themselves. A while ago, centre-mainsheet tracks and travellers were allowed and it's really common to see Streakers rigged with them now. Not everyone wants the Laser-style mainsheet system! The Rooster Streakers with their rather laser-like control lines (see below) are still very competitive but most new boats now sport continuous control lines with cleats on the inner angle of the side-decks and these work really well. OK, so over the years, the Laser control lines have become more efficient – but the Streaker controls are better!

In summary...

If you're a Laser sailor thinking of getting a Streaker, you'll find the main concept is the same – but everything (hull, mast, foils, etc) is lighter, you can choose a sail to suit your weight and you can put your own ideas into how the boat is fitted out.

If there’s one thing where, for me, the Laser scores better than the Streaker, it’s how it behaves after a capsize. The Laser doesn’t float quite so high on its side as a Streaker does. However, the use of righting lines is quite acceptable.

At just under 11 stone, I can manage the Laser Standard in light to medium conditions on inland water but in stronger wind or open sea, I use the radial rig. For club handicap racing I have to decide which rig to use for a series. That can be annoying as I often make the wrong choice! But a Streaker is a Streaker – so life is much simpler!



Do have a go in a Streaker. And if you have any questions, just ask someone in the class. It’s a very friendly class – and we’re looking forward to meeting you!

Vital statistics for Streaker, Solo and Laser

	Streaker	Solo	ILCA 7 (Laser standard)	ILCA 6 (Laser Radial)
Hull weight	48kg	70kg	59kg	59kg
Length metric	3.88m	3.78m	4.2m	4.2m
Length imperial	12’ 9”	12’ 5”	13’ 9”	13’ 9”
Sail area	6.5m ²	8.36m ²	7.06m ²	5.76m ²
Crew weight	60–85kg	70–100kg	75-90kg	60-75kg
PY handicap 2023	1128	1142	1101	1150

Streaker vs Solo - a personal view

by Neil Firth

In recent times, I've owned and sailed both a Solo and a Streaker and, for me, the Streaker is the most fun of the two across all conditions. Don't get me wrong, the Solo is an enjoyable boat (proven by its numbers) but owning a Streaker has taken my single-handed sailing to a new level. I weigh around 70kg (11st), so it's fair to say the Streaker should suit me better, but I think the key differences are still worth highlighting to anyone who owns (or is considering) a Solo.

The biggest difference between the Solo and the Streaker is the hull weight, especially relative to the weight of the sailor. In my case, the Solo weighs the same as me (70kg) whereas the Streaker is only 48kg. This makes a significant difference to the sailing characteristics of the two boats, especially downwind in a breeze...



Going downwind

The Streaker accelerates noticeably faster than the Solo, taking the sting out of the gusts which propel the boat forward. As the wind picks up, the Streaker just seems to get faster and faster, which is an absolute blast - especially in waves! Also, in the gybe, as the boom hits the new side, the boat accelerates, reducing the tendency to 'broach' (even without the added benefit of a carbon boom). My first couple of gybes in a good breeze left me on my bum on the cockpit floor, but I'm braced for the acceleration now!

Upwind sailing

Upwind the two boats feel very similar. However, in a decent breeze I'm overpowered earlier in the Solo, even with a rig recommended for lighter sailors. I know that a Solo can be sailed competitively (at National level) by someone of my weight, but probably not someone of my age and fitness! Conversely, in the Streaker, I find I can work hard enough to be competitive in most conditions - and with a bit of guile, I can give the uber-fit kids a run for their money!

Lighter conditions

In light airs the differences between the two boats are more subtle and you'll need to fine tune your roll tacks and roll gybes to get the best from either. Ultimately, the Streaker can roll further without scooping up water which, combined with its lower weight, provides a satisfying drive forward (when you get it right)! Stepping into the Streaker straight from the Solo you may find it turns a little quicker, to the point that I've been known to round up into the leeward mark!

Setup and layout

Streakers and Solos allow some freedom in the setup and layout of the boats. In both cases, modern boats will typically have continuous control lines on the side tanks for the kicker, cunningham and outhaul - older boats can vary from this. Pretty much all Solos have a central traveller for the main sheet. This is an option on the Streaker, but it is more common to find a Laser-style rope traveller across the transom. There are differences in the gybing techniques for these two setups, so I personally opted for a central traveller on my Streaker, as that is what I was used to.



The Solo has a pivoting centreboard which I admit has its attractions over the Streaker daggerboard. However, the resulting 'table' over the Solo's centreboard case can be a pain, especially when tacking under the boom with the kicker piled on. On the other hand, I've never had an issue getting under the boom in the Streaker.

In summary...

Does any of this make a Streaker 'harder to sail' than a Solo? I don't think so! Switching boats either way takes a little bit of getting used to but, ultimately for my weight and fitness, the Streaker just feels more comfortable which means I'm more likely to be sailing with my 'head out of the boat'. That generally means a better result and a more satisfying race! Finally, I don't think capsizes are more or less likely in either boat, but I would say that recovery is usually easier in the Streaker!



Why the Streaker? Our sailors say...

Jasper Barnham, Snettisham Beach SC

I spent significant time thinking about which single-hander before joining the Class in 2020. My requirements...

- Lightweight – having sailed Aeros a bit I knew I wanted a light boat for easy retrieval in the waves at Snettisham. Leaves Streaker, Aero and Europe (Solo too heavy).
- Weight range – at 75kg I am a bit between classes. Too light for Solo, Supernova and Aero 7, too heavy for Aero 5. Top of weight range for Streaker & Europe.
- One design – I like one design as it minimises the investment needed to continually upgrade.
- Opportunity to self-build or fit out. My original plan was to build a wooden hull in the lounge, but it was clear that a FRP hull was cheaper. I did the fitting out myself and really enjoyed it.



My expectation was that I would be competitive in a breeze, but I have been surprised by just how responsive it is in lighter conditions. I always felt the Aero 7 was underpowered and sticky in under 6 knots, but the Streaker still feels responsive.

Downwind in a breeze is an absolute blast, reaching speed is very quick, and downwind in waves is a lot of fun!

Steve Cockerill, Stokes Bay SC

I would argue that Jack Holt definitely saved his best design to last. Sailing a Streaker is an infectious disease - once you've tried it, nothing else quite hits the spot. I was personally very surprised at the level of fun the boat offers, perhaps it was the experience of being back in a boat where I weigh more than it does, making it very responsive to waves and body movement.

I got a real kick out of bearing away a few degrees and really feeling the acceleration. You could describe the boat as rather like a cross between a Europe for lightness and a Solo for stability and comfort.



Katie Masterson, St Mary's Loch SC

A Streaker is a great fun boat, very lightweight for manoeuvring on slipways and beaches, and for launching and recovery. The mast is light enough to lift in and out and, despite being only 5ft 1 tall, I can manage it independently, whereas with other classes I required a friend to do this!

The boat is of a design that has stood the test of time, with a good hull shape that picks up and planes easily; nippy but manageable.

There's an active market for the boats both new and second-hand, and same for the sails.

The class is very friendly and supportive and people are really keen to share top tips about rigging and racing. There is support available through Facebook, a regular newsletter by the Class Association volunteers, a website as well as helpful chat and really friendly open events. The Class Association membership is great value for money.



The smaller 'wave' sail is great for going out for a windy blast when it is wild and also handy for sailing safely when breezy, or for sailing when no safety boat cover is available.

James Sinclair, East Lothian YC

I have raced mostly RS400s for the past 20 years, with a smattering of Tasar and Solo mixed in. When my long term crew moved to Australia... the convenience of a single-hander appealed.

I am too light for a Solo, Aero 7, Laser etc (64kg) and there are a few Streakers at my local club. On that basis alone, I bought one without ever having sailed one... it has far exceeded my expectations.



I find it light and responsive afloat and ashore and I find it enjoyable to race in 5 or 25 knots of breeze. I had concerns about its short waterline and light weight at a coastal venue but it's not an issue. It's a fantastic boat – a far nicer sailing boat than an Aero or Laser.

Alan Simmons, Lancing SC

My first taste of single-handed sailing was when I acquired one of the early Lasers. By summer it had been sold on. The decks were uncomfortable and she was a job to sail downwind, and anyway I was not tall or heavy enough to make it work for me. It was several years and boats later before I had another one-man boat... I purchased my first Streaker and began my love affair with the class.

My personal view is that the Streaker was one of Jack Holt's best ever designs. It has never been as successful as some of his other designs in terms of numbers of boats built but it certainly is the sweetest little craft.

It looks just as a sailing boat should look, sharp-bowed, pleasing lines, good freeboard, a nice gentle rocker, promoting sharp tacking, flattening out to the stern ensuring good planing, a good wide and deep cockpit (allowing a youngster to be carried if cruising) with the inner edges of the side decks angled to provide comfortable hiking, sharp-edged chines giving stability and a stayed mast with a moderate sail plan.

The sail can be hoisted and lowered easily since it runs in a track, and the boat has a pleasantly light overall weight – conducive to ease of handling ashore and even onto a car top. The standing rigging

allows the mast rake to be adjusted. There are sufficient controls – cunningham, outhaul and kicker – to keep one busy tweaking/tuning the sail for optimum performance.

I really enjoy sailing the Streaker, better than any of the many other boats I have owned/sailed. It just suits me down to the ground, my weight, my lazy sailing style – rarely hike out really hard – and because of my age, my lack of suppleness.



© Warwick Baker

The average age of Streaker helms has always been a bit on the high side, but I am pleased to say that more youngsters and plenty of girls are also finding its appeal these days.

I have owned a:

- Laser, as mentioned above;
- Europe – too technical in tuning and a very low boom;
- Blaze – feels like a lump of concrete in light winds and will just not go;
- Supernova – too big and powerful rig for my liking.

I have also sailed a:

- Solo – another fully battened sail, too heavy and powerful;
- RS Aero 7 - altogether too difficult to get back in after a capsize;
- Lightning – too short for its sail area;
- RS Vareo – too frightening and does not go to windward very well;
- Topper – I am too heavy (and old) for one of those;
- and others

But I always come back to the Streaker, which I will continue to sail for as long as I can manage to get afloat in one. For me she fits like the proverbial glove and has, over the years, allowed me to pick up quite a few trophies both on the circuit and at my home club whilst giving me hours and hours of enjoyment.

Gold Fleet



© Nick Threadgill

Our usual qualification for being in the Gold Fleet is to finish in the top third of the Inlands or Nationals in the last 3 years but we've temporarily increased that to 4 years due to events being lost to COVID-19. We also include newcomers to the class who we know are very good! The current Gold Fleet consists of:

Jasper Barnham
 Steve Blackburn
 Ian Bradley
 James Dawes
 Veronica Falat
 Neil Firth

Alan Gillard
 Tom Gillard
 Peter Gray
 Ian Jones
 Phil Manning
 Duncan McDonald

Martin Penty
 Nigel Pepperdine
 Ian Priest
 Phil Priestley
 James Sinclair
 Giles Therkelson-Smith



© Paul Williamson



© Paul Williamson



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Example fixtures list

Please check the Class website for the most up-to-date events list →

www.streaker-class.org.uk/meetings

Date (2022)	Event	Super Series	Northern Paddle	Southern Paddle	Midland	Border Reivers	Yorkshire	North West	East Anglian	South East
Mar 26	Tamworth			✓	✓					
Apr 2	Burghfield			✓						✓
Apr 9	Beaver		✓				✓			
Apr 23	Welton		✓				✓			
Apr 23	Killington					✓				
May 7	Hornsea		✓				✓			
May 7	Annandale					✓				
May 8	Snettisham			✓					✓	
May 14/15	Grafham Water Inland Champs	✓								
May 21/22	Downs Southern Champs	✓		✓						✓
May 28	Bassenthwaite					✓				
June 4/5	East Lothian Scottish Champs	✓				✓				
June 11	Shotwick		✓					✓		
June 11	Oulton Broad			✓					✓	
June 12	Beccles								✓	
June 18	Hykeham Northern Champs	✓	✓		✓					
Jun 24-26	South Shields National Champs	✓								
July 16	Staunton Harold		✓	✓	✓					
Sep 10	Ripon		✓				✓			
Sep 18	Ouse Amateur								✓	
Oct 8	Elton		✓					✓		
Oct 9	Bartley			✓	✓					
(tbc)	St Mary's Loch					✓				
Oct 29	Banbury End of Season Champs	✓		✓	✓					
Total Events		6	8	8	5	5	4	2	4	2

Series qualification

Super Series - Count your best 3 overall event results from the 6 events (weighted scores).

All other series - Count your best individual race results (not your overall position for each event).

The Streaker Series Rules can be found under the 'Events' menu heading on the Streaker website →

www.streaker-class.org.uk/series-rules

Join the Class Association

SCOA Membership is really good value and includes regular members-only newsletters which are full of Streaker stories, advice and tips.

You can join or renew in person at the Dinghy Show while admiring the boats on display. New this year, we'll be accepting card payments! Alternatively, you can join or renew your membership and pay online. See our website for details...

www.streaker-class.org.uk/join.

Subscriptions

- **Full Member £15**
- **Family Members £20** (a family sharing one boat)
- **Junior Member £10** (under 18 on March 1st)
- **Associate Member £10** (non-boat owner/sharing a boat with a Full Member)



© Sue Firth

If you've bought a second-hand boat recently, don't forget to obtain a new measurement certificate for it. Replacement certificates are free for SCOA members! Just contact secretary@streaker-class.org.uk for more details.

Finally, remember that you can get 10% off your Streaker dinghy insurance with Noble Marine when you specify your SCOA membership number at the time of purchase.

<p>NOBLE MARINE INSURANCE</p>	<p>10% OFF</p>
<p>Quote and buy online at noblemarine.co.uk or call us on 01636 707606</p>	<p>Streaker Dinghy Insurance for Class Association Members*</p>
	<p><small>* You will need your SCOA Member No. from the members database or the Membership Secretary</small></p>

Would you like to try out a Streaker?

please fill out the [Google form](#) or contact secretary@streaker-class.org.uk by email