

## Mylar v Dacron

The VC speaks –

Actually it's not about the cloth, it's about the "sailability". The original design spec was to make the boat less "big crew necessary" and more responsive to smaller crews – therefore more husband and wife friendly. The current rig is the result of the bottom panels being cut off (reluctantly apparently!) but Uffa when cotton was replaced by Dacron and overpowering the rig – check early pics of HRH with Uffa the gooseneck is on the deck and the genoa goes to the sheeve on the mast. This has left us with the downhill genoa, with 70cm from the top furler to the mast, and an uphill boom when closehauled – always looks odd! – see photo.



With a taller thinner genoa – it looks better, gives a better slot effect with the main, and is lighter in hand – a big plus for female crews. The new main has a "flip open" top section, which allows "auto response" to gusts, again favouring lighter crews. In tests, in a gust the old rig heels over and slows, while the new rig just seems to accelerate!

### Cloth

No one recommends mylar for the genoa.

Everyone has been happy to have a Dacron main too, but there seems to be an opportunity to try Mylar – based on two facts – it looks modern like all other "new " classes and being see through, it's safer. While we are all committed FF sailors – the class's future is based on the people who will join the class – and a lot will have sailed with mylar mains! After all, we don't sail with cotton sails and wooden spars any more, and would attract zero sailors to the class if we did!!

