

# SQUIB SPINNAKER HANDLING

## Hoisting a Squib Spinnaker

- Before you start crew ensures guy twinning line is cleated in down position and the sheet twinning line is released.
- Crew attaches guy on pole end and pulls on hoisting line to raise pole.
- Helm ensures guy is 'free' as pole is hoisted, which helps engagement of pole in 'Spiro' mast fitting (note pole end hoist and downhaul lines are pre set for the correct pole height on the day – higher when windy, lower in light conditions).
- Crew puts spinnaker on deck and helm raises sail on halyard, crew may have to pull jib in briefly to prevent guy from 'sticking' under jib.
- Crew pulls on guy to connect clew with pole end and set correct pole angle for wind direction, place in jamb cleat.
- Crew pulls on sheet to trim spinnaker (if it is windy, hook your backside over gunwale first!)

## Lowering a Squib Spinnaker to Leeward

- Crew releases tension on sheet and moves across boat to gather sheet from in front or shroud and above jib sheets.
- Once crew has hold of sheet in correct place, helm releases halyard for crew to gather in sail, helm then releases guy from cleat.
- The spinnaker comes in quicker if the crew also releases pole hoist line to lower pole at the same time as gathering in sail.
- Once sail is down crew releases guy from pole end and stows sail in spinnaker bag (or on *Brimstone* a loose washing basket on floor)

## Lowering a Squib Spinnaker to Windward

- Crew eases tension on sheet and releases pole hoist line to lower pole, if it does not immediately disengage from mast fitting, pull on boom 'tidy' elastic to release.
- When pole end is within reach of crew, pull on release line to disengage sheet from pole end and be ready to gather in spinnaker.
- When crew is ready to gather spinnaker helm releases halyard, crew gathers spinnaker in to windward and stows

## Gybing a Squib – Reach to Reach

- Crew pulls sheet twinning line to the deck, whilst simultaneously releasing the sheet a little bit.
- Crew releases the spinnaker pole up-haul line, lowering the pole end within reach.
- Crew releases the guy sheet from the pole end by pulling on the release cord.
- Helm bears away to start gybe and pulls on the boom to make mainsail cross centre line.
- Crew pulls in the new spinnaker sheet (old guy) to 'hide' spinnaker behind the mainsail this prevents the wind taking it towards the 'sky' before the pole is set.
- Crew attaches new guy to pole end and launches pole on new side.
- As the crew launches the pole, helm releases the new guy just enough to relieve the spinnaker wind pressure, allowing the crew to re-engage the pole in to the mast fitting.
- When the pole is set, helm and crew pull on the new guy to set the pole angle correctly for the new reach.
- Crew releases the new sheet twinning line whilst pulling on the sheet to trim the spinnaker on the new side.

With practice it takes less than one minute! A Fico pole end is the best.

## Gybing a Squib Run to Run

- The procedure is the same as above except that the spinnaker is kept full and pulling throughout the gybe.
- This is done by the helm pulling in the guy as the pole is lowered by the crew. The pole is lowered and released from the guy, buy pulling the pole end release cord, taking care not to collapse the spinnaker.

Bryan and Jenny Riley  
*Brimstone*