

# Spreaders Update for RS800 AGM 30 Nov 2020

## **Brief History:**

Some sailors had noticed that the amount of deflection of their spreaders was increasing over time and in 2019 this was openly being discussed as an issue in the fleet. A small batch of faulty spreaders was also sold from the end of 2018 resulting in multiple failures, made especially evident at the 2019 inland championships where 5 boats broke spreaders. These issues were raised with RS in October 2019.

A remediation plan was agreed with RS and a new spreader design was produced and tested. While the new design with an additional reinforcing band across the front was an improvement, it still increased deflection over time when used in high winds.

We held an SGM to discuss the options available with the fleet and agreed to continue with a fixed spreader design and test a new spreader bracket that attached to the spreader further away from the mast. Prototype testing showed little movement with use and the new design was approved for production.

## **Latest Updates:**

A limited production run of new mast brackets and spreaders was made to enable all faulty spreaders to be replaced. This has been completed. Testing retro fitting the new brackets to existing spreaders and older masts showed that the hole placement for the new brackets needed to be improved to ensure correct fitment. This has resulted in the new spreader bracket design below.

The 4 holes in the bracket where the spreader attaches allow good fitting to existing and new spreaders, only 2 holes will be used on each side. A production run of this new bracket has been ordered to provide stock for Selden and RS.

