



## A guide to setting up and tuning your RS800

This tuning guide is a culmination and consolidation of various tuning guides and intelligence gathered over the years since the RS800 was first raced in anger in 1999. Most of the content is attributable to Mike Lennon, Pete Barton and Spod Olive. Notes in blue added by Tom Morris in March 2023.

Although one-design, the RS800 has evolved subtly over the years, the most notable recent evolution being the introduction of the 'square top' mainsail. Whilst not providing a notable gain in performance, it does require a slightly different approach.



Old style 'pin head' mainsail



New style 'square top' mainsail

### Initial set-up and tuning guide

Note:-

**Main shroud tension & rake** is measured with upper and lower shrouds slack and sails down

**Lower shroud tension** is measured with main shroud tension on, but uppers slack and sails down

**Upper shroud tension** is measured with main and lower shroud tension on, but sails down

### Rake/ Rig Tension

To measure rake:

- Attach a tape measure to the jib halyard.
- Tighten the halyard until the measurement to the jib track is a round number e.g. 1m exactly.
- Then measure to the bottom of bow deck lip and take the difference of the two measurements. (This is an easier and more exact method than hoisting the halyard to the top)

**Rake:** 66-67cm is a good general setting (This is 'upright')

**'Raked' setting** - if breezy (say about 19kn+). I would drop the shrouds 0.5 hole and move forestay up 2-3 holes to give me 69-70cm rake and around the same 23L / 140kg tension. (TM: We sail on one rake setting of 67cm, but above 18 knots move down half a hole on the shroud. This effectively increased rake but also increases rig tension)









