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SKIPPER'S COCKPIT
RACING
FOR DINGHIES, KEELBOATS AND YACHTS

TIM DAIVSON
GUIDE

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BLOOMSBURY

Troubleshooting

If you are slow, try the following alterations one at a time until your speed increases.

You can't point

- The mainsail's leech may be too open. Try adding an extra chock and/or angling the spreaders forward. Then increase mainsheet tension. Slacken the outhaul a bit. Check that the boom is almost down the centreline (except for singlehanders).
- Sheet the jib a bit harder. Increase rig tension (or pull on the backstay) to tighten the jib luff.
- Sight up the mast while beating. If it bends to windward in the middle, shorten the spreaders or increase rig tension.
- Sail the boat upright.
- Let off the Cunningham.
- Push the centreboard down further in light winds, or raise it a bit in strong winds.

You point OK, but go slowly

- The leech may be too tight and the sails too full.
- Ease the sheets, then pull the traveller to windward and move the jib fairleads towards the centreline.
- Try raking the spreaders aft and remove a chock. The mast will bend more and slacken the leech.

You are slow and can't point

- Check your body position. Often you will be sitting too far back.
- Check the hull and foils. They should be down to design weight and smooth.
- Check the mast rake and bend against a boat you know has similar gear but is fast.
- Sorry, but you may need new sails and/or a new mast.

You are slow on the reach

- Straighten the mast by adding chocks and/or reducing rig tension.
- Ease the outhaul to power up the main.
- Barber haul the jibsheet outboard, reducing twist in the foresail.

You are slow on the run

- Rake the mast forward.
- Heel the boat to windward until the rudder is neutral.
- Sit forward in light winds, back in strong winds.



Golden Rule

If you are consistently slow, change things one at a time (during tuning sessions with your buddy) until you find the problem.

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