

Raising the Sails - Day Boat

There are two types of rig on Hunter Fleet day boats – Gunter rig (2 sails) and lugsail (single sail).

Gunter Rig

The Gunter rig is similar to the gaff rig but the gaff is pulled up parallel to the mast. Two halyards are used to raise the mainsail - the throat halyard and the peak halyard.

The throat halyard is permanently fixed to the gaff and the peak halyard is made fast onto the pin rail. Undo the peak halyard from the pin rail and connect it to the point on the centre on the gaff.

Connect the jib to the stem head. Hook the halyard block to the top of the jib ensuring there are no twists. Run the ends of the jib sheets through the fairleads and then through the holes on the well combing. Tie figure-of-eight knots on the end of the sheets.

You should now be ready to move to the end of the dyke and moor head to wind ready to raise sails. Moor the boat by the bow line only at this stage.

First raise the jib - this will hold the boat head-to-wind while raising the mainsail. The topping lift should be untied and left loose so that the jib can pull the mast forward when it is raised and sweated up - this will ensure that the boom is held high (the boat will sail better and there will be good headroom in the well). Raise the jib, sweating it up as tight as possible and secure to the left pin on the pin rail to the left of the mast.

Pull on the topping lift and remove and stow the crutches.

To raise the mainsail, pull on the throat halyard and the peak halyard. Temporarily tie off the peak halyard onto the inner pin on the pin rail to the right of the mast the throat halyard is sweated up and secured to the centre pin. Then pull up on the peak halyard until it is chock-a-block and secure. Release the topping lift, leave about 2 ft of slack rope and tie off on the cleat.

Coil and stow the halyards and you are ready to sail away.

Lugsails

There is only one halyard to raise a lug sail but there is a purchase tackle on the fixed end. The upper brail holds the gaff to the mast once the sail is raised.

Undo the halyard from the pin rail and connect to the point on the centre on the gaff.

You should now be ready to move to the end of the dyke and moor head to wind ready to raise sails. Moor the boat by the bow line only at this stage.

Remove and stow the crutches.

Pull the sail up with the halyard (keeping the halyard inside the loop of the upper brail) until the chain tack stop is tight and tie off the halyard. Then use the purchase tackle to tension the chain really tight. Finally take in the slack on the upper brail and make fast to the pin rail.

Putting the cover on a lug-sail boat:

Before putting the cover on a lugsail boat, the boom must be raised at both ends to establish a nice ridge for the cover to shed the rain. Take the main halyard and sail tie, pass round the spars

close to the tack strop, make fast and use the main halyard to hoist the spars until the tack strop chain is tight. Then put the spars in the crutches and the cover can now be put on.