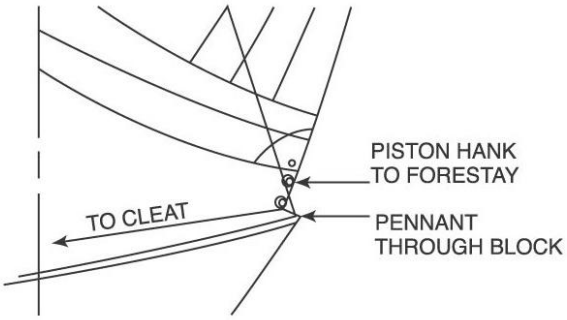
RADIAL HEAD DRIFTER BY LEESAILS

The most powerful sail
for cruising people

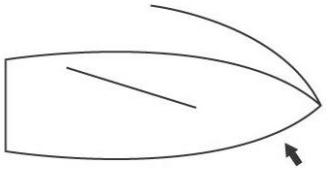
SETTING THE RADIAL HEAD DRIFTER

The LEE Radial Head Drifter is easily set. Just attach the turtle bag to the bow pulpit, hook the piston hank at the tack to the forestay and run the tack pennant line through a block at the stemhead to a cleat either on the foredeck or aft to the cockpit. Attach the halyard to the brass swivel at the head and run your sheets to blocks at the stern quarters. Bear off to a broad reach, hoist your halyard and trim the sheet accordingly for the point of sail. Avoid trimming the sheet until the sail is fully hoisted or else it may fill prematurely.
Now pour yourself a drink and relax!
REMEMBER: this sail should only be jibed, **never** tacked through the foretriangle.



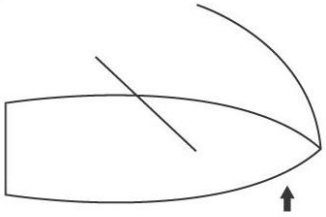
CLOSE REACHING 50° - 80°

The tack pennant should be kept low, (approx. the height of the bow pulpit) and the sheet trimmed to the point where the luff curls slightly. Care must be taken not to try to point too high: this will cause the chute to collapse.



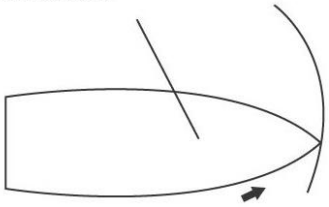
BEAM REACHING 80° - 100°

When beam reaching, the sheet should be eased so that the luff curls slowly but persistently and the tack adjusted so it is just below the clew.



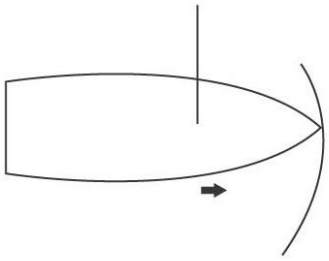
BROAD REACHING 100° - 150°

Trimming for a broad reach is basically the same as beam reaching. Sheet is eased until luff curls and tack eased to a point slightly lower than the clew.



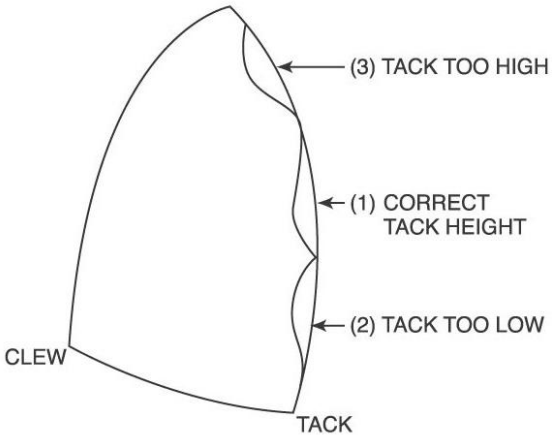
RUNNING 150° - 180°

Again, the sheet should be eased to the point that the luff curls and the tack height is just below the clew. Sailing dead down wind with the R.H.D. can sometimes be faster and easier if the mainsail is partly reefed or even fully lowered. The R.H.D. is so much larger than the mainsail that the extra efficiency more than offsets the loss in mainsail area.



TACK HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

To find the optimum height for the tack, raise it up and down until the middle shoulder rolls in uniformly (1) as the sheet is eased. If the luff collapses too low (2), the tack should be raised. Conversely, if the luff collapses too high (3), the tack should be lowered.



DOUSING THE RADIAL HEAD DRIFTER

The Radial Head Drifter can be doused simply by easing the sheet to release the wind and gather it from the luff as the halyard is lowered. In stronger winds it is sometimes easier to come up to a broad reach, release the piston hank from the forestay and release the tack pennant: this will allow the chute to flag out behind the mainsail. As the halyard is lowered, pull the sail in behind the main with clew and bring in down your companionway hatch. It is often easier to repack the sail down below than on a pitching foredeck.

LEE SAILS

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