

# **Access Dinghies**

## **OPERATIONS & SAFETY MANUAL**



# **LIBERTY**

## Items included with your Liberty

1. Liberty
2. Main Mast
3. Fore Mast
4. Boom
5. Centreboard
6. Rudder s x 2
7. Rubber Box x 2
8. Rudder Box Pin x 2
9. Installed reefing system
10. Mainsail
11. Foresail (Jib)
12. Bobbin
13. Mainsheet
14. Outhaul
15. Traveller
16. Painter
17. Jib Sheet with clew sheave
18. Jib strut downhaul
19. Jib Strut and Claw
20. Boom vang

### ITEMS WITH SERVO ASSIST

#### Installed:

main sheet winch  
jib sheet winch  
helm winch  
control box  
rubber bungs

#### Plus:

Batteries x 2,  
Battery Y Connector,  
Battery Charger (if 240V),  
Controller  
Controller holder

## General Info on Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's)

There are many types and variety of buoyancy aids available, manufactured to different sets of standards. The PFD is a personal item of safety equipment, designed specifically to assist in preserving a person's life when in the water. Some PFD's provides buoyancy to help you float with your head above the water.

**All sailors and volunteers should wear a PFD at all times whilst on, or near water.**

PFD's are subject to normal wear and tear. Each one should be checked regularly and if in doubt about its serviceability it should be replaced. If they become wet from salt water they should be hosed down with fresh water and allowed to dry.

### PFDs and Children

A properly designed PFD of the correct size will keep a child's mouth and nose clear of the water. A child should be taught how to put on the device and should be allowed to try it out in the water. It is important that the child feels comfortable and knows what the PFD is for and how it functions.

## Liberty Specifications

Length	3.6 metres (12 ft)
Beam	1.35 metres (4'5")
Draft	1 metre (3'6")
Boat Weight	72 kg (160 lbs)
Centreboard Weight	72 kg (160 lbs)
Sail Plan	Mainsail & free standing, self tacking Jib
Sail Area (total)	7.35 sq. m (79 sq.ft)
Mast	5.6 metre (18'4")
Safe Working Load	120 kg + 30 kg luggage (264 lbs + 66 lbs luggage)

# PART ONE : LIBERTY SPECIAL FEATURES

1. The Liberty has 2 rudders which give directional control at even extreme angles of heel.

Fig 1



2. There is the option of fitting a boom with a 3 part manual mainsheet, rigged as per the 303W, (fig 2)

Fig. 2

or a 2 part double ended mainsheet (fig 3), one end going to a servo assist sheet winch and the other through a conventional swivel/deadeye/camcleat for manual operation, (fig 4)

Both these ends pass through a double block attached to the boom about 400mm back from the mast. (see fig 4)

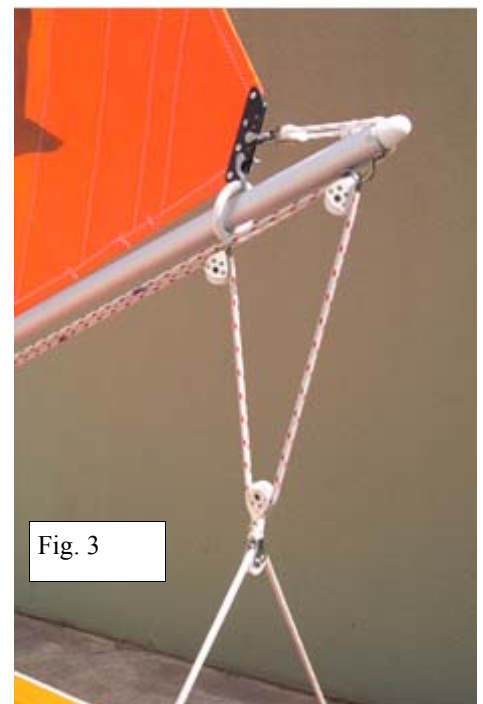


Fig. 3

3. A boom vang is fitted which prevents the boom skying when running in fresh to strong winds. (see fig 4)

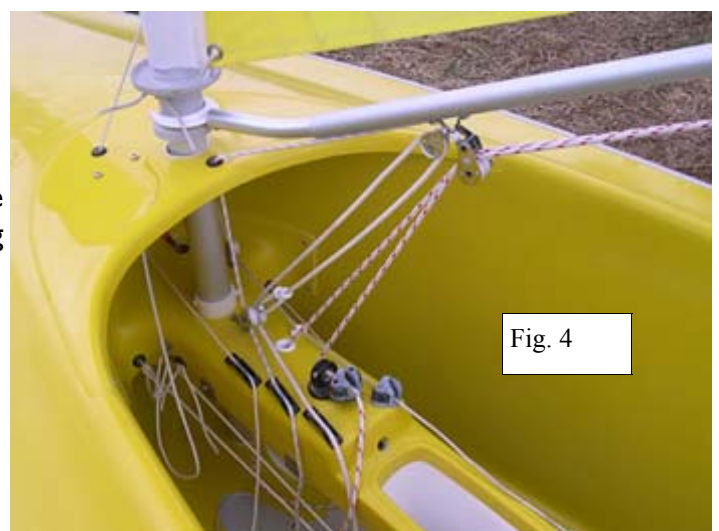


Fig. 4

4. The mainsail outhaul primarily cleats at the boom, (fig 5) but passes thru a deckeye just behind the main mast, down to the console and turns through the boom vang/outhaul double bucket block and back to the central of the 3 clamcleats on the port side of the console. (fig 6)



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

5. The jib is self tacking with a diagonal strut between the clew and a claw at the mast which holds the jib flat and prevents twisting as the sheet is eased. (fig 7, view)



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

6. The jib sheet is 2 part which gives the option of one end going to a servo assist winch and the other down to the clamcleat on the starboard side of the console for manual operation. (fig 8 shows the jib sheet winch behind mast, jib sheet and clamcleat).

7. The Liberty has a solid seat designed to take cushions and padding to suit individual needs. The adjustable backrests are available in short and long versions. Thoracic supports, headrests and various types of seat belts are available. (fig 34 & 35)

If fig 34 is in B&W the yellow cross-over shoulder straps will be hard to see.



Fig. 34



Fig. 35

## PART TWO : RIGGING THE LIBERTY

### I. STEPPING THE MAINMAST, FITTING THE BOOM.

I.1 With the sail rolled and tied up, bobbin in place tied to the tack of the sail (fig 9), carefully step the mainmast making sure the foot is firmly in the step.

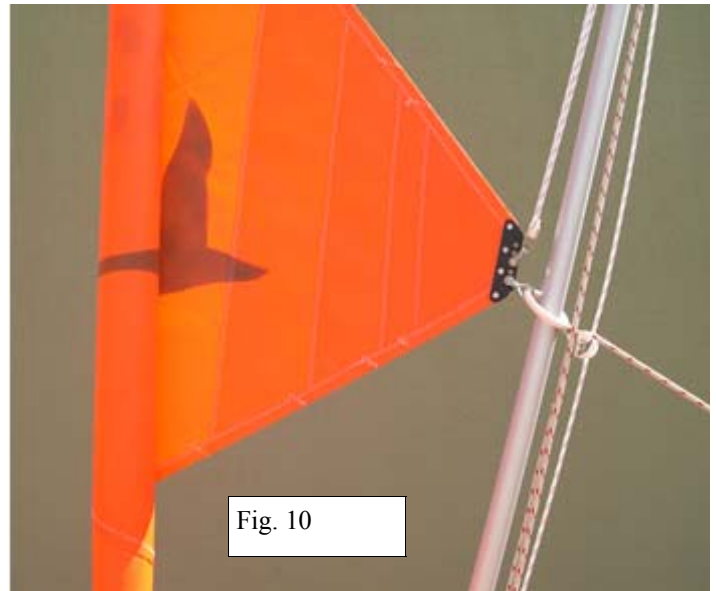
Fig. 9



I.2 Take the boom, free its outhaul and sheet, pull the outhaul block and traveling ring as far forward as it will go, then shackle the traveling ring onto the lowest hole of the clew board, and shackle the outhaul to the central hole of the clew board. (fig 10)

I.3 Unroll the mainsail (about 5 turns) until the rowlock at the front end of the boom can be pushed onto the bobbin.

I.4 Then pull the sail out tight with the outhaul. Cleat the outhaul on the boom. (see fig 5—page 4)



I.5 Run the outhaul through the deck eye in the cowling just aft of the main mast, down through the deadeye on the console just aft of the mast, then back to the black clam cleat on the console port side. Pull on the outhaul, but cleat it at the white clam cleat on the starboard side of the boom. (see fig 4—page 3)

I.6 Pass the boom vang through its block on the boom and back through its block on the console just aft of the mast and cleat it at the furthest aft of the 3 black clamcleats on the port side of the console. Do not overtension the boom vang, it is there to prevent the boom skying when running downwind in fresh to strong winds, not to flatten the mainsail when going to windward. (see fig 4—page 3).

I.7 If the boat is to be sailed manually, and has a 3 part sheet fitted to the boom, use the following procedure.

a) Unravel the sheet, clear any twists and shackle its block onto the traveler and rig as per fig 2—page 3.

b) Pass the live end of the sheet through the deadeye and camcleat on the console and tie a figure of eight knot in its end.

I.8 If the boat is to be sailed servo assist and has the sheet on its winch and a bare boom, unravel the mainsheet which comes up through the console from the sheet winch then: (as per figs. 3 & 4—page 3)

a) pass its end through the right side of the double block on the boom,

b) then through the plastic guide-ring half way along the boom,

c) then through the first of the blocks towards the end of the boom,

d) then down and through the block on the traveler,

e) then back up and through the block at the end of the boom,

f) then again through the plastic guide-ring, and then through the right side of the double block,

g) and then down through the fairlead and cam cleat on the centre of the console.

h) tie a stopper knot in its end. If there was not enough rope for this operation set up the servo assist electrics and feed out sufficient rope. (see 3.1 on page 9)

1.9 Rotate the mast to fully unroll the sail, haul in on the outhaul and cleat it, pull the starboard reefing line till its knot is as far as it will go on the port side, then tighten the reefing drum clamp. (The reefing drum clamp is under the console and as per fig 11). If full sail is not needed at this time release the outhaul and pull the port side reefing line till its knot stops at the starboard side, cleat the reefing line on the port side aft of the console, then haul on and cleat the outhaul. (fig 12, reefing lines)

Fig. 11



Fig. 12

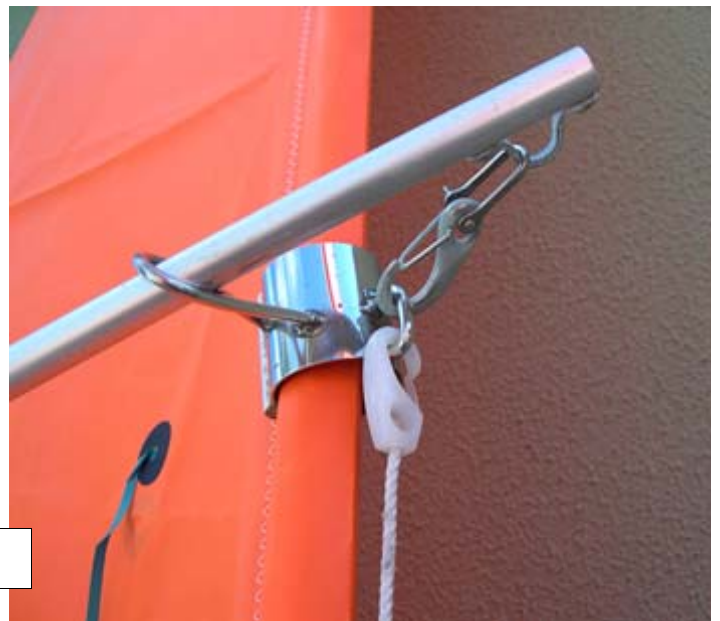


## 2. STEPPING THE FOREMAST.

2.1 Before stepping the mast, unroll the sail, fit the claw and strut, then attach the strut to the claw with the stainless steel spring hook.

(as per fig. 7— page 4; fig. 9—page 5 & fig. 13)

Fig. 13



2.2 At the bow pull the port side jib reefing line till its knot is at its stop hard up on the port side of the console in the cockpit. (see fig 12— page 7, reefing lines)

2.3 Unhook the jib reefing line tension shock cord hook (located on back bulkhead behind the seat) and set up the reefing line in a loop to complete a full turn around the foremast reefing drum. (fig 14, view of loop)



Fig. 14

2.4 Step the mast, fit the reefing line and re-tension the shockcord. (fig 15)



Fig. 15

2.5 Presuming the jib sheet block is shackled to the bottom hole of the clewboard, feed the sheet through the block and down through the deckeye to the turning block, then thru the deadeye and the cam cleat, then tie a stopper knot in its end. (see fig. 8—page 4 & fig. 9—page 5).

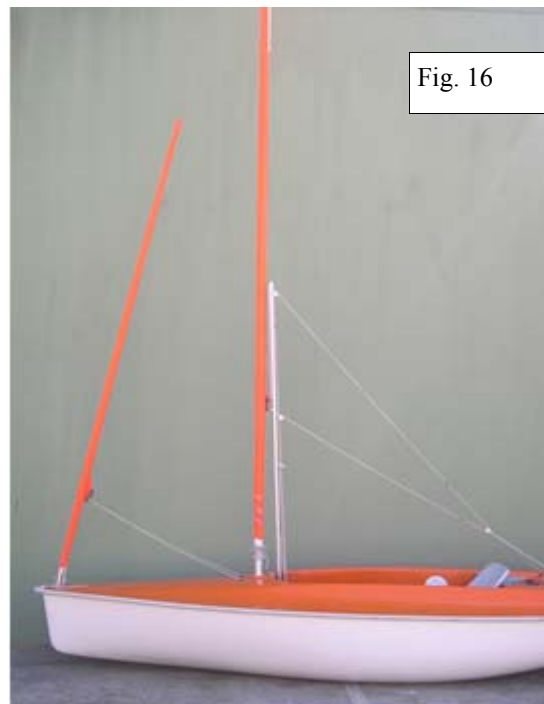
2.6 At the bow is the jib strut downhaul, free it and attach its plastic hook to the lug on the front of the claw. (fig 13—page 7).

2.6 Pull in on the downhaul (located on the left side of the console) and cleat it on the most forward of the 2 black (3 on 2004 Worlds model) clamcleats. (fig 6 on page 4)

2.7 Check the manual operation of the jib sheet located at the cam cleat on the right side of the console.



Fig. 16



2.8 To furl the jib, remove the strut, unhook the downhaul, slide the claw to the base of the mast then pull the port jib reefing line to completely roll up the sail. (fig 16)

If fig. 16 is in B&W it may be hard to see the orange sails rolled around the mast.

2.9 Its OK to roll 1 to 3 turns on the foremast to reef for strong winds, but for furling do as per 2.8.

### 3. SETTING UP MAIN & JIB SHEETS.

3.1 If sheet winches are fitted and the boat is to be sailed manually, it will be necessary to run all but about half a metre of sheet out of the winches to leave all the sheet available for manual operation. Read carefully below (3.2 to 3.8) and PART THREE for an understanding of the Servo Assist System.

3.2 Presuming the boat is servo assist equipped it will be necessary to set up the main and jib sheet winches to work in sync. Commence by installing the batteries and connecting the joystick. (fig 17 showing battery with Y connector going forward around front of the centreboard case to second battery).

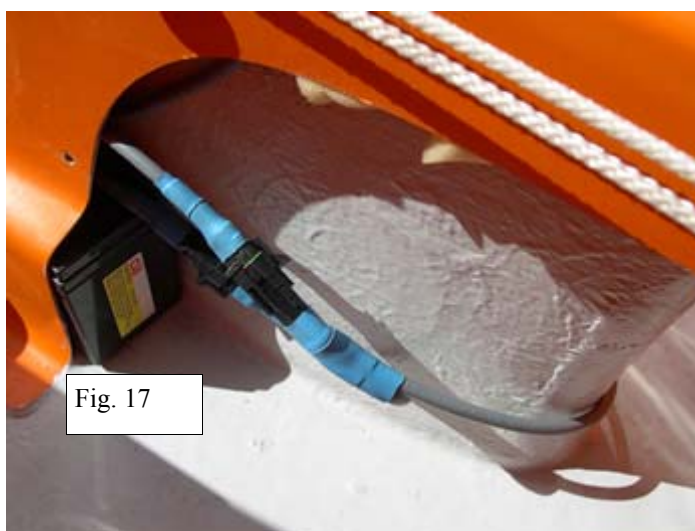


Fig. 17

See fig 26 on page 10 for a typical joystick controller. Plug the joystick into the 9 way yellow connector on the lead below the helm winch drum behind the seat starboard side. (fig 21 on page 13)

3.3 On the joystick box is a push button switch (Main Only Switch or MO Switch) which disconnects the jib sheet winch to allow the main sheet to be fine tuned independently. A red light is on when the MO Switch is activated. Press the button again to operate both winches together. This function can be used to set up the sheets so both main and jib are correctly set for windward work.

3.4 Both main and jib sheets are double ended, one end going to a servo assist winch, the other to a cleat for manual operation. When sailing servo assist both sheets should be cleated with about half a metre free outside the cleat. There should be a stopper knot in the end of the sheet outside the camcleats. (see fig 4—page 3, figs. 5 & 6 —page 4)

3.4 Presuming the servo assist gear is installed correctly with battery and joystick attached, wind in on both sheets (pull joystick back) until either main or jib is in hard enough to simulate being hard on the wind. **Be careful not to over sheet either sail.** (fig 17— page 9, battery with “Y” connector & fig 26 typical joystick).



Fig. 26

3.5 For this exercise the mainsail is correctly set when the sheet is in hard and the mainmast begins to bend aft, while the jib should be around 15 degrees off the centerline. That is the clew should be about 200mm outboard from the mainmast.

3.6 If the jib sheets in hard first, press the MO switch to disengage the jib sheet winch and use the joystick to further adjust the main sheet.

3.7 If the main sheets in first, either:

- (a) un-plug the main sheet winch (the white plug is under the console on the starboard side of the centerboard case) and then using the joystick wind in more on the jibsheet, or
- (b) press the MO switch to disengage the jib sheet winch and use the joystick to let out the main sheet only, then re-engage both winches and haul in both sheets, repeat until the jib is correctly set. It is very easy to over sheet the jib so beware.

3.8 If you wish to sail the boat manually and adjust the sheets by hand, reverse the process and wind the rope out of the winches leaving a tail of about half a meter outside the winches. This will leave the full length of the sheets available for manual operation.

#### 4. REEFING THE MAINSAIL: (reducing sail area)

4.1 Pull on the port reefing line to reduce sail area

4.2 Pull the Starboard line to increase sail area.

- 4.3 Never pull and “push” on both at once.
- 4.4 Use the white “clamcleats” on the left (port) side of the console to cleat the reefing line or the sail will unroll. (fig 20 on page 12)
- 4.5 You can put one complete turn of sail around the mast without adjusting the outhaul.
- 4.6 To reef further the outhaul needs to be released to allow the sail to travel forward along the boom.
- 4.7 Conversely, when un-reefing, you need to pull on the outhaul.
- 4.8 Always re-cleat the outhaul after adjusting. Cleat the outhaul at the white clamcleat on the boom.
- 4.9 The idea is not to flatten the sail along the boom as it should have enough slack to form a gentle curve. (fig. 36 & fig. 37)



Fig. 37



Fig. 36

## 5. REEFING AND FURLING THE JIB.

- 5.1 Un-cleat the jib sheet and downhaul before attempting to reef.
- 5.2 Use the port reefing line to reef, the starboard to unreef.
- 5.3 Remember to cleat the reefing line after reefing (use the “clamcleat on the console port side) or the sail will unroll.
- 5.4 Adjust the downhaul to suit.
- 5.5 To furl the jib, remove the strut, unhook the downhaul, slide the claw to the base of the mast then pull the port jib reefing line to completely roll up the sail.
- 5.6 When de-rigging, leave the sheet block shackled to the clew, untie the figure of eight knot in the sheet end and un-reeve the sheet.

## 6. THE STEERING

6.1 Ensure the steering lines pass under the joystick correctly. A cable tie can be fitted through the lower hole to prevent a derail. (fig 18)

6.2 Fit the rudders making sure the rope traveler is above the tillers.



Fig. 18

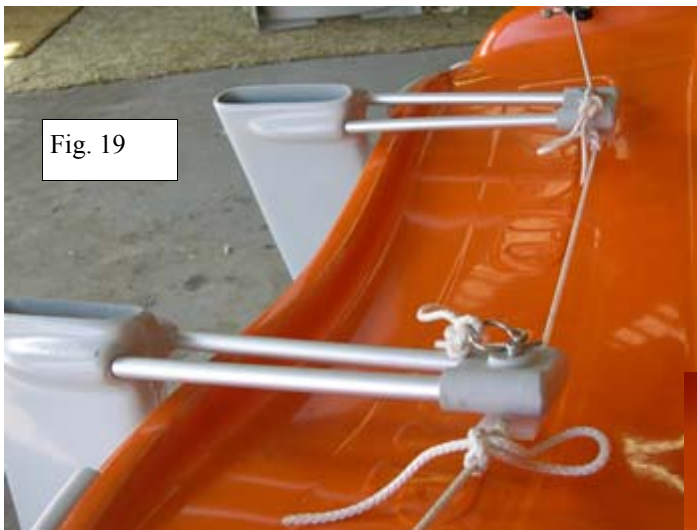


Fig. 19

6.3 Remove the spring clips and pass the clevis pins up through the holes at the end of the tillers. Re-insert the spring clips. (fig 19)

6.4 Fit the alloy joystick extension. (fig 20). If there is a problem of sailors accidentally removing this joystick extension a spring clip can be fitted. Contact Access Dinghy for details.

Also in fig. 20 are the two white camcleats on the aft port side of the console used to cleat the mainsail and jib reefing lines.



Fig. 20

6.5 If the boat is to be steered manually, wind out (anticlockwise) the helm winch drum to release the clutch. (fig 21)

6.6 If the boat is to be steered servo assist the clutch needs to be engaged. Push the manual joystick hard over to either port or starboard and do the same with the helm winch by connecting battery and servo joystick and push it over to either port or starboard as done with the manual joystick. This should align the clutch. Then wind in (clockwise) the star knob to engage the clutch. (see fig 21)

6.7 To align the steering see Part 3, SERVO ASSIST SYSTEM, 8.10 Adjusting the steering lines, page 19.



## 7. LAUNCHING

7.1 Pass the bow line (called a painter) through the guide ring at the bow and fasten it around the mast using a bowline (a knot which is always easy to untie).

7.2 Use a hoist to lower the keel in place. Keels are best carried on shore in a Keel Caddy or a common hand truck.

**7.3 DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO SAIL WITHOUT THE CENTREBOARD FULLY DOWN OR THEY MAY CAPSIZE.**

**7.4 USE THE LONG ALLOY PIN TO LOCK THE CENTREBOARD DOWN.**

**7.5 NEVER USE SEAT BELTS OR HARNESSSES UNLESS THE CENTREBOARD IS LOCKED DOWN.**

# PART THREE : LIBERTY SERVO ASSIST SYSTEM

## I. OVERVIEW

1.1 Access Dinghies are extremely easy to sail servo assist and a severely disabled sailor can be very competitive against anyone. Unfortunately, however efficient servo assist equipment may be, sheet and helm winches will always be mechanical and without feel, and slower than an able bodied person working sheets and joystick manually. But without doubt, its better to be sailing without feel than not sailing at all.

1.2 Servo Assist equipment is fitted only to our single seaters for three reasons.

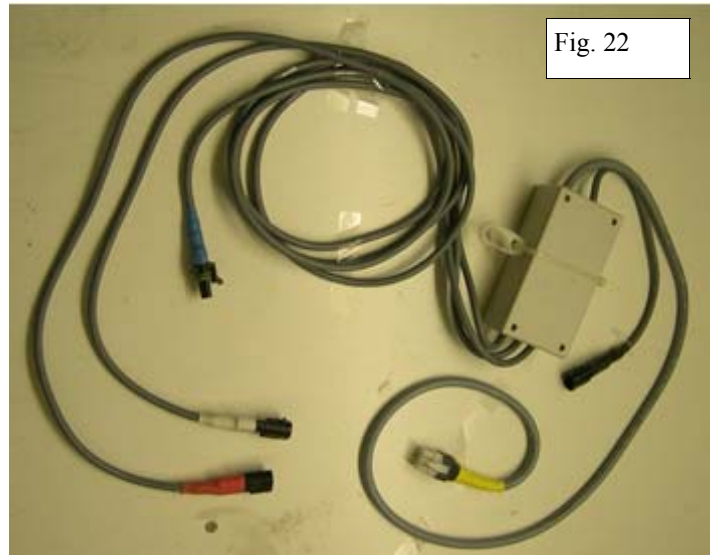
- (a) Sailors who require servo assist generally have limited mobility which prohibits them moving body weight to windward to counteract heeling. The boat will therefore heel more and single seaters with their wide side decks stay dry, even at extreme angles of heel.
- (b) Sailors with limited mobility are more secure in the narrow single seater cockpit.
- (c) As winches are less responsive than manual control, the boat is likely to occasionally be heeled more in wind gusts, so the single seater is dryer.

1.3 The Liberty system comprises a control box with wiring harness (fig 22), helm winch (fig 23—page 15), mainsheet winch (fig 24—page 16), jib sheet winch (fig 25—page 16), controller (figs 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31—pages 17 and 18) batteries (fig 32—page 15) and battery charger (fig 33—page 15).

## 2. CONTROL BOX. (fig 22)

2.1 The control box, part number **RC5**, is hanging on a saddle inside the starboard cockpit inspection port. It has;

- (a) 3 leads running forward, they are: (1) jib sheet winch - long lead with red plug. (2) main sheet winch - mid length lead with white plug. (3) battery - short lead with blue plug. These leads run forward and out into the cockpit via a 2 hole and a 1 hole rubber bungs, then forward through the back of the console to the battery, the main sheet winch, and the jib sheet winch.



- (b) 2 leads running aft, (1) the larger of the 2 passing through the aft bulkhead, via a 32mm single hole rubber bung, its yellow 9 pin plug connecting to the joystick. (2) The smaller of the 2 aft leads plugs into the helm winch lead (black plugs) which should always be hanging on a hook just aft of the starboard side inspection port.

2.2 These plugs, **except the yellow 9 way joystick plugs**, should be sprayed with corrosion guard, particularly the blue battery plug which is the one most likely to get wet.

- (a) Those left connected, ie, the male and female red jib sheet winch plugs and the white mainsheet winch plugs, can be taped together and the mainsheet winch plugs pushed up under the console and held there with the small piece of foam.
- (b) The black helm winch plugs can also be taped together and should be supported on the plastic hook inside the starboard inspection port.
- (c) The blue battery lead plug, when disconnected from the battery, should be plugged into the dummy female plug attached to the console close to the battery compartment. Never let these plugs lie in water. Spray them with corrosion guard regularly.

### 3. THE BATTERIES (fig. 17—page 9 & fig. 32)

3.1 2 batteries are provided which can be connected in parallel with the supplied “Y” connector. (see fig 17— page 9)

3.2 One battery will power 3 to 5 hours sailing depending on load and usage.

3.3 Never allow the batteries to go dead flat. Charge batteries one at a time, leave them overnight on the trickle charger supplied. (fig 33)

3.4 Spray the battery plugs with corrosion guard.



### 4. THE HELM WINCH (fig 23)

4.1 The helm winch has limit switches which limit the travel of the tillers.

4.2 There is a clutch which disengages the steering line drum from the servo motor allowing for manual steering. To engage the servo assist steering it is easiest to engage the clutch by pushing the manual joystick hard over to one side and run the winch hard over the same way, then screw in the drum to engage the clutch.

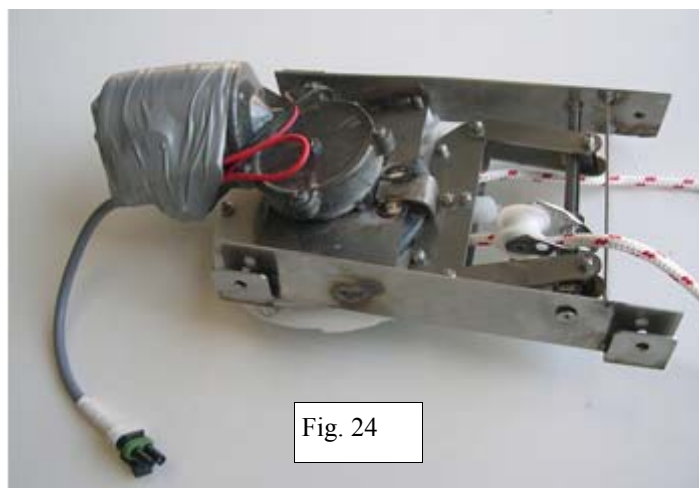
4.3 To align the steering see maintenance and troubleshooting. (8.10 on page 19)



## 5. THE MAINSHEET WINCH (fig 24)

5.1 The main sheet winch employs a friction drum which does not reel up the sheet, but uses microscopic glass beads to grip the rope on a single turn.

5.2 If the mainsheet winch is overloaded a 10 amp fuse, located on the winch motor under the console, may blow. Remove the winch to replace the fuse. The fuse holder is taped to the side of the motor.



5.3 Do not tie a stopper knot in the end of the mainsheet. It is better to run the sheet off the drum rather than have a knot cause a jam and the fuse to blow, or possibly cause structural damage. See maintenance and trouble shooting to re-reeve and adjust the mainsheet.

5.4 It is very effective to hang a canvas bag or plastic container below the winch to collect and contain coils of the mainsheet.

## 6. THE JIB SHEET WINCH (fig 25)

6.1 The jib sheet winch employs a friction drum similar to the mainsheet winch.

6.2 If the jib sheet slips, re-tension the drum by adjusting the tension spring (nyloc nut and lock nut on port side of winch drum shaft), or the rubber bands are giving insufficient tension. Replace the rubber bands if they are perished or broken. (The rubber bands will soon be replaced with springs).

6.3 The jib sheet tail should be tied off at the saddle on the side of the console below the jib sheet winch. This will prevent the tail end being caught up in loops of the main and jib sheets.

6.4 Twists can develop in the jib sheet either side of the winch. Periodically free the sheet and pull the sheet through the fingers to unravel any twists.

6.5 The red plug lead running forward to the jib winch should be fed above the main winch and above the main mast reefing drum (see fig 11 on page 7 for a view of what the reefing drums looks like) and exit on the starboard side of the mast. It then goes thru the hole in the front of the console and up to the jib sheet winch lead.

Fig. 25





## 7. CONTROLLERS (figs 26 – 31)

7.1 There are 4 types of PRIMARY CONTROLLERS.

(a) 4-way joysticks - the basic system, the simplest most reliable and easiest to use. Can be operated by hand, chin or foot. (figs 26, 27, 28, 30 & 31)

Fig 31 is a computer game type joystick adapted with our 9 way connector as an example of what can be used.

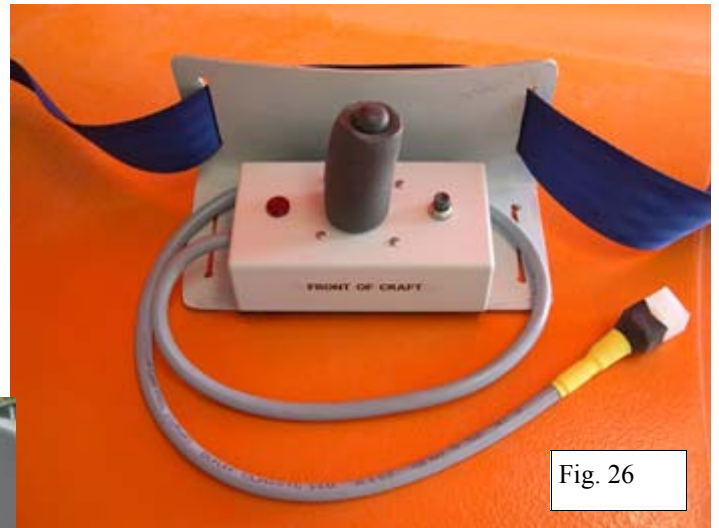


Fig. 26

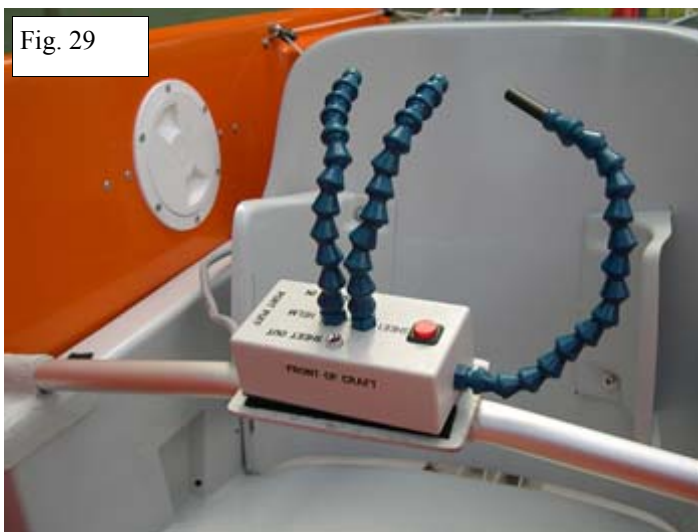


Fig. 29

(b) Sip and puff - (fig 29), where severe quadriplegia prohibits the use of a joystick. Each sailor requires a personal module to guard against spread of infection. This is an unnecessary added expense which can be avoided for most sailors who are better off using a joystick.

(c) Paddle switches - great for people with severe CP and the like who have difficulty with fine finger movements and insufficient control of their breath for sip and puff.

(d) Push Button – 4 closely nested push buttons that can be operated under a thumb or finger.



Fig. 27



Fig. 28

Fig. 30



Fig. 31



NB. Access Dinghy generally recommends that the boat should be controlled using the same method as the sailor's wheelchair is driven, utilising the sailor's most moveable and agile part, whether it be a hand, foot, chin etc. We do not generally recommend sip and puff control systems except in those circumstances where other systems are unsuitable. Sip and Puff can use unnecessarily complicated electronics which are therefore more prone to failure, and add an unnecessary complication and expense as each sailor needs their own personal module to guard against spread of infection. Only in North America are sip and puff systems widely used.

7.2 Mainsheet Only Switches (MO Switch). When the MO Switch is activated the jib sheet winch circuit is de-latched, so that when the Primary Control Switch is worked, only the Mainsheet winch responds. Press the MO Switch again and both main and jib sheet winches will work in sync. A red light is on when the MO Switch is activated.

7.3 There are 3 types of MO Switches.

- (a) Finger controlled (latched) press button. (fig 26—page 17)
- (b) Magnetic reed switch (latched) activated by a magnet attached to finger, cheek or other moving body part. (fig 28—page 17)
- (c) Sip or puff (latched) switch (fig 29—page 17)

NB. Latching means the winch stays on when the switch is activated and must be pressed again to stop it. Momentary switches are only "on" while being activated.

## 8. MAINTAINANCE AND TROUBLESHOOTING.

8.1 We advise a club or owner to appoint a handy, practical volunteer to take charge of the electrics, ideally someone with an electrical background.

8.2 This equipment has to be serviced regularly if it is to remain serviceable and free of corrosion. Prior to leaving our factory all terminals, plugs and corrodible parts were sprayed with "Corrosion Guard", a spray can of which is supplied. We advise you to spray exposed battery terminals regularly, and inspect all the electrical components regularly, noting and treating any signs of corrosion.

8.3 Do not allow any leads and plug ends to remain immersed in water. When batteries are removed plug the blue battery lead into the dummy connector attached to the side of the console starboard side close above the battery compartment.

- 8.4 If components are swamped remove and dry them first if necessary, then spray with “Corrosion Guard”
- 8.5 Remove the inspection ports to ventilate the buoyancy compartment when the boat is packed away each day.
- 8.6 When the boat is stored for extended periods, remove (all) the electrics completely, service them and store in a dry place.
- 8.7 If the boat is usually sailed manually, remove the electrics till they are needed again, closing all the holes with rubber bungs.
- 8.8 If the main sheet winch fails to work when activated first check the plug leads. If all seems OK next listen at the control box to hear if the relays are clicking. If they are the problem may be the blown fuse taped onto the side of the mainsheet motor which is in the circuit to protect the components if the sheet winch motor is stalled and overloaded. Remove the winch, remove the tape and replace the 10 amp x 12 volt fuse.
- 8.9 If the MO switch fails to engage and disengage the jib winch it is most probably dirty terminals in the 9 pin joystick connectors. Clean the pins. Do not spray the 9 pin connectors with corrosion guard as the MO switch works with mille amps and corrosion guard will inhibit a good contact.
- 8.10 **Adjusting the steering lines.** To align the steering, engage the clutch, rotate the drum from lock to lock, then stop it at what you estimate to be the mid point. There are steering line adjustments at the tillers and at the joystick. Adjust the lines so that the joystick, tillers and the winch drum are all central. When you run the motor look for the tillers to oscillate evenly port and starboard, and that the joystick oscillates correspondingly. If not, adjust the lines till they are.
- 8.11 If the sheet is accidentally run through the winch, remove the winch, rotate the threaded rod to release the rocker until the sheet can be fed back around the drum, then re-tension the sheaves by rotating the rod. Reinstall the winch. If the rope slips it could be that more sheave tension is needed, so adjust the threaded rod, or possibly the glass beads are worn. Contact Access Dinghies in this event.
- 8.12 Changing between manual and servo a assist systems.
- (a) If you wish to sail the boat manually and adjust the sheets by hand, wind the sheets out of the winches leaving a tail of about half a meter outside the winches. This will leave the full length of the sheets available for manual operation.
  - (b) To change back to servo assist winch operation reverse the above process and wind the sheets in on the winches leaving about half a metre outside the camcleats. This will leave all the sheet available for servo use.
  - (c) To align the main and jib sheet winches to work in sinc refer to Part Two – Rigging the Liberty, 3 Setting up main and jib sheets.

The Recommendations relating to corrosion should be taken very seriously and apply to any environment, but the warmer and more humid your climate the more vigilant you will have to be. IF YOU SAIL IN SALT WATER YOU SHOULD TAKE THESE **RECOMMENDATIONS** VERY SERIOUSLY.

## Design Features of Access Dinghies

Access Dinghies are designed with a hull form and other features which combine to give considerable stability. There needs to be a set of rules which we must follow to continue our excellent safety record and prevent any incidents. The stability of all Access Dinghies is reliant upon the following factors.

- **SEATING** - Because placement of the sailor's weight affects stability it is important that people remain seated low in the boat. We therefore suggest using quick release systems like velcro straps to hold sailors in their seat, provided of course that the keel is first locked fully down.
- **CENTREBOARDS** - It is most important that the keel be fully down when sailing. The hole 1/3 down the keel is there purely to facilitate drainage of water, **and under no circumstances should people with disabilities be allowed to sail around with the keel held up with the pin in this position.** There is provision to lock the keel fully down so as even in a "knock down" it remains in place. It is imperative that the locking pin be inserted whenever the boat is used. Invariably people sailing the electric boat need to be strapped into it. **Never strap someone into a boat unless the centreboard locking pin is inserted through the centreboard handle.**

**Locking the keel— Insert the long aluminium pin through the centreboard handle and into the drilled hole in the console. Push the pin right in so that only the knot at the end of the rope is visible.**

- **REEFING** - Being a displacement type hull extra sail area in strong winds does not mean more speed, all it does is bury the boat in the water and make it more difficult to handle. In a breeze it is always better to reef to suit the stronger gusts.

If an Access Dinghy needs to be towed, it is safer and easier to tie the dinghy close alongside and remove the rudder blade so that the dinghy cannot be "steered" in the wrong direction.

A pontoon system which will take care of the off the beach keel handling and transferring problems is available from Access Dinghies.

# General Safety Sailing Precautions

## GENERAL

- Take into account the actual and forecast weather conditions.
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) must be worn by all persons when afloat.
- The sailing area should be clearly defined and known to all afloat. The safety boat should be able to view the entire sailing area at all times.
- There should be a simple signal for all boats to return to shore, which is known by all afloat.
- The safety of sailors and volunteers must be considered at all times. If weather conditions alter, sails are to be reefed accordingly, or if necessary activities cancelled should conditions prove unsafe.

## SAFETY BOAT

- When Access Dinghies are sailed a safety boat should be on the water at all times, with at least two crew on board. Generally a safety boat should provide cover for no more than six dinghies, but prevailing conditions must be taken into account.
- Safety boats should carry a first aid kit and should be equipped with radio communication to the shore.
- In all planing powerboats, a kill cord should be fitted and used.
- All persons in the safety boat must wear an approved buoyancy aid.
- All safety boat personnel should be instructed on how to reef sails.
- **If an Access Dinghy needs to be towed, it is safer and easier to tie the dinghy close alongside and remove the rudder blade so that the dinghy cannot be “steered” in the wrong direction.**

## **Important Note:**

Whilst Access Dinghies have inherent design features ensuring maximum stability thereby reducing the chance of capsize, it should be remembered that these are small sailing dinghies and under certain weather, water and sailing conditions sensible precautions should be taken :

- Always reef the sails according to the weather conditions.
- Always have a manned safety boat in the sailing area.
- Always cancel sailing activities if inclement weather conditions dictate.

**The safety of the sailors should come first under all circumstances.**

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