



## **TOPPER SPEED**

So your boat is fully prepared – (if not go to [www.sailing-solutions.co.uk](http://www.sailing-solutions.co.uk) for tips and suggestions) and you are ready to use your new controls. New controls! - what controls

have you got to make your Topper go faster and perhaps more to the point what do they control?

	<b>Controls:</b>
Mainsheet	the angle of the sail to the hull and to the wind.
Traveller (horse)	the position of the mainsheet block across the boat
Kicker	the bend the mast and therefore the fullness of the sail
Outhaul	the depth of the sail especially in the lower third
Downhaul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ the position of the maximum depth of the sail</li> <li>☞ the bend of the mast</li> <li>☞ the openness of the leach</li> </ul>
Daggerboard	the drag downwind and the leeward slip upwind

Not many controls then. No rig tension, no mast rake, no jib sheeting angles. You can concentrate on getting the few right and more quickly begin to enjoy learning to race other boats. More complicated classes will have many more controls to master before they can get down to the fun!

**SETTINGS. Develop your sense of speed and adjust controls around these suggested start points:**

☞ **..medium winds and flat water: (hiking fully and not overpowered)..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	75mm from block to block	90+ run by lee- gusts bear away
Traveller	As tight as possible	As tight as possible
Kicker	Take up slack + a little more	Eased – leach just able to flick open
Outhaul	Finger length from boom	Hand length from boom
Downhaul	Leave some horizontal creases	off
Daggerboard	down	¾ up
Balance	Almost flat	Healed to windward - neutral helm
Trim	As far forward as possible	As far forward as possible

☞ **..medium winds and waves: (waves tending to upset the boat upwind)..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	75mm from block to block	90 – play the waves
Traveller	As tight as possible	As tight as possible Tight
Kicker	Take up slack + a little	Off – leach just able to flick
Outhaul	Slightly looser than flat water	Slightly tighter than flat water
Downhaul	Take out all the creases	off
Daggerboard	down	½ to ¾ up
Balance	Slight heal to leeward	Healed to windward - neutral helm
Trim	250mm back from above	Forward and back-ride the waves

☞ **..Over powered: (fully hiking and letting mainsheet out upwind)..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	As above – let off in gusts	As far out as you dare. 80 max

Traveller	<i>As tight as possible tight</i>	<i>As tight as possible Tight</i>
Kicker	<i>Take up slack + lots more!</i>	<i>As much off as you feel safe with!</i>
Outhaul	<i>Just before horizontal crease</i>	<i>Finger length from boom</i>
Downhaul	<i>Loads-until front stops backing</i>	<i>Off</i>
Daggerboard	<i>Top level with the foredeck</i>	<i>½ up</i>
Balance	<i>Flat</i>	<i>Healed to windward - neutral helm</i>
Trim	<i>250mm back from light winds</i>	<i>Well back- prevent nosedive</i>

☞ **..Looking for more power..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	<i>300mm off block to block</i>	<i>90+ and by the lee</i>
Traveller	<i>As tight as possible tight</i>	<i>As tight as possible Tight</i>
Kicker	<i>New sail? - to allow pointing</i>	<i>Off until leach starts to flick</i>
Outhaul	<i>Width of wrist</i>	<i>Length of hand</i>
Downhaul	<i>Off</i>	<i>Off</i>
Daggerboard	<i>Down</i>	<i>½ to ¾ up</i>
Balance	<i>Very slightly healed to leeward</i>	<i>Healed to windward - neutral helm</i>
Trim	<i>Forward</i>	<i>Forward-stern out of water</i>

☞ **..Looking for any power at all! (very little wind)..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	<i>300mm off block to block</i>	<i>90+ and by the lee</i>
Traveller	<i>Allow shackle to cross tiller</i>	<i>Allow shackle to cross tiller</i>
Kicker	<i>New sail? - loads</i>	<i>Until leach starts to flick</i>
Outhaul	<i>Reasonably tight- wrist width</i>	<i>Reasonably tight-finger length</i>
Downhaul	<i>off</i>	<i>Off</i>
Daggerboard	<i>down</i>	<i>½ to ¾ up</i>
Balance	<i>Leeward heal- reduces friction</i>	<i>Well healed to leeward</i>
Trim	<i>By bulkhead</i>	<i>On bulkhead</i>

- ☞ Many experienced helms talk about getting feedback from the tiller extension. Grip it loosely and it will tell you things. Make a change to a setting and feel the effect.
- ☞ ***These settings are only start points – make your own mind up.***

Further advice needed? Feel free to phone: 01243 379444

David and Adam Cockerill