

Daggerboard Change Proposal

Introduction

The manufacturer of the RS700 daggerboard is about to stop production of it, meaning that RS Sailing will have to either find an alternative supplier of the existing design or provide an alternative daggerboard. In order to consolidate the range of daggerboards across the various fleets, RS Sailing have proposed to the RS700 Class Association that they would like discontinue supplying the existing RS700 daggerboard and supply new boats with the same daggerboard design as the RS Aero.

As this is effectively a design change to the new boats and has implications for old boats (older than #1053), it was agreed at the 2017 Annual General Meeting to put this proposal to a Class Association vote. This note describes the pros and cons of the proposed change in order for you to make an informed decision at the vote.

Comparison of the RS700 and RS Aero Daggerboards



The photo above shows the RS Aero Style daggerboard laid next to the existing RS700 daggerboard (RS Aero board above RS700 board). It can be seen that the RS Aero style daggerboard has a different side-on profile and is slightly shorter than the current daggerboard. The breadth (fore to aft) of the daggerboard is identical although with its slightly reduced length there will be a slight reduction in overall area. The most crucial difference is that the RS Aero daggerboard is slightly thicker (port to stbd) than the current daggerboard and it will not fit into an old style boat without some modification. If you wanted to use an RS Aero style dagger board in an old boat (due to breakage / replacement), you would have to sand approximately 1- 2mm out of each side of the daggerboard slot. This took the RS700 Chairman approximately 1hr with a Dremmel, some sandpaper and a template. In order to revert to using the current RS700 daggerboard for events the daggerboard case 'fluff' (self-adhesive tape) was applied to take out any resultant daggerboard wobble.

The other key physical difference is between the boards is that the RS Aero style daggerboard is stiffer than the current design and has a carbon trailing edge.

The RS700 Chairman has trialled sailing with the RS Aero daggerboard for about 4 months and could not detect any noticeable increase or decrease in performance.

Another key difference between the two daggerboards is the cost; the current RS700 daggerboard costs £400/€475, whereas the RS Aero daggerboard costs £259/€308 and is likely to be more available due to the larger population of RS Aero boats.

Advantages of Switching to the RS Aero Style Daggerboard

- The RS Aero style daggerboard will be cheaper and more available than the current design.
- The new boats can accept both the RS Aero style daggerboard and the current daggerboard.
- The slightly reduced length shape difference will reduce heeling moment without losing too much lift area.

Disadvantages of Switching to the RS Aero Style Daggerboard

- The class will have to accept that some boats will be sailing with different style daggerboards; this will be a compromise to the 'one-design' nature of the class.
- The current RS700 daggerboard would no longer be produced, which will mean that old boats ordering a replacement daggerboard would have to sand out their daggerboard case. If the change is approved then RS Sailing would supply a sanding template and fitting instructions for anyone who wanted to convert to the new style board.

Voting

RS700 Class Association members are requested to register their vote with Clare Sargent (RS700 Secretary) by either e-mail or post by 16 Feb 18. The vote will be to either:

- **YES** = Allow the change to the RS Aero Style Daggerboard
- **NO** = Not allow the change to the RS Aero Style Daggerboard.

I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2018!

R Y Wadsworth
UK RS700 Class Chairman