SYC Topper Rigging Guide

You will need:

- numbered **hull** (labelled as 'SYC T1', etc.) in wooden racks near ladies' changing-room door;
- **mast/sail** and **boom/kicker/downhaul/mainsheet** in tubes behind yacht tender toast-racks near wash-down area – keep these together (NOTE: there are some 4.2 sails and some bigger 5.3 sails – choose the right one for you – the 5.3 has sail right to the top of the mast, while the 4.2 has a sleeve of sail fabric but no sail at the tip of the mast);
- **rudder** and **daggerboard** in blue wooden box tethered to tree-trunk nearby;
- **Trolley** – any club trolley marked with splodge of yellow paint and labelled as "Club Topper" – kept near the Topper hulls or behind the end of the ladies' changing room building

Having extracted your Topper hull from the rack on to its trolley, check that:

- the bung is present – tighten it now;
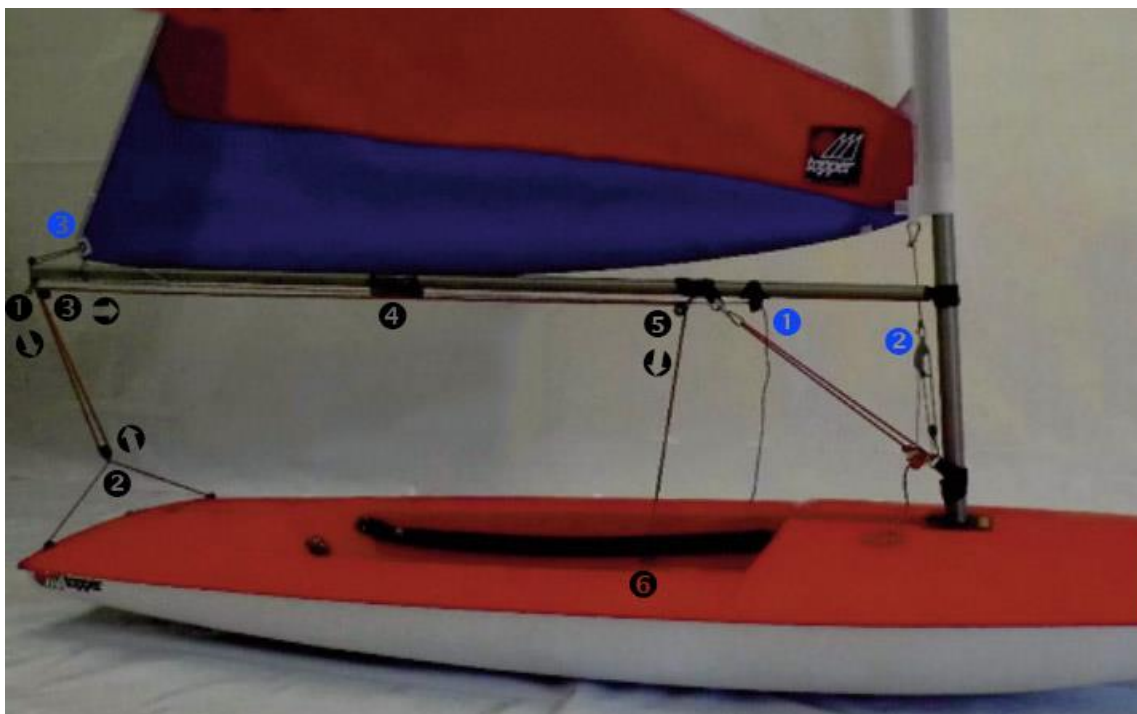- the self-bailer is closed and undamaged.

Rig the mast:

- take the mast/sail, and without unfurling the sail, introduce the mast foot into the well;
- raise the mast to vertical so that it drops into the well;
- turn the mast so that the tang for the kicking strap is facing aft;
- pull the string to close the mast gate;
- drop the retaining peg into its hole so that the mast gate cannot open while you are sailing.

Fit the boom:

- hold the boom so that the blocks and jammer are underneath the boom;
- locate the gooseneck above the gooseneck ring on the mast;
- clip the kicking-strap to the tang on the mast so that the jammer is at the end closest to the tang

Rig the mainsheet (refer to the *black* numbers on the diagram):

- the mainsheet is probably already tied to the block at point 1, but if not, tie it on now;
- run the free end of the mainsheet through the traveller block (2) and back up through the block (3) at the aft end of the boom;
- feed the free end through the anti-strangulation collar (4) and thread it through the block (5);
- thread the free end of the mainsheet through the cockpit jammer, and …
- tie a stopper knot in the free end so that it cannot fly loose if you lose hold of it.

Attach the sail (with the boat head-to-wind) – refer to *blue* numbers on the diagram:

- release the outhaul line by pulling it out of the jammer (1), so that you have plenty of line to play with;
- Make sure the downhaul (2) is attached to the sail at the top, and the mast at the bottom, and tighten it.
- unfurl the sail (if winds are strong, you may want to leave the sail partially furled – if you do, make sure the downhaul is as tight as possible otherwise it will unfurl);
- attach the sliding hook (3) which keeps the clew (the aft corner) of the sail attached to the boom;
- attach the outhaul line (3 – same point as the clew hook), which will allow you to make the sail flatter or more bag-like, depending on the wind conditions.

Wearing a buoyancy aid, launch and recover your Topper –

- ensure your self-bailer is closed before launching or coming ashore, since it is easily damaged (by sand / grit / slipway slabs, or by catching on the launching trolley) and is expensive to replace;
- loosen the bung after bringing the boat ashore, to allow the hull to breathe when air temperature changes;
- wash down before returning hull to racks, sail/spars to tubes* and foils to the blue wooden box.

  * we don't dismantle the mast sections for storage, so please leave the downhaul tied round the horn cleat on the mast so that the sections don't come apart accidentally (a real pain for whoever has to put them back together in a hurry next time!)

Note on rigging configuration

As from October 2023, all Topper rigs have been overhauled and reconfigured so that any mast/sail can be used with any boom/kicker. This makes rigs completely interchangeable among themselves and is intended to make rigging simpler and easier for both hirers and Junior beginners, who have quite enough else to think about on a Friday evening without puzzling over rig items that don't fit together.

Please therefore refrain from reconfiguring any of our SYC Topper equipment even if you are used to a different setup.

Fault reporting

Please report faults via the SYC website at **https://www.starcrossyc.org.uk/faults** (site login required).