



9th February 2021

Vote To Change The Construction Material Of The RS200 Hull And Deck

Dear Member,

You are invited to vote in an RS200 Class Association poll on RS Sailing's proposal to change the construction material of the RS200 deck and hull.

Background To The Proposed Change

The proposal has come about because the builder of the RS200, BYAB, has gone into liquidation and will no longer build the RS200. RS Sailing are now working with Gingerboats Racing Ltd to become the new builder.

During the transition between builders, it has become clear that some of the build material (Special Polyester Resin) is no longer widely available in the market. Many boat builders have shifted instead to using Vinylester Resin, and it is now proposed that this shift is made in the construction of the RS200.

Technical Details

RS200 hull construction is carried out by a process called resin infusion. This means that a vacuum draws the resin through the laminate and core. The process allows RS and the boat builder to control the quantity and distribution of the resin, leading to a consistent product with a stable weight of hull and decks.

Until now, RS have been carrying out this infusion with Polyester Resin. This has been a challenging process as Polyester resin does not naturally lend itself to the infusion process. Resin manufacturers historically had issues with excessive shrinkage when they tried to blend the resin to make it work with infusion.

To overcome this problem, RS Sailing chose to work only with Ineos who created a polyester vinyl blend that performed well on infusion. However, the market for this product has been shrinking as large consumers of infusion resin have increasingly switched to using Vinylester Resin. RS are now the only users of the Ineos product and production of small batches of the resin are likely to lead to increased costs and supply issues.

In comparison, high quality Vinylester Resin (VE) is readily available from a number of suppliers. If RS make the switch to VE for the RS200, it will mean that they can continue to use the reliable and economical resin infusion construction method and avoid the supply uncertainty and cost and quality fluctuations that would come with continuing to build with Polyester Resin (PE).

In 2011 the RS400 class changed from a Polyester resin and construction system to Vinylester. This change has proved very positive for the RS400 class. Build quality has been very stable and the general view is a Vinylester boat has better competitive longevity and maintains a residual value.

Options available

As it currently stands there is no economically viable way to keep the status quo and we are in a position where we have no choice but to make a change.

Option 1 Change the resin used in the construction of the hull from Polyester to Vinylester, this will mean the boats will be constructed using the current process, will maintain the same quality, weight, and finish.

Option 2 - Continue to use a polyester resin and change the construction process. This would require us to abandon the resin infusion process and go back to a hand/wet layup process.

Vote

All full, family and youth members of the RS200 Class Association have the right to cast a vote in this poll.

To vote please email joanne@rs-association.com

With your vote of either:

Option 1 – Vinylester Construction

Or:

Option 2 – Polyester Construction.

Further Information

We understand that you may have questions about the proposed change. In order to answer as many of the questions as possible there will be an online question and answer session with RS Sailing.

The Q and A session will take place on Wednesday 17th February 2021 at 19.30 hours. The session will be conducted over MS Teams.

To join the meeting go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software> and sign up for a free account.

You can then use the link below and in the covering email to access the session. We will endeavour to make a recording of the session available online for those who cannot make it.

Title: RS200 Construction Change Q and A with RS Sailing

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Remember you need to be a full, family or youth member of the RS Class Association to vote. [Join here](#)

Many thanks,

Joanne
RS Class Association Membership Secretary