

From RC Kevin and the RYA, some tips for you to get ready as he is doing this to get your boats ready for the forthcoming season:-

Learning the Ropes:

1. Splicing the Ropes – when a rope is bent around itself or around an object, its strength is reduced. Depending on its knot, its load and its type of rope, its reduction can be more than 50%. A well spliced rope will typically retain 90% of its quoted strength so if the strength of the termination is critical always choose to splice rather than knot.

2. Swill off the salt – salt is a hard and an abrasive substance that easily finds its way into ropes. Lack of freshwater washing will shorten your ropes life expectancy. Wash them as often as possible – at least once a season. Dinghy ropes can be put in the washing machine, tucked inside a laundry bag or pillowcase. Soak larger ropes in a dustbin filled with clean water for at least 24hours.

3. Check for Chafing – Reducing chafing is an easy way to prolong the life of ropes. Inspect clutches and sheaves – if they are broken, chipped or sticking they'll chafe the rope. Spreaders and the masts can also damage ropes so check any potential contact points.

4. Be weather aware – ropes degenerate under UV light. Some more than others, so it's always best to replace them with a mouse line for winter. And remember that UV can filter through even on cloudy days in case you think a season hasn't been sunny enough for any damage to have been caused.

5. Ask an Expert – If you're in any doubt, it's worth consulting a rigger or industry specialist who will advise when ropes should be replaced. They'll also suggest the right rope for the right job and how to splice or know it. Load, coatings and rope design can all have an effect on the lifespan of the rope.