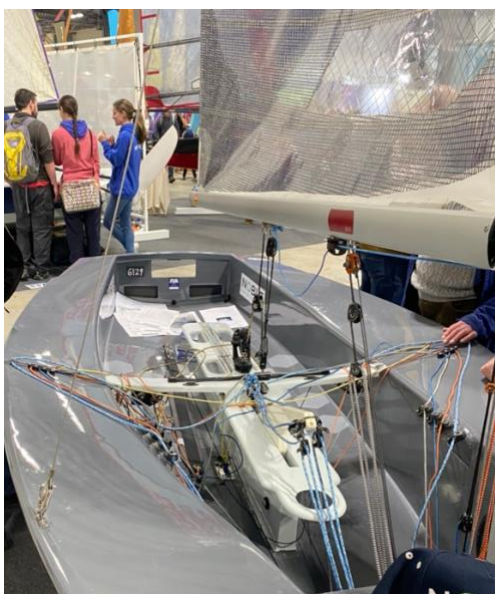
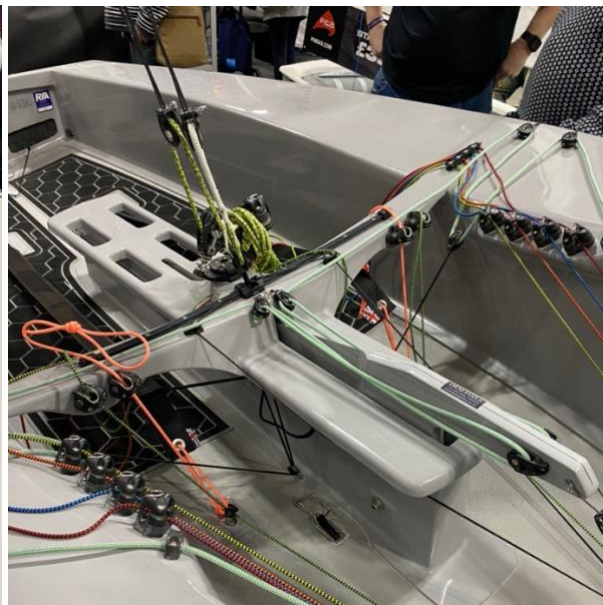


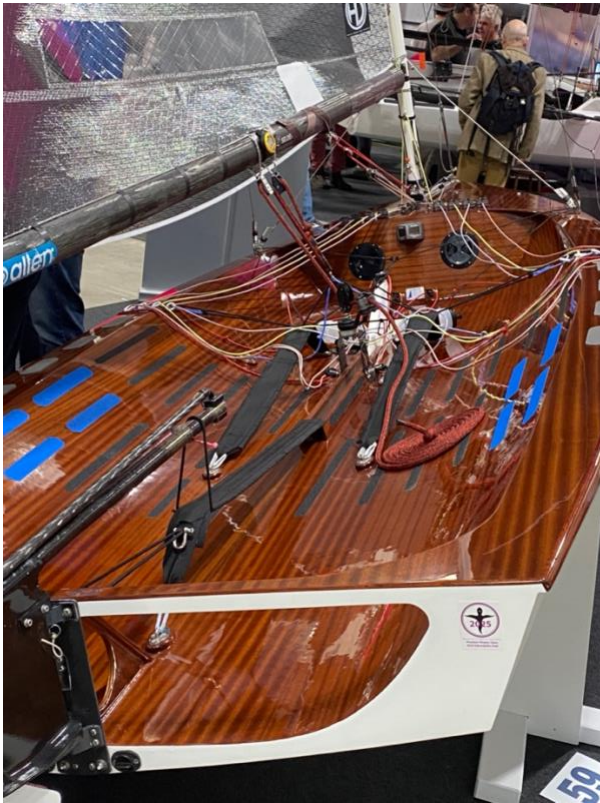
Dinghy Show 2025

Last weekend I popped down to Farnborough to the annual RYA Dinghy and Watersports show - traditionally seen as the 'season opener' or at the very least, an opportunity to look at some shiny new boats in a warm and dry environment. The show grows year on year and this year the RYA was keen to provide lots of practical opportunities to try things alongside numerous talks from industry veterans, olympic champions and holiday reps.

I'm not really in the market for a new boat but it's always interesting to see how things are developing on the racing side and to see some new boats in the flesh. There were several Solos there - the class continues to grow and there are several builders, all with slightly different takes on the hull shape and fit out - the strict class rules ensure they can't stray too far off the trail but there are subtle differences, most notably in the way that the controls lines are organised:



Other highlights included a beautiful composite Phantom – very nice but you need to be North of 15st to succeed in one of these!



The Europe National Champion brought his boat along – very nice and fitted out to a very high standard. Lovely looking boats but aimed at the lightweight sailor – they were also used for a while as the lady’s single-hander in the Olympics.



There were several other single-handers of interest, including:

The rather lovely D-Zero- a tad longer than a Solo, smaller sail but nearly half the weight! Also a very clean and simple layout with only very basic controls.



The RS Aero – a direct competitor to the D-Zero – super light and apparently a bit more forgiving to the less experienced sailor..



The Hadron – big boat with buoyancy contained in a central ‘tunnel’ – means it does not float too high when capsized. Very well fitted out with lots of rope to play with



This is a Supernova – don't know much about these – certainly looks the part – similar size to a Solo, but again a lot lighter!



The RS300 – amazing hull shape:



The Finn – I'm told it's become a lot more popular since it lost Olympic status – lots of good 2nd hand boats around and very challenging to sail well...



Musto Skiff – wings, trapeze, huge gennaker – what could possibly go wrong...?



The RS 600 – looks a bit sporty and again has you hanging off the side on a trapeze whilst standing on the stubby wings – apparently a doddle to sail after the Musto Skiff...



Streaker – this is an older example in wood; originally designed as a Solo variant for the lighter/smaller sailor – still going strong!



Something a bit different – a 2.4m one man keelboat – skipper sits in the central cockpit, using feet to steer – looks great! Apparently wet to sail...

