

Dear all,

It is a given that South Africa loses sailors after Oppie Life. Some leave sailing all together and the remainder get spread thinly over our vast array of senior classes.

**Reasons for this loss:**

1. Sailors don't know which class to choose next
2. Some sailors are too small for any of the Laser options (4.7: 55 - 65kg, radial: 65 - 75kg, full rig: 75+ kg)
3. Some sailors don't enjoy helming
4. Youth (under 18's) sailing in SA is poorly structured
5. Incentives to race (qualify for a Worlds team) are no longer clear

**We can do something to change this.**

Step 1: Put in place a structured career path for your sailors (under 18's, ie, straight after Oppies).

Step 2: Narrow down the senior classes to a discipline based career path (ie, single-handed, double handed, board, multihull and small keelboat - as is used by ISAF).

To address step 1:

- Sailors must make two choices after Oppies:
  - o Do I want to sail single- or double-handed classes? (or board or multihull!)
  - o Do I want to compete locally or internationally?
- The single-handed route is clear - Laser 4.7, radial or full rig - depending on a person's weight
  - o The beauty of this system is that the boats can be raced from club to World Champ level as they exist in abundance in SA
  - o Each division has it's own class World Championships each year
  - o An individual can change the rig to suit his / her current weight
  - o Importantly, the ISAF Youth (under 18's) World Championships races the Laser full rig (boys) and Laser radial (girls) in it's annual event.
- The double handed route does not exist. The advantage of this position is that we can set up something that works both at a local (considering costs) and an international level.
  - o We have two choices: The Laser II or the 420 (Discussed further on)
  - o Both classes have their own class World Champs each year
  - o And, the ISAF Youth Worlds race both the girls and boys divisions in the 420 class
- For sailors wanting to compete locally in a single-handed class: the options are the Dabchick or the Laser stream. Of course it would be greatly beneficial to have local sailors in the Laser stream
- For sailors wanting to compete internationally: the Laser stream is the only option

- For sailors wanting to compete locally in a double-handed class: Current options range from the sprog to the gypsy to the 29er to the Laser II to the mirror. Besides the mirror, not one of these classes is substantial and there is no defined youth career path. This option ultimately needs to follow the international class so that numbers are maximised and exciting racing occurs
- For youth sailors wanting to compete internationally in the double-handed handed (high performance) class, the only two options are the Laser II or the 420. Which one should be chosen is discussed further on. (Note that the mirror is not a high performance boat).

Step 2 we will save for a rainy day!!

The need for a double-handed youth class is clear. Importantly, it must be exciting and challenge youths to keep them stimulated. Both the Laser II and the 420 are good candidates as they both have a trapeze and a spinnaker, are fast, are raced internationally and are fun to sail. In addition to allowing those who are not keen to continue steering an opportunity to crew, the skills learned by the crew (trapezing and trimming the jib and kite) are vital. Also, if we breed strong youth double-handed sailors, we are building a good foundation on which to grow our senior double-handed sailing in SA

We have a choice between two classes for the SA youth double-handed boat – the 420 and the Laser II. The following table compares the two.

		<b>420</b>	<b>Laser II</b>
<b>Dimensions</b>	Length	4.2m	4.39m
	Upwind sail area	13m <sup>2</sup>	11.5m <sup>2</sup>
	Downwind sail area	22m <sup>2</sup>	21.7m <sup>2</sup>
	Hull weight	80kg	80kg
<b>Crew weight</b>	I deal	110 – 145kg	110 – 150kg
	Minimum	100kg	
<b>Costs</b>	New boat (incl hull, all fittings, sails, spas and foils, ie. ready to race)	R42 141.91 (E5 100.00) – from Naaix	R53 256.66 (€4545.00) from Performance Sailcraft Europe
		R44 740.02 (US\$6145) from Vanguard Sailboats	R45 256.36 (US\$6215) from Vanguard Sailboats
	Second hand boat	TBA	TBA
	New main (local)	TBA	R2814 (from North Sails SA)
	New jib (local)	TBA	R1373 (from North Sails SA)
	New spin (local)	TBA	R2052 (from North Sails SA)

	New main (overseas)	R4985.93 (US\$685) (from North Sails US)	R6610.96 (£562.40) (from Performance Sailcraft Europe)
	New jib (overseas)	R3203.37 (US\$440) (from North Sails US)	R2939.44 (£250.05) (from Performance Sailcraft Europe)
	New spin (overseas)	R4514.57 (US\$620) (from North Sails US)	R5213.48 (£443.50) (from Performance Sailcraft Europe)
<b>Pro's</b>		Current class used at the ISAF Youth World Championships	Boats exist in the country (numbers of old and new TBA)
		Is the youth development boat in the UK and USA and 41 other countries	Is a strict one-design class
		56 000 boats world wide	Current resale value of the old boats is good (TBA)
<b>Con's</b>		The class does not exist in South Africa	We would have to get more boats into the country - very expensive
			The very old boats may not be as good as the newer boats

Exchange rates used:      £1 = R11.8  
    US\$1 = R7.3  
    E1 = R8.3

Attached are price lists from Vanguard (420) and High Performance Sailing (Laser II) detailing costs of replacing entire or any parts of the boats.

Notes:                    Neither hulls are manufactured in SA and would therefore have to be imported.  
                                  Spars and foils are also not made in SA and would have to be imported (can look at making them locally once the class becomes established).  
                                  Sails for both boats can be bought locally which would greatly reduce this cost.  
                                  All fittings to be replaced could be bought locally.

I have tried to establish how many Laser II are currently in SA and have struggled as there is no class association. Although we do have some in the country, finding 30 raceable boats that their owners are happy to sell may take us 5 years. Also, we would need to grow the fleet and importing the Laser II costs more than importing the 420. My personal feeling is that the 420 is a more popular boat overseas and that we should try and get into synch with what is happening internationally.

I was able to discuss with Naaix in Las Palmas (who manufacture 420's) the feasibility of getting some to South Africa to test. They (Patricia and her father who came out with the African's charter Oppies to PE) are keen. Discussing options with them it seems:

- (1) 8 boats to a 40' container
- (2) they would be prepared to send 3-4 containers
- (3) normal charter boat & damage deposits would apply as per a championship regatta
- (4) the boats would be fully equipped including sails
- (5) we could purchase any boats after the exercise for a discounted price less the charter cost
- (6) we would be welcome to try & arrange our own containers/shipping if we could find a sponsor (MSC?)
- (7) Patricia would come with the shipment for the duration (1 week - 10 days) as she did for PE
- (8) they will send me a comprehensive quote but those on offer at Las Palmas were on a special for ~Euro 5,100 excl transport; they had been on charter once already so we would most likely get these at a very good rate, one off!

My suggestion is to hold an invitation regatta (to give it some hype & specialness) at an exciting venue say, post selections at Mykonos! (If we hold it here, we have to ensure that sailors from all Regions can get there easily - maybe organise a sponsored bus from NVL, KZN and EC). In addition, we would have to try to get the accommodation at Mykonos sponsored. Alternatively, if we were to hold it at Simon's Town, Ian Ainslie could help us out as he has the run of the mill of the Navy base there - we could have great launching facilities and could accommodate everyone too). Make sure that every boat is taken up; 32 boats = 64 sailors. I think we should just say for under 18's - as that is the youth age criteria - if a 12 year old wants to come along - great!! - at least they will know what they are aiming for after Oppies. I suggest the regatta should run for a 6-day programme of: 2 days of putting the boats together, learning about trapeze and spinnaker sailing and coaching on the water - Ian, Dale & David Hudson could do the coaching for this. Then we would have a 4-day regatta - in which we could film the kids and give debriefs / coaching type help so that they learn as much as possible. Also, we should organise a spectator boat for the last two days of the regatta (Sat and Sun) so that parents and others can come and see what their kids or getting up to and how much fun it is! We could easily organise a keelboat for this. If we could interest a dealer maybe they would put up the prizes with a hope of capturing the imagination of the double-handed teams. Could be an awesome event, lots of fun and who knows . . .

Dale & I would appreciate any feedback and I will circulate the Naaix quote asap. Please pass this on to anyone you can!

Yours,  
Rob Walker & Dale Hudson

# Performance Sailcraft Price List

## Laser II

### Spars

Boom	£151.55
Forestay	£19.25
Jib Halyard	£25.69
Main halyard	£37.40
Kicking strap	£39.50
Mast	£589.05
Spinnaker pole	£80.50
Shrouds	£18.15

### Sails

Long batten	£15.55
Short batten	£12.35
Batten set	£32.55
Main	£562.40
Jib	£250.05
Spin	£443.50

### Foils

Centreboard	£198.35
Rudder blade	£144.50
Rudder Head	£88.0
Rudder bush assembly	£6.45

### Fittings and accessories

We can buy these in SA

# Vanguard Sailboats

## 2003 Boat Pricing

MSRP

Optimist \$2,515

Optimist (Hull Only) \$1,955

C420 JRV \$6,145

CFJ JRV \$5,425

Vanguard 15 \$5,370

Pram \$1,650

Lasers

Laser \$4,425

Laser Pro \$4,655

Radial \$4,270

Radial Pro \$4,500

Laser 4.7 \$4,180

Laser 4.7 Pro \$4,410

Laser 2 \$6,215

Sunfish \$3,010

Zuma \$3,315

Pico (With Jib) \$2,635

Vector \$8,000

Nomad (With Trailer) \$12,500

Prices Subject to Change