

## GBROW 2010 - LESSONS LEARNT from 2005

We were fortunate that even though we had a few problems we were able to overcome them without anything more than momentary inconvenience. We were not so blinded by our success though, that we could not see where there was room for improvement.

### The Boat

1. If the boat was on the crest of a wave, the crest would often break into the boat by slipping over the gunwale where it met the rear cabin. This caused unnecessary wetness in the rear cabin and the cockpit.

If the rear of the gunwale had been built up slightly, by 6 inches to 1 foot it might have helped to keep the boat drier.

2. The rudder often became caught under the solar panels because the cable was exposed. This made steering harder, putting unnecessary strain on the bowman's knees.

Running the steering cable through a robust rubber tube would have allowed it to move freely while objects like solar panels rested on it.

3. When we knocked the rudder off the boat near Hastings the pins locking it in were broken. This caused a lot of stress to the pintles.

It is unnecessary to use pins to lock the rudder on; it should be able to come off freely should the boat hit anything so that it causes as little stress as possible to the pintles.

4. The rear cabin presented a large surface area to the wind that made the boat difficult to control in the wrong conditions.

When designing the boat the rear cabin could be built with a lower profile to reduce this problem.

5. When we bent the two pins off Scarborough we would have been unable to replace them had they been beyond use because they were glued into the gunwale.

Nothing that might have to be replaced should be glued into the boat because it will be impossible to remove the damaged item.

6. For long periods of time we were unable to run the water-maker because we did not have enough solar power.

There was some discussion during the journey about whether or not wind power would have been more reliable. The initial reason for disregarding it was that a windmill could have caused serious damage to the boat if it was ripped off by a capsized. A wind generator that could be removed might have been a practical back up to solar power.