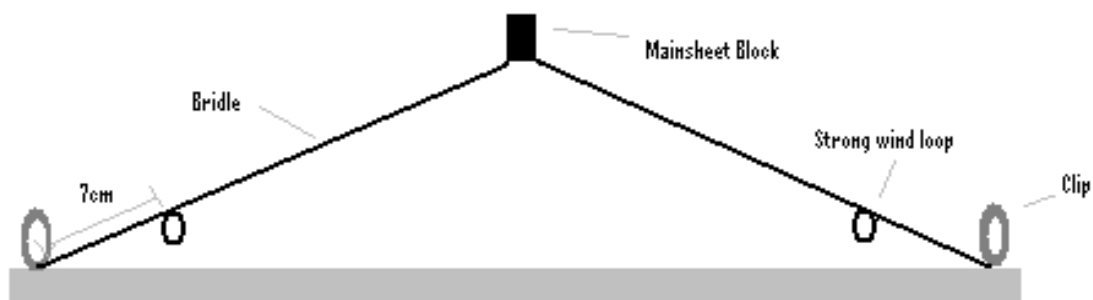## The Bridle

The bridle is the piece of rope that holds your mainsheet block and joins onto each end of the bar behind the centreboard. The lengths of the bridle are very important because they control the mainsail leech tension when block to block. The rules state that you are allowed two settings on your bridle length, so we set up one to be used with the light wind mast rake and one to be used with the medium & strong wind mast rakes. (The bridle length is changed with mast rake like this because the boom height alters with mast rake).
To set up the light wind bridle:

1) Choose a day with a force 3-4 wind & set up your light wind mast rake.

2) Check that the bridle ropes are equal in length by lining the block up along the centreboard. Adjust them so that they are.

3) Hoist the main sail and set it up as if you were going sailing (eg outhaul on etc but **no kicker on**). Also, turn the boat 45 degrees to the wind so that it's in the close hauled position. You will need to get your crew to hold the side of the boat so that a gust doesn't blow it off the trailer!

4) Pull the main in block to block and look at the leech. If none of the telltails are flying & it's straight/tight then your bridle is too short. If the leech is very bowed/slack and all the telltails are flying then your bridle is too long. If your leech has a slight curve and the top telltail is flying 50% of the time then your bridle is perfect. (Make sure the kicker is off all the time).

5) Adjust your bridle until this perfect leech is achieved, making sure you make equal adjustments to each side so it always lines up with the centreboard. Once achieved this is your light wind bridle setting.

To make the strong wind setting just tie two loops 7cm up from where the ends of the bridle join the clips on the bar. To use the strong setting you just need to clip the loops onto the bar:

P.S. You will now need to set up your light wind setting again because tying the loops will have shortened the light wind settings quite a lot.