

I am in the process of acquiring my first Fireball having previously sailed mainly Enterprises. I normally sail on inland waters but will do some sea events.

A chute seems to be a more efficient system on my home reservoir with lots of short legs but I gather can be a problem letting in water in waves and more weight up front. Bags seem to mean more work to the crew but then I guess if you learn with bags a chute is easy but it is not the case the other way round.

Any advice on which system is likely to suit me best?

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Go for bags, they are quicker on the hoist and the helm stays far more in control when dropping the kite. You can let the kite flog (aussie drop) on a too tight/too windy reach as well.

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Three words, Bags bags bags.

If you get your boat handling sorted you can be just as fast as a chute, and also you don't have several kilo's of wet canvas in the bow.

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Hi Guys,

As one of the 'rear support' in the fleet....I prefer the chute, complete with a pump up, pump down system to bags (I have both fitted to the boat)

Have found that in launching we are equal in time on bags but on retrieval have found a huge advantage with the fact that I can have the kite almost completely back into the chute whilst on a tight reach, keeping the crew on the wire and the boat flat (hah, tongue in cheek there!) - therefore I can take a line directly onto the leeward mark or go low and come in tight whilst the rest of the fleet fight it out going high before bearing off to the mark to give the crew a chance to get the kite back in the bag. Yes in the choppy stuff we do get water down the chute and yes the kite does become slightly soggy, but when sailing on a pond I don't seem to recall taking water onboard?

Andy is right about the Aussie drop - not possible, but when I can drop the kite quickly whilst on a tight reach do I really need to at my level?

The question in my mind is if you are moving from an Ent to a 'ball (well done, about time!) and keeping the same crew then is it fast you want or efficient? Many a time I have seen 'hourglasses' appearing and chuckled as the kite pops out of the chute (every time) 😊

There are covers available for the chute if you are worried about the 'extra weight' at the front (I'm more bothered about the extra weight at the back!)

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**Quote:**

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I quite agree that you get hourglasses every time however i tried putting some elastic on the kite downhaul and that seemed to fix the problem also fix a cleat to jam the elastic in when it is too light to set the kite

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Sorry - got to agree.... bags, bags, bags....

The system's simpler, so there's less to go wrong - always a good thing.

If you get your boat handling sorted they are faster than chutes and, if you've got that sorted there's no reason why you should get an hourglass.

There are a few fool-proof (well, almost) ways to do things that you should find will make a real difference, so just come along to one of our training events and we'll give you all the secrets!

Just go to the 'training dates....' post to get all the details.

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You'll be fine with a chute inland.. for short legs you'll probably find they are quicker than bags as there's no such thing as a windward hoist.

As for sea sailing we designed a chute cover for ours which worked superbly at the Euros/Worlds.. hardly got a drop of water down the chute, in fact most times the water was running up the decks and down the cut outs for the bags!