



Etchells Fleet 27

Spirited Sailboat Racing on Beautiful Casco Bay... for Over 20 Years.

ETCHELLS CONTROL LINES AND RIGGING APPROACHES

Below is a list of control lines and rigging adjustments often (but not always) used on an Etchells. If you know of other ones that should be added, submit them in a comment to this article.

- Mainsheet (Course)
- Mainsheet (Fine)
- Mainsail Traveller Control
- Main Halyard
- Mainsail Cunningham
- Boom Vang
- Mainsail Outhaul
- Jib Sheet (Course)
- Jib Sheet (Fine)
- Jib Car Position (Forward Purchase)
- Jib Sheet Barber Haul (in)
- Jib Cloth Tension
- Fraculator
- Jib Halyard
- Jib Halyard (Fine)
- Mast Position at Partners
- Ram
- Mast Ram (Aft)
- Mast Ram (Fwd)
- Blocks
- Forward Mast Pull

- Aft Mast Pull
- Mast Block (Retract & Deploy)
- Forestay
- Shrouds
- Backstay (Course)
- Backstay (Fine)
- Spinnaker Halyard
- Spinnaker Sheets (Port & Starboard)
- Spinnaker Sheet Twing Lines
- Spinnaker Pole Topping Lift
- Spinnaker Pole Downhaul
- Spinnaker Bin (Deploy & Retract)
- Manual Bilge Pump (Stroke and Retract)
- Mid-Crew Hiking Safety Line



Figure 1. Control lines on cuddy; note jib sheet barber hauler pulls on fine-trim part of sheet tackle.

There are countless ways to rig the numerous control lines on an Etchells; the key is to make the controls accessible to the crew in their normal sailing position(s),

as well as easy to operate. Here we will present photos of the rigging on some of the boats of Fleet 27.

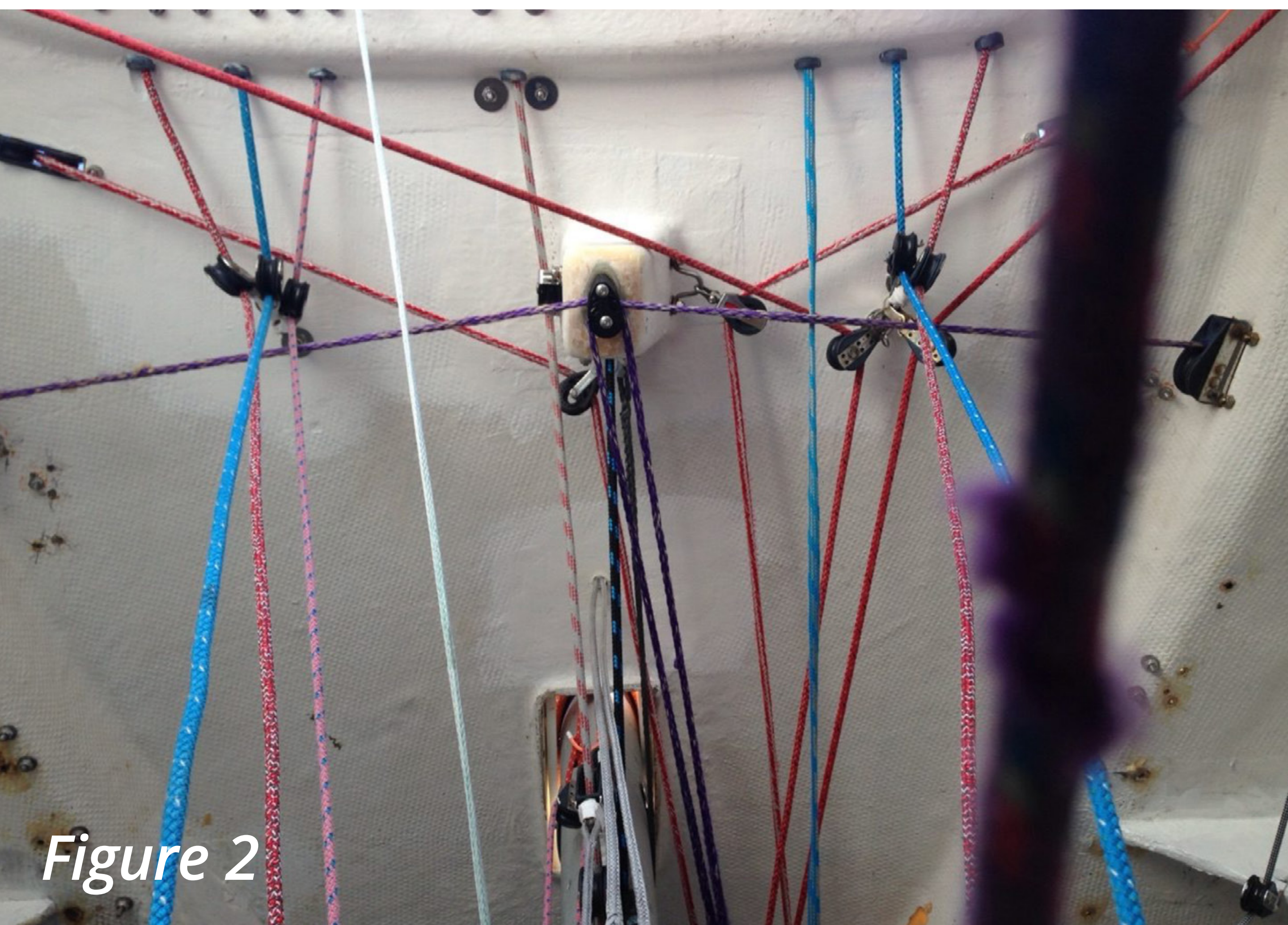


Figure 2

Figure 2. Looking up at the underside of the cuddy. Providing a fair lead for all these lines to the outside crew position is the biggest challenge. Boats that employ a mast ram have even more challenge to provide the ram with a clear volume forward of the mast in which to operate. The underside of the spinnaker cleat pocket provides an opportune mounting base to lead many of the control lines out to the crew. Also, eyestraps attached underneath the jib sheet cam cleats (using the same bolts used by the topside cleats) provide suitable anchoring points to attach multiple lead blocks with soft strops/ties, yet avoid drilling holes in shell.

Figure 3

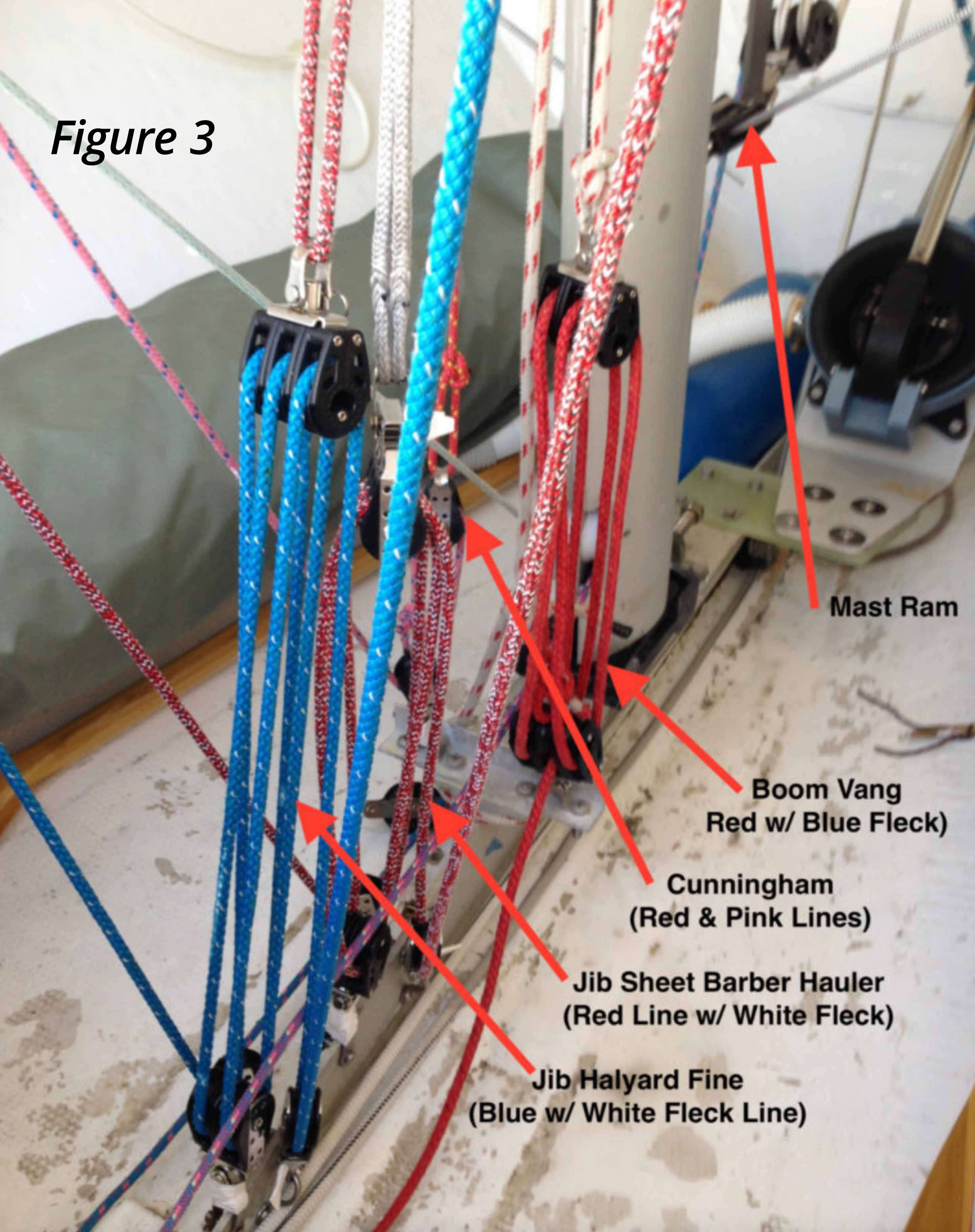


Figure 3: Control lines anchored to mast Step Beam. Several control purchases are anchored to the aluminum mast support beam.

Figure 4



Figure 4. Control lines selected for center console. Position controls selected for the center center console so both mid-crew and helmsman can reach them. Each boat crew selects which controls are led here, and which controls are led to the cuddy bridge area, or to the side deck. Here, the mast ram forward tension shock cord is run to the console; six to eight feet of cord is pulled in when racing to provide pre-tension to the forward pull of the ram.
