

## Extreme Conditions at Lymington

This combined training and race weekend over the spring bank holiday attracted 12 boats which included a large contingent from Draycote.



Saturday saw 25-30 knot winds and 5' waves in the Solent, so only two boats (Adam Larvin / Chris 'Spike' Peel and Henry Lloyd Williams / Sam Batten) ventured out in the morning and again in the afternoon. The rest of the sailors hitched a ride on the support RIBs to watch the fun. The morning saw lots of swimming as the two boats got to grips with gybing on the steep the waves. The afternoon was devoted to upwind work in slightly flatter conditions but even stronger winds. The finale for the day was provided by Adam & Spike who managed to park their boat in an exactly vertical position for several seconds having pitch-poled spectacularly. Despite the many nose dives & violent bail-outs, both boats returned intact.

Following heavy overnight rain for the campers, Sunday started with only light winds. After some starting practice, a training race was run in the morning to provide some familiarisation with the Solent tidal conditions. In the afternoon the first open race took place, organised by the Royal Lymington Yacht Club, who set a very large windward - leeward course. In the light winds and sunshine, those who read the tidal conditions best prevailed, with an easy win for Giles Lloyd Williams / Fiona Ramus.



Following more overnight rain & wind (resulting in some campers waking up to 10cm of water outside their tents), the fleet prepared for the second open race, this time organised by the Lymington Town Sailing Club. Unfortunately the wind was back up at 20-27 knots, so the race was eventually abandoned. Not to miss another opportunity of some extreme sailing, four 29ers set their rig tension to max and headed for Cowes

for another high wind training session with others cheering from the RIBs.

In the afternoon the sun came out & the wind dropped, allowing the whole fleet to enjoy some classic skiff conditions. Two races were run with lots of excitement at the windward marks as three boats (Adam/Spike, Giles/Sam & Adam/Simon) fought for supremacy, eventually Adam & Simon Kitchen came out on top (despite a capsized in the last race).

Frequent video debriefs and close on the water support allowed everyone to have a safe, fun weekend while progressing their racing skills in a wide variety of conditions. Thanks to the two clubs who provided their facilities free of charge to the 29er fleet over the weekend.