

29er

Open Training – Rutland Sailing Club 26th / 27th November 2011

45 boats turned up for the 29er open training and last of the transitional squad selectors at Rutland on Saturday 26th November, filling Rutland's vast car park to breaking point. Masts were put up in a strong 20-knot breeze, but that was by no means to be the strongest winds experienced on this particular weekend, with gusts on the Sunday reaching up to 40-knots.



6 coaches headed by Ian Martin were enlisted to instruct the 40 odd boats, all with substantial experience in the fleet, recent or not so recent. The theme for the weekend was working on heavy wind set up, and other vital components to staying upright in a strong breeze.

The wind was good on the Saturday, so the briefing length was kept to a minimum in order to maximize time on the water. The morning was coped with relatively well; with frequent capsizes, but hardly any breakages throughout the three groups that the fleet had been divided into. Boats came in for lunch after a short 2-hour session, with the intention of heading back out for racing in the afternoon. The only upset of the morning was the 45 degree bend in Alice Masterman and Hannah Muskett's rudder, after a capsize through the gybe.

Over lunch, the wind picked up further, the wind speed now measuring a steady 25-knots, with large gusts coming down the lake. The boats launched only to be met by many breakages, ranging from broken spinnaker poles to a snapped trapeze wire. Over half the boats found the wind too much and came back in for an early shower. However, many persisted despite the ferocious winds, and reaped the rewards, with staggeringly quick downwind legs well worth the upwind effort.

The second day looked promising in the early hours of the morning with winds much like the day before. However, the 9 o'clock briefing saw 40-knot gusts and many boats ashore flipping over, with coaches deciding to opt for a morning of theory. With toppers and club boats flying off their trolleys, the prospects of sailing looked bleak.



At one o'clock, after a morning of analyzing communications and fitness, the coaches made the difficult decision to end the day, with one last sum up of the weekend and the upcoming winter and squad selectors. Many boats packed up for the day and an hour later began the long trip home - just as winds began to die down and the locals went for a late after noon sail. A blown out end to the last training weekend of the autumn.

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