

Third Development Squad & Open Training - Parkstone Jan 2012

What an excellent couple of days sailing. High wind confidence reinforced.



It hadn't looked like this would be the outcome in the run-up to the weekend. The forecast during the prior week had indicated very strong winds, too strong to sail - would this be another frustrating weekend for the children and their parents?

Not a bit. The strong winds did materialise (if it's possible for wind to materialise) but the challenging conditions – choppy, white horses, f4 gusting high 5 occasionally 6, provided an excellent learning opportunity; last season was dominated by either no-wind conditions or extreme winds, so this time high wind skills could be taught.

The on-the-water coaching coupled with pre- and post-sailing classroom sessions allowed the coaches, Adam Bowers and Jodie Green, ample opportunity to show the children how to make the boat point well in high winds and how keeping the main in can actually lead to a more stable boat.

From a personal perspective my nine year old daughter would appear to be over her worries about going afloat in strong winds – she came off the water smiling both days and on Sunday morning the wind didn't even get a mention in pre-sailing conversation. Many thanks to Adam and Jodie for their excellent coaching and instruction; the children were fully engaged on and off the water. Thanks also to all at Parkstone Yacht Club for their hospitality. A big thank you also goes to Tim, Paul, Steve and Phil for volunteering to provide safety support on the ribs - without them it wouldn't have happened. We're all looking forward to a return to Poole in May for the second selector.

Mike Lloyd
Parkstone
22nd January 2012