



Class training/Transitional training - Grafham

Last weekend 30 420's hit the water at Grafham to train in preparation for the end of Season championships, and for some, to try to earn their place in the Transition squad. The training was led by Tom Mapplebeck, who was very ably supported by Mike Wood, Nicky MacGregor, Jonathan Moss and Tom Mallandine. Unfortunately the wind was very light on Saturday but our intrepid sailors went afloat to undertake a number of light wind exercises. The parents became slightly worried about their boat insurance as the coaches briefed the sailors for an exercise called windward mark mayhem and leeward mark mayhem!! Apparently they didn't get around to this on Saturday so we had to wait until Sunday to see how well the sailors could handle their boats. The wind picked up slightly in the afternoon at which time the 212 lasers who had entered for their Inland Championships abandoned for the day without launching but our guys went out and had some good practice.

On Sunday the sailors arrived early for a fitness session which seemed to wake them all up and allowed some time for the mist to clear. There was a bit more breeze and the lasers launched ahead of our guys to try and fit in 3 races. The water was pretty busy with all the lasers, our 420's, the 29er youth squad and club racing as well but it was a fantastic sight to see so many boats on the water.

The 420's went afloat for one long training session which did involve some mayhem sessions but the sailors displayed excellent boat handling and despite a lot of shouting with 30 boats rounding a mark at the same time no major incidents occurred! Later in the afternoon they were able to hone their racing skills in preparation for next weekend.

All the sailors had a good time and everyone from Youth squad sailors to first timers gained some valuable experience. We look forward to seeing everyone next weekend at the End of Season Championships and Good Luck to all.