

GP14 Youth Training funded by Exe Sails & The Howard Davis Memorial Youth Fund



10 brave sailors ascended on to the picturesque lakes at Blessington Sailing Club last weekend for some vigorous training and a bit of fun! The poor weather did little to dampen the mood and crews from Youghal, Blessington, Greystones and Rush did not delay in getting their boats rigged and on the water.

We had a nice breeze for the day and with a yellow weather warning due to spoil our Sunday it was decided to maximise the time on the water on Saturday with two long sessions. Thanks to Simon Cully, Richard Street and Colman Grimes for giving the young guns plenty of training drills and it was great to see significant progress as the day went on.



Despite there being plenty of breeze at times, we did not have any capsizes (other than one man overboard footstrap snap capsize drill!). A huge improvement for this same group of sailors on last year's training.



Tired bodies had just enough energy left in the evening to munch on a great feast thanks to the wonderful Jenny & Richard Street and Simon Cully flipping the Burgers while still blowing his whistle. Delicious!



Sunday arrived with more rain and more wind, but nothing that this young bunch couldn't handle. The very talented Alan Blay arrived to offer his expertise. After a short briefing it was decided to get on the water as soon as possible with the wind forecast to strengthen further.



The wind blew hard and Alan put the gang through various drills, between the odd capsizes. The gusts were strong and with energy levels slipping it was decided to head in for some hot showers, soup and some theory to wrap up the weekend.



Good fun was had by all and it was decided that Blessington SC should be on the annual training calendar given its safe waters, quick access to the sailing area, camping and most of all the warm and friendly welcome of its members. Thanks to the participants for showing up and giving it their all and being great sports, to Richard and Simon for organising everything,

Ellis, Lily, Libby and James on Rescue, Paul and Pat on Shorewatch and Jenny and Val for the lovely food all weekend.



On behalf of all the youths thanks to EXE Sails and the Howard Davies Memorial Fund for the continued support.

Best of luck to those heading to the Youths in Cork this weekend where we will be expecting close on 20 boats for this hotly contested event.

See you all again soon.

Colman Grimes

Youth Organiser / GP14 Committee