

## 1/08/2021: The NSSA (Plymouth) regatta



My first ever youth national event was last week at the NSSA (Plymouth) regatta which was an incredible experience. I loved every minute of it; getting to meet fellow ILCA sailors, sailing in a class fleet and being out on the water loads! I cannot think of a better way to start the summer holidays!

I decided before the event to change to a 4.7 rig as I felt I would be too overpowered in my radial rig for the forecasted weather. It was a great decision as I felt that I could properly race within the fleet and not worry too much about survival! So, I was really pleased that I could do all my races in the regatta. Only Storm Evett brought the regatta racing to an abrupt halt!

Fleet racing was really exciting because I was racing against other ILCAs', as opposed to a clock, and so I was quickly aware of improvements in decisions I made throughout each race. I loved the jostling and anticipation at the start of every race. Each time I came off the water I knew what I had enjoyed and learned a great deal over the course of the week. For example, in one race I was 4<sup>th</sup> around the windward mark, which was a great achievement for me, however, I dropped to 11<sup>th</sup> position due to a fellow sailor protesting. Having done my first ever penalty turns, I then learned that I could have protested and continued to race! A harsh, but valid lesson! I know that over time, I will gain even more experience in different scenarios and become more assertive in sailing race rules.

Overall, I had a fantastic time with the Lyme Regis Youth Team and I was really pleased with my final result. I met some great competitors from other clubs who I hope to be able to race with in the future at other events.

Tom Rawlings #lovelyILCA #OvingtonBoats #L.R.S.C #NSSA



