

## **Radial Rep's report for Autumn Gybe 2010**

So what are the Qualifiers? Well, they are the events you need to do to Qualify for Radial European and World Championships (you do NOT need to qualify for the Europa Cup series – so these are excellent events to do if you do not qualify for the Worlds/Europeans or excellent warm up events if you do!)

In the dim and distant past (yes, I have been sailing Radials for that long) the events used to be open but now the class is so popular a qualification process needs to be in place and it also needs to be set outside the international calendar the professional sailors race in. That's why the Qualifiers are set in the Spring and Autumn with three before the summer and three after, giving six in total.

My advice is always to do as many of the Qualifiers as you can. We can all have a bad event and they make great competition as you literally get to sail against the best in the UK (and actually with the UK hosting the Olympics in 2012, some of the best foreign sailors come too).

The level of competition is therefore much higher than at the Grand Prix events with more and longer races and even a longer sail (often over half an hour) to the starting area. So these can be demanding weekends in medium to strong winds. There are often large entry numbers (over 100) which means the fleet may be split, so there are two Radial starts (please read your sailing instructions carefully to see which start you are in for each race.)

Even if you are not trying to qualify for anything (perhaps you feel that you need a bit more experience before going to your first Radial World Championships) they are really good events to do. Please note if you are a Master (over 35) then there is a separate qualification series for the Masters events.

The events are split around the country with a careful choice of venues, and although it is not possible to please everyone all the time, the UKLA has tried to act on the recent survey as to popular venues to race. With sailors living all over the country it is understandable that some weekends may be just too far away. We often return to the same popular places like Stokes Bay and Weymouth each year so after a couple of years you will feel familiar with most of the venues.

The Radial Ladder is a rolling system which counts the six most recent events, so for example at the moment the Ladder consists of the three 2009 Autumn Qualifiers and the three 2010 Spring Qualifiers, but at the end of the year the Ladder will be based on the six 2010 events.

Prizes for the events are based on all the weekends combined, as not everybody attends every event. Please note the Weymouth Qualifier is usually held at the same time as

“speed week” so if you fancy seeing just how fast you can get your Laser to go, well here is your chance!!!