

420 Class Blanes Report Winter 2009-10

Coach Neil Marsden

Team Parents Richard and Carla Stanley

Sailors Jess Lavery TT Georgie Mothersele, TT
Annabel Vose TT Megan Brickwood TT
Tarra Gill Taylor TT, Matt Wallis TT
Sarah Alton 16, Katie Tomsett 17
Tim Gratton YS, Ed Riley YS
Amy Seabright YS Hermione Stanley YS



The event took place in Blanes, near Barcelona, Spain. Sailors were invited to participate on the basis of their squad places and recent 420 End of Season results. There were three days of training and four days of racing. This was quite a young team and, for the TT boats, it was their first ever 420 event abroad.

Transport

The Team parents used an RYA Mercedes Sprinter van and the 420 Class trailer to tow six boats to the event. The location of the apartments, sailing club and supermarket made this essential.



The team took two different routes to the event. . The south coast based sailors flew to Barcelona International (an hour and half from Blanes) and took a train to Blanes station where they were collected by van, They went back to Barcelona by pre booked taxi at 20 Euros a head The coach and two other sailors flew into Gerona 30 minutes away, where they were collected by Richard.

Measurement and registration

There was no measurement and a 60 euro entry fee and a 40 euro coach fee. We were not charged anything for fuel for training or a RIB charter by the Club.

Parents

We had no sailors' parents with us. The team parents kept the UK updated with news when they could. Most sailors had some text or phone contact with their parents.



Team dynamics

For many of the team this was the first event that they had come to alone. The sailors were given a timetable and expected to get up and be ready to participate in what was happening without prompting. There were no issues with any of the team members at any time. The sailors found there were sailors they had previously met at other events in the boat park and mixed well with other nationalities.



Climate

It was 20 degrees and sunny the first few days and unexpectedly sunglasses and sun cream were needed. After that the temperature dropped to nearer 9-10 degrees.

Drinking

Sailors struggled to begin with drinking enough particularly those in drysuits who were reluctant to drink enough because of the problem of being on the water for so long. It was explained that the training was an opportunity to practice having a wee on the water.

Food

The whole event was self catered and all the food was organized by the team parents. Sailors were responsible for getting their own breakfast and making their lunch up. In the evening a rota of sailors helped with the preparation of supper. Some sailors found judging quantities they needed for the day difficult to judge.

**Accommodation**

We had three three-bedroom apartments that slept five in each. The coach and the two senior girls had rooms to themselves and everyone else shared with their crew or helm. The sailors took themselves to bed when they thought appropriate.

Communication to the UK

There was internet access during the event, but not in the training

Team management

There was good communication between the team parents and the coach, and we all worked together on the programme, both in and out of the boat park.

Overall the Team worked extremely hard and put a great deal of effort into the event

Carla Stanley

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