



## 2011 International 420 Junior European Championship - Nieuwpoort, Belgium 7-15 August 2011

### GREEKS BACK ON FORM, BUT FRANCE STILL MAINTAINS PACE

Day 4 of racing for the 101 teams at the 2011 420 Junior European Championships proved to be a much closer day of competition with the fleets now split into gold, silver and bronze based on their performance from the previous qualification series. Racing got underway in a more manageable wind speed of 10 knots of breeze accompanied by a light rain, but the shifting conditions meant a delay between races as an anticipated 60 degree wind shift demanded a course re-set for race 8.

Class act of the day were Alexander and George Kavas from Greece who really proved their calibre today in the testing winds and strong current to post a 1,2 scoreline and leap into third overall. The 29th place they found themselves in after day 2 of racing, when equipment failure meant they did not finish race 4 must seem like a distant memory to this pair. Their coach, Nikos Drougas explained today's performance in a nutshell, "*they did really good sailing and lucky sailing. The wind was really shifty and they were very fast.*" That says it all about this team, who trumped the competition at the 2011 420 Europeans Championships two weeks ago and now have the potential to do the same here.

Images: © Christophe Favreau



Jess Lavery/Georgie Mothersele (GBR) ahead of the French leaders in race 7



Marlenn Lemaitre/Aloise Retornaz (FRA) chasing the Australians

Whilst the Greeks got better, the series leaders Guillaume Pirouelle/Valentin Sapin (FRA) scored their first double-digit result of the series, a 17th in race 8, but this is discarded so they remain solid at the top. Just behind them the Australians Angus Galloway/Alexander Gough played another assured day with a 7,3 to remain in second overall – and ready to pounce on the leaders as their winning margin is just 2 points

The other gold fleet race win went to Gal Cohen/Hadar Moran (ISR) in race 8, a strong recovery from a disappointing 18th in today's opening race 7.

Aside from the Greeks and Australians, all of the top teams posted at least one disappointing result on their scorecard as they struggled to find pace and direction in today's conditions, which has separated the points margins a bit.

Jordi Xammar of Spain, the two time ISAF Youth Worlds Champion in 2010 and 2011, is here sailing with Alex Claville who secured the ISAF gold with him in 2011, but the pair have not yet shown the stunning performance that they are capable of, although they have been safe and steady up until race 8 today, where they finished deep in the fleet at 22nd, as Xammar explained, *"It was not good. We did a good start in race 7 and went for the middle, and then people from right and left just passed us. And in race 8 it was just worse and we now have to use our discard. It was a big current and light winds and all the time the racing area was changing. We cannot make any more errors."*



**Alexander and Geroge Kavas (GRE)**



**Guillaume Pirouelle/Valentin Sipan (FRA)**

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Upping the tempo to challenge the boys in race 7 were Jessica Lavery/Georgie Mothersele (GBR) who set the pace to finish second and shift themselves up the leaderboard to four places to 15th overall by the end of today, and remain as top women's team.

Sitting just one point behind the British on the leaderboard are the Italian pair of Giulia Lantier/Martha Faraguna, with Marlenn Lemaitre/Aloise Retornaz (FRA) just behind them. All three teams last met at the ISAF Youth Worlds where the Italians finished in 5th overall, four places ahead of the Brits in 9th and the French in 11th. It will be interesting to watch this battle unfold.

Of the four women's teams through to the gold fleet, surprisingly the reigning 420 Women's World Champions Annabel Vose/Megan Brickwood (GBR) are the team playing catch up, but for Vose it is not about beating the other women's teams, but about the keeping pace with the men, *"The main thing is to sail the fleet and not the girls, and we just we want to progress as much as we can. We are just enjoying it. Obviously it is going to be hard if it gets windy against all the boys and only three girls teams."* And commenting on today's performance, Vose continued, *"It was a really good day, we didn't have a great first race, but then on the second race we really pulled it back and got a top ten. It was a lot different as it was a lot lighter than any other day."*

#### **Top 10 Overall – After 8 Races**

1. Guillaume Pirouelle/Valentin Sipan (FRA) - 15 pts
2. Angus Galloway/Alexander Gough (AUS) - 17 pts
3. Alexander Kavas/George Kavas (GRE) - 24 pts
4. Tim Gratton/Ed Riley (GBR) - 25 pts
5. Gal Cohen/Hadar Moran (ISR) - 29 pts

6. Jordi Xammar/Alex Claville (ESP) - 29 pts
7. Adrian Barcelo/Pedro Terrones (ESP) - 31 pts
8. Goncalo Pires/Caetano Lacerda (POR) - 35 pts
9. Floris van Werken/Laurens van de Werken (NED) - 36 pts
10. Tim Fischer/Sebastian Ziegler (GER) - 40 pts

Dominating in the silver fleet with two second place finishes were Andrew Tang/Jonathan Yeo (SIN), with Justyna Kalinwska/Amelia Beaumont (POL) taking the overall lead in the bronze fleet.

The 2011 420 Junior European Championships are taking place together with the 2011 470 Junior European Championships in Nieuwpoort, Belgium from 7-15 August 2011.

Racing continues on Sunday 14 August with two races scheduled.

**More Information:**

[420 Gold Fleet Results](#)

[420 Silver Fleet Results](#)

[420 Bronze Fleet Results](#)

[Race Day 4 Facebook Photo Gallery](#)

[Championship Website](#)

**About the International 420 Class**

The International 420 Class dinghy is an ISAF International Class and two-person dinghy for young sailors, which is an established worldwide performance trapeze and spinnaker racing dinghy and the world's top youth training boat. The 420 is used as the selected equipment at the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships - offering the perfect pathway from youth to Olympic sailing. There are over 56,000 420 dinghies worldwide, sailed at school, club, open, national and international levels. The International 420 Class Association is responsible for managing and promoting 420 sailing around the world in partnership with the 420 National Class Associations.

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