



RYA Press Release

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Jessica Lavery & Georgie Mothersele © Paul Wyeth/RYA

Podium places for GBR Youth sailors at European Championships

RYA Volvo National Youth Squad sailors ensured a triple podium celebration for Great Britain on Monday (15 August) as Tim Gratton/Ed Riley secured a bronze medal while 420 female sailors Jess Lavery/Georgie Mothersele and Annabel Vose/Megan Brickwood sealed silver and bronze medals respectively as The 2011 Open 420 Junior European Championships came to a close in Nieuwpoort, Belgium.

A number of GBR boats made the trip over to Belgium for the fiercely contested regatta which welcomed 101 teams from 20 different nations. With strong ambitions in the GBR camp to put the record straight after disappointing results at the 420 European Championships in Tavira last month, and with the sailors using the 2011 Flanders Regatta as preparation for this event, it was Jess Lavery and Georgie Mothersele who lead the charge as they sealed the silver medal in the female fleet.

2011 ISAF Youth Worlds representatives Jess Lavery and Georgie Mothersele, both 17-years-old from Emsworth Sailing Club, had a solid start to the regatta posting consistent scores in the opening stages, however were edged out of the top spot by the Italian boat of Giulia Lantier/Martha Faraguna who took the Ladies 420 Open European Championships title.

With a tense final day of racing due to the extremely light breeze and strong current plus a highly competitive fleet of female boats including a number of ISAF Youth Worlds representatives, the pair who recently finished fifth at the 420 European Championships in Tavira, Portugal, managed to hold their nerve in the only race of the day to secure second place.

“We are very pleased with the silver medal,” said Lavery. “We started the week of really well in the stronger breeze and it was great to be competing at the top of the fleet with the guys as they are a lot heavier than us so to keep up with them was excellent.”

Lavery continued: “Our main aim going into the regatta was to make the final gold fleet as we knew there were going to be three fleets so to make gold was our main priority. We needed to produce top ten finishes in the qualifying races which we did so that was a great confidence boost going into to the gold fleet racing. Annabel and Megan were strong competition as well as the French boat – we are just delighted to finish with the silver.

The pair from Emsworth recently returned from Zadar where they were representing RYA Volvo Team GBR at the ISAF Youth Worlds: “Yes we learnt a lot from Zadar – the main thing was our pre-start routines which we made sure were right this week. The conditions were completely different this week to what we faced at the ISAF Youth Worlds so our approach was totally different.”

Lavery concluded: “We have had a great summer in terms of results and are very happy with our performance at the three key events which we have competed in. Up next for us are the Nationals next week and then a well-deserved rest.”



Annabel Vose & Megan Brickwood © Paul Wyeth/RYA

Reigning 420 Ladies World Champions Annabel Vose/Megan Brickwood, who were one of the four female teams in the open gold fleet, finished nine points behind their British counterparts to clinch the bronze medal. The pair finished in front of the French boat of Marlenn Lemaitre/Aloise Retornaz to pip them to the podium and ended the regatta 22nd overall out of the 34 team strong Gold fleet.

Meanwhile, RYA Volvo National Youth Squad sailors Tim Gratton/Ed Riley flew the flag for GBR in the male fleet as they finished fourth overall, however with Angus Galloway/Alexander Gough from Australia finishing first, the GBR boys clinched the European bronze medal due to The 420 Junior European Championship medals being awarded to the top three teams from European nations only.



Tim Gratton & Ed Riley © Paul Wyeth/RYA

Riley, 17 from Warsash Sailing Club, Hampshire, said: “We are ecstatic – so pleased, it’s just a great feeling to medal at any regatta. It’s been a long old summer and it’s always nice to end on a high. Tim and I are taking a break now while we sail with different partners so it’s a nice way to conclude what has been a great partnership for many years.

“We knew if we sailed well then we would always have a chance of reaching the podium. The weather conditions in the first half of the week suited us down to the ground as we prefer stronger winds. The tide was very tough and the last race of the regatta was a nightmare. We fell out of silver medal contention due to extremely light winds of around three-four knots. Boats were just sailing past us which were very frustrating as there was nothing we could do!”

“Even though we lost the silver medal in the last race – we are still extremely happy with the bronze as the level of competition was very tough and the conditions we faced were at times a real challenge,” concluded Riley.

Duncan Truswell, RYA Youth Racing Manager, commented: “This is another great result for our young GBR 420 sailors, following on from solid performances at the Worlds in January, Kiel Week, Flanders regatta, the ISAF Youth Worlds and a challenging Europeans in Tavira.

“The RYA Volvo 420 National Youth Squad has some real talent at the moment and it is notable that these sailors only recently came out of the Optimist and quickly made a successful transition to the 420. This is all thanks in large part to the foundation they received in Optimists, with Alan

Williams and the support they have received subsequently from the 420 coaches. All credit to the RYA coaches, principally Neil Marsden, supported by Johnny McGovern, Steve Irish and Rob Wilson who have all worked hard to ensure the sailors are as well prepared as possible in the 420 class.”

Truswell concluded: “I look forward to seeing the sailors battle hard to challenge for the top spots over the winter, the great thing about having such strength and depth is that they will push each other hard and British sailing and the teams themselves will see the benefit in years to come.”

For more information about the 420 European Championships and for full results visit <http://420sailing.org/>

For details regarding the RYA Volvo Youth Racing programme or for further details on future regattas, please visit the [RYA Website](#).

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