



## IBI Sailing 420 Nationals and Open at Pwllheli Sailing Club

22-26 August 2011

By Carlton Dodd 30 Aug 2011 11:37



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Take the Llyn Peninsular and Snowdonia mountains surrounding Cardigan Bay, add in 0 to 40 knots of wind and you get fantastic racing for 48 420's entered for this year's Championships, with 7 visiting crews from USA, Holland and Ireland providing an international element.

Day 1 saw 2 races after a delayed start due to no wind, and by the end of the day in 1st place was Neil Marsden & Hannah Mitchell with a 1st and 2nd. (Hannah arriving that morning after a storm delayed flight from America, showed no jet lag). Mike Wood & Hermione Stanley and Jess Lavery & Georgie Mothersele joint 2nd, Tim & Ed Riley in 4th, USAs Reinier Eenkema van Dijk & Charles Bocklet 5th, James Parker-Mowbray & Tim Gratton in 6th.

PRO Adrian 'Stog' Stoggall summarised day 2 in a single word: 'difficult'. There were some big shifts, challenging conditions, and some excellent starting under black flag and the day ended with two races completed.

Day 3 delivered good racing in excellent conditions, with 4 races completed. The top boats consolidating their positions, with numerous minor battles throughout the fleet. Gusting wind giving a number of boats the opportunity to practise their capsize drill, and the class head coach Neil Marsden only finished 1 race! The race juror John Rayner was also seeking the boat who tried to brain him at the start - possibly not a good way to draw attention to yourselves.

Day 4 a bright and blustery start to the day, with some moments of unusual interest at the start of race 9. By the end of the first leg the Jury was eagerly preparing to wave yellow flags. An unexpected DNF for Craig Dibb and Charlie Cox - and a black flag start for race 10.

Whilst preparing for the race 11 start, there was a call to the PRO from Abersoch – informing him that a 40kt squall was on the way. It had created havoc in the Abersoch Keel Boat fleet. A quick scurry for shore saw the 420 fleet marshalled into safety before the worst of the squall hit, racing was postponed for the day.

USA competitor Alex Whipple from Indian Harbour YC, speaking on behalf of all 3 USA boats summed up how the regatta was building to the final day.

“This has been the best Regatta we have competed in during our time racing in Europe we have been to the French, Kiel and ISAF events and the quality of racing across the whole fleet has provided a fantastic level of competition for all our sailors at all levels. The professionalism in organisation from a great social program to the Race Management Team has been awesome – can we take them and the wind home. Thank you.

Day 5 - by mid-morning wind from the North filled in gusting to 15knts as the final 2 races were sailed. Mike Wood & Hermione Stanley scored a 3rd and a DNC (no need to sail the last race!), Craig Dibb & Charlie Cox a 5th and 2nd, Jess Lavery & Georgie Mothersele a 7th and 1st.

With 12 races sailed over the 5 days in a wide range of demanding conditions Mike Wood & Hermione Stanley won the National Championships at Pwllheli SC by 12 points. Craig Dibb & Charlie Cox took the silver step on the podium with Jess Lavery & Georgie Mothersele finishing as the Women’s Champions in 3rd. With only 9 points dividing 2nd from 4th, Toby Morsley & Matt Wallis had a great Championship too. Reinier Eenkema van Dijk & Charles Bocklet (USA) led the visitors, in 7th overall.

Although having to retire after race 6 due to injury Nederland’s competitor Wieste Pijlman memories were “It was the friendliness of British teams at Flanders and Junior Europeans that encouraged me and another Ned boat to enter. The Regatta has been better than Dutch Championships and you have great parties.”

Howard Jones the retiring Class Association Chairman also felt “It had been the best and most competitive 420 Nationals he had been to.”

After the Championship was decided the Race Team led by PRO Stog ran a test of concept Medal Race for the top 10 boats providing a final challenge for the sailors. The idea of the Medal Race came from the membership at the AGM held at the beginning of the Nationals week.

### **Overall Results: (top ten)**

- 1 Mike Wood & Hermione Stanley 23 points (Gill Race Team)
- 2 Craig Dibb & Charlie Cox 35 pts (Warsash SC & RLymYC)
- 3 Jess Lavery & Georgie Mothersele 39 pts (Emsworth SC)
- 4 Toby Morsley & Matt Wallis 44pts (Portdinerwic SC & Spinnaker/RLymYC)
- 5 Annabel Vose & Timothy Carter 62 pts (Royal Southern YC)
- 6 Tim & Ed Riley 72 pts (Warsash SC/RLymYC)
- 7 Reinier Eenkema van Dijk & Charles Bocklet 85 pts (Lisot/Larchmont YC)
- 8 Jamelia Hayward & Benelope pitstop Gratton 89 pts (Not Gill Race Team)
- 9 Tarra Gill-Taylor & James Dodd 100 pts (Spinnaker/RLymYC & RlymYC)
- 10 Isabel Fitzgerald & Kat Colvin 110 pts (Itchenor SC & Burghfield SC)