



## 420 Training Camp at Weymouth & Portland Sailing Academy

13-14 February 2010

by Nicola Newman 15 Feb 2010 11:28

Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy was all quiet last weekend except, that is, for an invasion of 420s. Boats from RYA National Youth Squad and the Transitional Squad came together with newer members to the 420 class to make a total of 64 young sailors. Rigging on the hard standing introduced the sailors to the conditions they were to face on the water later, with a biting cold, force 3 blowing onshore from across the harbour. Head coach Callum McDonald took his National Squad away, while Steve Irish put the transitional sailors through their paces and the Open Training boats were worked hard by Jonny McGovern's coaching team during a tiring morning session on Saturday.

The fleet came together as one in the afternoon for two races, time for points to be made: boats who were training alongside the National Squad to secure a permanent place; boats who missed out on transitional squad places to show that they deserved better etc. They faced a shifty wind that moved left during the course of the afternoon and the most successful sailors were the ones who could get themselves in the best position on the course to take advantage of this. The 420 fleet is often over-exuberant on the start line and the afternoon's races were no exception as the coaches pulled out OCS boats at the first mark of both races. Mike Wood and Hugh Brayshaw managed the conditions best by arriving first at the windward mark and sailing away from the rest in both races. Consistency was difficult for the remainder with only two other boats managing top 10 positions in the two races.

The squad sailors retired to Portland House, the brand new RYA accommodation and enjoyed a relaxed night in great comfort to recharge their batteries for a Sunday which brought much lighter and sunnier conditions.

A similar format was followed with the 3 groups going through their drills in the morning and then coming together to continue their fleet racing. Not only were the winds light but they were also very shifty, making consistency even more challenging. With no discards allowed, black flags were to be avoided, some of the leading contenders failed resulting in James Hayward and Tim Carter winning overall from Tim Gratton and Ed Riley. Jess Lavery and Georgie Mothersele made a statement of their intent for the season with third place and leading girl boat.

The Open Training coaches were particularly complimentary of their group who proved that there is little to choose between all the teams. Most notable of them were Sarah Alton and Katie Tomsett who came 4th overall.

The 420 class demonstrated what a healthy state it is in, in terms of quantity, quality and enthusiasm. An interesting season lies ahead with the first major event less than a month away; the Worlds Selector/ Winter Championships also at Weymouth and Portland (13-14 March).

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