



**International
420 Class
Association**



Sail 420 !!

2011 International 420 Open European & Ladies Open European Championship

LIGHT WINDS DELIVER A HOT AND CHALLENGING OPENING DAY IN TAVIRA - 23 JULY 2011

The first day of the 2011 420 Open and Ladies Open European Championships dawned with an overcast sky, the first for several weeks, before the usual blue sky kicked in, whilst the wind struggled to sustain itself.

With a final entry of 77 entries in the Open fleet and 62 entries in the Ladies fleet, both divisions have been split into a blue and yellow fleet. After each day's racing in the qualifying series the fleets will be re-seeded, before being allocated to gold and silver fleets for the final series which gets underway on 27 July 2011.

After race 1 had been completed for all fleets, it was then a waiting game as the 139 teams mingled around patiently until the wind increased and stabilized. By this time the current had changed direction and there was lots of jostling as the boats tried to keep themselves the right side of the start line, with the Race Committee resorting to the black flag rule to keep order.

Ladies

A perfect scoreline of two race wins for France's Jennifer Poret/Louise Chevet puts them at the front of the fleet and with a clear mission now on their minds of what they can achieve.

Other race winners were Adriana Rodes/Lucia Brugman (ESP) and Tsuf Zamet/Starv Brokman (ISR), although their wins were countered by results in the teens.

Francisca Barros/Filipa Barros (POR) end the day in second overall, with Paulina Rothlauf/Madlen Geisler (GER) third.

A good measure of form is how the teams who have come straight from the ISAF Youth Worlds to the 420 Europeans delivered on day 1, and so far all is going well for Germany's Rothlauf/Geisler, who along with a third overall are so far the top performers from Croatia here in Tavira.

Silver medallists at the ISAF Youth Worlds, USA's Morgan Kiss/Christina Lewis, are not dwelling on their success in Croatia, but are focused on the here and now and the transition from one event to the next. Kiss commented, "The 420 Open Europeans is definitely an adjustment we have to make, and we are most focused on keeping our performance levels high at this event. It is hard to move off another international event, but we are excited to try to do our best here. We will take each day at a time and focus on each individual race and not try to stress about the entire event as a whole." Lewis added, "There is good competition and it is really important for us to keep trying."

An unfortunate day for the Czech Republic team of Johana Koranova/Lenka Mrzilkova saw them in the protest room against the British team of Eleni Morus/Henriette Brand after an incident in race 2 caused damage to their boat, as Mrzilkova put it concisely, "We have had a bad day. A boat came into our butt!" And for tomorrow, "We will sail better and without holes." The British team were subsequently disqualified and will be keen to get rid of this result when the discard comes into play after five races, but it also leaves them with little room for another bad score.

Race Day 1 © Matias Capizzano



Provisional Top Results after 2 Races

Pos	Sailno	Crew	R1	R2	Pts
1	FRA 53540	Jennifer Poret/Louise Chevet	1	1	2
2	POR 53957	Francisca Barros/Filipa Barros	3	2	5
3	GER 54433	Paulina Rothlauf/Madlen Geisler	4	3	7
4	ITA 54206	Cristina Celli/Silvia Morini	2	6	8
5	POR 53150	Francisca Martins/Ana Oliveira	6	3	9
6	ESP 52373	Aura Miquel/Marina Cano	8	2	10

7	ISR 54121	Tsuf Zamet/Stav Brokman	12	1	13
8	FRA 54198	Sabine Pebrier/Laura Pebrier	9	4	13
9	SUI 53468	Linda Fahrni/Maja Siegenthaler	5	9	14
10	FRA 54265	Clélia Bourgois/Aude Compan	8	6	14

Open

Not quite such consistency in the Open fleet, with different teams claiming the finish gun each time. Spain's Luis Benítez-Inglot/Jorge Ramirez lead the fleet with a 4,2 posting, but only just on countback over Mike Wood/Hermione Stanley (GBR) whose 3,3 scoreline puts them in second. Spain's Xavier Antich/Ramon Lleonat finish the day in third.

Pre-Championship favourites and 2011 ISAF Youth World Champions Jordi Xammar/Alex Clavillé (ESP) had an unlucky thirteenth finish in race 1, but expertly converted their performance into a win in race 2. Starting back from the fleet on the committee boat end of the line did not initially appear to be a good manoeuvre, but it enabled them to be the first boat to tack onto port and find a clear track up the right hand side of the course. Whilst the boats choosing to take the left hand lanes appeared to have better pressure and the advantage of minimising the risk of overstanding the layline in the current, Xammar/Clavillé knew exactly what they were up to and with perfect accuracy tacked for mark 1.

Xammar/Clavillé rounded a good 20 boat lengths ahead of the next boat, Luis Niza/Paulo Baptista (POR) and almost from this point it was a two-boat race for the gun between Spain and Portugal. As they went through the downwind gate, the boats split and went back up opposite sides of the track, with the Spanish again heading right – a decision which won them the race, and gave them a sixth overall after 2 races.

Whilst the pressure is already on at the front of the fleet, for other teams the Europeans marks their first 420 Championships and is all about gaining experience. Cafer Ciciyik (TUR) who is sailing with his brother Caner reflected on their first race day, *"It was bad because our starts were very bad and it was a crowded startline. Tomorrow I will go for a clear area and find a space for more speed."* Commenting on their objective, Ciciyik continued, *"We have no experience so we don't expect anything, just to enjoy the racing."*

Provisional Top Results after 2 Races

Pos	Sailno	Crew	R1	R2	Pts
1	ESP 53873	Luis Benítez-Inglot/Jorge Ramirez	4	2	6
2	GBR 53966	Mike Wood/Hermione Stanley	3	3	6
3	ESP 52781	Xavier Antich/Ramon Lleonat	2	8	10
4	FRA 53868	Clovis Leroux/Aymeric Paruit	6	5	11
5	GBR 53967	Tim Gratton/Ed Riley	5	7	12
6	ESP 53835	Jordi Xammar/Alex Clavillé	13	1	14
7	POR 54213	Gonçalo Pires/Nuno Bajanca	9	5	14
8	ITA 52905	Matia Ugrin/Mirko Juretic	6	11	17
9	POR 52909	Gonçalo Pinho/Miguel Hipólito	18	1	19
10	GRE 51581	Alexander Kavas/George Kavas	12	7	19

Day 2 of the Qualification Series continues on Sunday 24 July 2011.

More Information:

[Event Website](#)
[420 Open Results](#)
[420 Ladies Results](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)

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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