



**End of season Championships – Grafham Water  
19/20 November 2011  
Sponsored by CurraDinghy and Noble Marine**

The 420's assembled for the second week running at Grafham Water to put their training into practice at the End of Season Championships. It was great to see so many new sailors and boats joining the fleet including many who had travelled from

far and wide across the country.

Everyone arrived to find they couldn't see the water from the clubhouse so they rigged in the hope it would clear. Thankfully after not too long a wait, first the swans could be seen swimming past, and soon the shore on the other side emerged which, with a light breeze appearing, meant the boats were allowed to launch. They all gathered around the committee boat and after a short wait the first race got underway. At the first mark the boat with the oldest combined age of sailors at 65, being helmed by the National Youth Squad Coach, Neil Marsden and ably crewed by James Dodd, showed the rest of the boats a clean pair of heels and rounded the windward mark first (I'll let you guess how much Neil contributed to the age!). They were closely followed down the run by Youth Squad sailors, Craig Dibb and Charlie Cox but Neil couldn't be caught, winning the first race by some distance.

After a short break, and an adjustment to the course, race 2 got underway. The wind increased very slightly and some smaller crews were seen testing the trapeze wires but not for long. This time the old timer was given a close run by new 420 sailors on the block Scott Wallis and Josh Voller. They gave Neil and James a lot to think about but they couldn't quite catch them. Neil and James took a second bullet with Scott and Josh 2<sup>nd</sup> and Harry Derbyshire and Tom Lovesey in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Race 3 started with another clear start line and this time Scott and Josh were first to the windward mark, closely followed by Tim and Ed Riley. Down the second run, whilst the mark layers congratulated themselves on laying such a great course, Sarah Alton and Molly Frost managed to catch and pass the others to get the last bullet of the day. Unfortunately, with no wind to run a fourth race the sailors headed ashore. At this point a fourth race did take place but it was to see who could be first to the hot chocolate, squirty cream and chocolate sprinkles!! This was much appreciated by everyone including the RIB crews and race team.

Sunday arrived, but the fog had returned and the wind hadn't. The fleet waited ashore in the hope that the far shore would reappear and they could go racing, but at midday it was decided to abandon racing for the day. Hence, the results for day one stood with Neil Marsden and James Dodd being crowned End of Season champions, Sarah Alton and Molly Frost, first girls in 2<sup>nd</sup>, Harry Derbyshire and Tom Lovesey 3<sup>rd</sup> and Scott Wallis and Josh Voller finishing top juniors in overall 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The prizes, kindly donated by CurraDinghy, were presented by Phil Kilburn of Noble Marine. Noble kindly replaced the shield for the winning crew after it disappeared several years ago. A big thank you from the Class to everyone involved in the weekend and especially to our sponsors and to Grafham Water Sailing Club. We would also like to say a special thank you to our results maestro who processed the results from home having been unable to travel down from Scotland, after his car was written off by a badger. True dedication!

**Top Ten results**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Neil Marsden/James Dodd	6pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sarah Alton/Molly Frost	12pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Harry Derbyshire/Tom Lovesey	13pts

4 <sup>th</sup>	Scott Wallis/Josh Voller	15pts
5 <sup>th</sup>	Craig Dibb/Charlie Cox	16pts
6 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Riley/Ed Riley	18pts
7 <sup>th</sup>	Toby Morsley/Matt Wallis	20pts
8 <sup>th</sup>	Alistair Gray/Alan McIntosh	32pts
9 <sup>th</sup>	Matt Foskett/Chris Taylor	34pts
10 <sup>th</sup>	Isabel Fitzgerald /Kat Colvin	39pts