



Zhik 420 National Champs at Mountbatten Sailing Centre

25-28 August 2009

By Miles Palmer 25 Sep 2009 10:33

The 2009 Zhik 420 Nationals got off to a glorious start with 63 boats sailing in 12-13 Knts at a sunny Plymouth Sound. The 420 Nationals has many different purposes, for some it is a fun event following a hard set of summer events, for others it is the first event in a 420 and finally it is also a selector for the RYA 420 National Squad. As such there are many varying ambitions and expectations.

Monday was the perfect day, 12-13Knts from the south west, this gave a chance for the whole fleet to get three good races in. Josh Pistol and Rossie Sithorp made the most of the conditions with two race wins, Rebecca Kalderon and Piers Strong also bagged a bullet in the final race of the day. The evening event had a 'back to school theme' with some suitable outfits causing the bar staff some amusement and good use of their list of birth dates.

Day 2 The 2009 Zhik 420 Nationals saw 4 races in conditions ranging from 12 to 17Knts in the expectation that Wednesday would be too windy for sailing. Racing was held just outside the breakwater near the Eastern entrance in a rolling sea causing a few upset tummies, but great opportunities to surf. Tim Gratton and Ed Riley made the most of the conditions with two race wins and a third, with Anna Burnett and Flora Stewart also had a good day with a race win and a second. Ben Palmer and Konrad Weaver also picked up a race win.

Kalderon/ Strong maintained a consistent set of results allowing to come of the water in the lead. However, following a protest, with the jury finding that the race committee had made an error in Race 1, Race 1 was subsequently abandoned. This meant that over night Gratton/ Riley were leading the 2009 Zhik 420 National Championships.

Wednesday dawned with 30Knts on the breakwater and whilst the race committee made every effort to go sailing, however, at 14:00 racing was abandoned for the day. The ship wrecked party was well attended with sailors trying to out do them selves on exposure of their tans.

Thursday was again a pleasant 15knt South Westerly and Pistol/ Sibthorp made the most of the conditions in the first two races taking the bullet and moving into the lead. However, what was apparent over the whole week was that the fleet were lining up too close to the start line and with some tide pushing them up wind the opportunity for an OCS was apparently high. With only 8 races completed and most of the top 10 boats carrying an OCS the order of the day was to keep it clean as the second discard kicked in at race 12 Mike Wood and Hugh Brayshaw took the bullet in the 9th race in the 10th and final race of the Day Pistol/Sibthorp pushed a little too hard and picked up and OCS, Kalderon/Strong took the bullet and drove into the lead.

The Final day of racing at the 2009 Zhik 420 Nationals had a NW breeze at about 25Knts the safety fleet had a long look at the conditions and with powerful gusts coming from odd directions the event was closed.

Kalderon/ Strong had sailed a most consistent week and became the 2009 Zhik 420 National Champions. Burnet/Stewart were crowned the Ladies Champions with James Hayward and Tim Carter picking up the Oliver Dix prize for the highest placed non-squad boat in 9th overall. Two newcomers to the 420s Annabel Vose sailing with Catherine Alton and Josh Sparks sailing with Matt Rainback made an impact on the fleet both finishing in the top 10. We look forward to seeing their progress over the years.

Miles Palmer (420 Sailing Secretary) thanked Peter Saxton and Dave Curo for putting on a great event out on the water. The Class thanked Mount Batten Centre for being most hospitable guests and Plymouth Youth and all of the Safety fleet.