

# The British International 420 Class Association

## End of Season Regatta

By Nick Martin

The 420 Class End of Season regatta was efficiently run by Draycote Water SC on the weekend of 7/8<sup>th</sup> December. Callum MacDonald and Haakon Karlsen travelling from north of Glasgow continued their run of form by winning the weekend by a comfortable margin, including firsts in 5 of the 8 races. New pairing Nick Cherry and Joe Henry started to find their form to finish second and 2002 Flanders Youth Regatta winners, Oliver Dix and Phillip Lasko, managed to hold off Ladies Youth European Champions, Charlotte Savage and Maia Walsh, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The weather was cold and grey all weekend, but the biting force 4 easterly wind made for great racing. John Rodhe and his team kept the programme moving so that no-one got too cold between races. Race 1 was to be the pattern of the weekend with MacDonald cutting back Cherry's early lead to get ahead by the finish. But it wasn't to be too easy. Race 2 showed different shifts; a group of boats emerged from the right of the first beat with Simon Lambert and Chris Evans managing to hold off Stuart Bithell and James McCovern, newcomers to the 420 from the Mirror class, to the finish. Although both races 3 and 4 were won by MacDonald and Karlsen from Savage and Walsh, they had to work hard with 420 worlds team sailors Sam Carter and Paul Davies adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> to two other top ten results and Dix and Lasko pushing into 3<sup>rd</sup> in race 4.

Sunday's weather looked the same as Saturday's but was even colder. A shorter course with more laps kept the sailors warm. In race 5 MacDonald and Karlsen carried on with another first, but not without having a major struggle to pass current Cadet class champion Ollie Gray sailing with James Hughes. Luke Patience and Adam Wagner, who have moved into the class from a 29er campaign, fought through the pack to get 3<sup>rd</sup> place. In race 6, 14 year old Christian Birrell sailing with Mark Stockbridge streaked off to a huge lead from Dix and Lasko, and MacDonald and Karlsen. But his luck ran out when a large gust brought Dix up close behind on the last reach and he was unable to hold off the more experienced pair to the finish. In race 7 Cherry and Henry set a very fast pace but were unable to keep MacDonald behind. Patience and Wagner were again able to add a 3<sup>rd</sup> to their score. By the final race all the sailors were getting very tired. MacDonald and Karlsen capsized returning at the start. Savage and Walsh led for the first lap but a knotted spinnaker halyard held them up, letting through ladies national champions Alison Martin and Bethan Carden. They were not able to hold off the group led by Bithell and McCovern, who then sailed to the wrong mark letting through Neil Crossouard and Sam Pascoe to win from Gray and Hughes.

Many thanks to Draycote Water Club for their hospitality.

**Overall Results:** 1. Callum MacDonald and Haakon Karlsen 16 pnts, 2. Nick Cherry and Joe Henry 39 pnts, 3. Oliver Dix and Philip Lasko 46 pnts, 4. Charlotte

*Savage and Maia Walsh 47 pnts, 5. Sam Carter and Paul Davies 48 pnts, 6 Luke Patience Adam Wagner 50 pnts.*