



THINKING ABOUT YOUR NEXT BOAT?

CONSIDERING A 420?

Website: www.420sailing.org.uk

Facebook: [British International 420 Class](#)

The 420 is an established performance two person trapeze and spinnaker racing dinghy. There are 56,000 worldwide. This popular dinghy is sailed at school, club, open, national and international levels. There are many second hand boats available, active clubs and excellent tuition for all levels. Built in buoyancy tanks make the boat very safe even when inverted. The 420 is a youth development boat in the UK and in 42 other countries, and despite the emergence of newer commercially driven classes and asymmetrics, the 420 is still the **top youth training boat**. Most of the World's top sailors started in this class and easily moved on to succeed in other classes.

How big do I need to be?

Successful pairings in recent years ranged from about 110kg to 135kg. From the RYA Youth website: *"the ideal combined weight is 130 kg with the helm weighing between 50-60kg and the crew at 60-75kgs"* but this is only a guideline and many pairings when first joining the class are below these levels. The 420 rig is very easy to control and adjust, so can be optimized for light or heavy pairings, allowing them to be competitive in all wind conditions.

At the National Championships for the last two years, about 50% of sailors were boys, and 50% girls. In the UK, most sailors are in the 15-19 age range, but in other countries the class has many older competitors.

What training is there?

The UK 420 Class Association organizes a training programme open to all class members. There are three to four training weekends in the autumn and a similar number in the spring, plus a training Camp in October half term. Coaching is provided by world class 420 coaches, with on the water coaching, video debriefs, shore based sessions and racing. Where possible, the coaching ratio is generally maintained at one coach per six boats. Costs are typically £45 per person per weekend. Details of these events are published on the main Event Calendar and on the special Training Event pages of the Class web site: www.kbsuk.com/420/training

The RYA Youth Squad generally has 10-12 boats; with up to 12 boats in the RYA Transitional Training group. In addition the Class arrange monthly Open training to provide additional training. The level of coaching is ability led and caters for newcomers to Youth Squad standard.

The GBR 420 Class Association provides extra training in the autumn to help out new sailors moving into the class. This training camp is residential and has been held at Rutland Water Sailing Club in October half term for the last two years. The training is open to all, and sailors moving from other classes are particularly welcome. This is an annual event and will be run for beginners and intermediate sailors every year if possible.

Although it's preferable to have a helm and crew partnership organised, we will endeavour to find helms or crews for those who don't have their own pairing (but we need to know well in advance!) We also aim to have a number of boats that can be chartered for the week. Please contact the Training Officer for further details.

To sign up for training events visit the 420 web site www.420sailing.org.uk.

How good is the racing?

In the UK there is a full programme of major events, open meetings and traveller events throughout the year. In Europe, there are large fleets in France, Germany and Italy, with good events in many European countries. At World level, the major events are of the highest standard, with participants from Australia & New Zealand, Asia, N & S America and Europe. Sailors tend to travel to events so competition is excellent but less experienced sailors are always encouraged and welcomed on and off the water. GBR sailors are normally well represented at Kiel week, the French Nationals and the Flanders Regatta.

The 420 is sailed as a double-handed boat for both a boys pairing and for girls pairing at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships.

How much does a 420 cost?

Secondhand boats are available at the moment from circa £2,000. Most UK boats for sale are advertised on the class website under "Small Ads" at www.420sailing.org.uk or websites such as Apollo Duck. Older boats which have been maintained in good condition remain competitive and can be a good buy when joining the class. A new 420 costs circa £8,500 including VAT complete with top and bottom covers and nearly new charter boats often become available at a good discount. A new suit of sails costs about £1,400. Individually, new sails are about £600 (main), £300 (jib) and £500 (spinnaker).

What equipment is best?

Popular hulls come from BlueBlue (Poland), Ziegelmayr (Germany), Mackay (New Zealand) and Nautivela (Italy). Most spars come from Selden (Kappa for lighter sailors, Cumulus for heavier sailors) and Super Spars (M1 for lighter sailors, M7 for heavier sailors). Popular sails in the UK come from Olimpic (Italy), North (USA/UK), Zaoli (Italy), and Pinnell & Bax (UK).

For further information please contact any of the following via the email links on the contacts page of the website or by phone:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Training officer – Graham Dibb | 01332 557138/07733 361901 |
| Sailing Secretary – Phil Taylor | 01753 663413 /07768 025648 |
| Class Chairman – Jackie Taylor | 01753 663413/07979 766764 |
| Membership secretary – Tony Mapplebeck | 07831 128747 |

Want to try a 420?

If you would like to try a 420 get in touch and we will let you know what opportunities may be available.