



## **RYA Press Release**

14 April 2007

### **Youth National Champions crowned**

After five days of tricky competition, the RYA Youth National Championships and Trials drew to a close today (Saturday 14 April) at the Hayling Island Sailing Club.

The week ended just how it started - in very light wind conditions - and although all classes managed to leave the shore for their race areas, racing proved impossible for all but the RS:X class on the final day of competition.

The single race today in the RS:X class was enough to shake up the podium positions - Richard Hamilton (Barrow upon Humber) posted a sixth in the sixth and final race of the series, and with overnight leader Jacob Brubert (London) crossing in eleventh and dropping to second overall, Hamilton took his second consecutive Youth Nationals title in the windsurfing class, with Brubert in second and Elliot Carney (Hythe) taking bronze. Kirsten O'Callaghan (Hampton) was crowned girl's champion in the class.

With no racing in all other classes, the points and positions remain unchanged from Friday. Peter Irwin and David Kohler (Linlithgow Loch SC) were delighted with their win in the boy's 420 fleet. "It's pretty amazing!" Kohler enthused. "We've never won anything before!"

"Coming here this week, we knew we had a chance to do well, but it's just great that the hours of effort and training have finally paid off," Irwin added.

Owain Matthews and Joe Williams from West Kirby Sailing Club were second in the boy's 420 fleet, with Jonathan Moss (Wadhurst) and Ben Muskett (Lymington) third, while Imogen Stanley (Oxford) and Kate Macgregor (Poole) were crowned girl's 420 national champions.

In the 29er fleet, girl's crews occupy the top two steps of the podium - Frances Peters and Hannah Diamond of Hayling Island Sailing Club took gold and the youth national title, with Sophie Weguelin and Sophie Ainsworth in second place. Top boys crew and third overall were James Ellis (Plymouth) and Rob Partridge (Weaverham).

Winning the Hobie 16 class with a perfect scoreline, Weymouth brothers Richard and Andrew Glover took their first Youth National Championship title.

"Finally!" was Andrew's reaction to their victory. "We came pretty close last year, so it's great to have taken that next step."

Luke Butler (Christchurch) and Sam Rowles (Weymouth) were the Glovers' nearest rivals, with the overall third place and top girl's crew going to Hannah Rowles (Weymouth) and Stephanie Wall (Blandford Forum).

The Laser Standard title went to Hayling Island Sailing Club's Stuart Godwin, who admitted that it hasn't been an easy event. "It's been a hard week, with some tough competition in the Laser fleet, so although I hoped I'd do well I didn't necessarily come here expecting to win.

"I had a very good day on Friday," Godwin continued "which helped to push me up the fleet, but it was definitely a benefit to be sailing at my home club."

Evan Scott and Oliver Tweddell took the silver and bronze medals respectively, while in the Laser Radial event, Tom Willis (Doncaster) held on to take gold, followed by Chloe Martin, top girl and second overall, and Robert Spencer (Christchurch).

"With the winds having been so light, it's been a really tricky week," said Event Director Rob Andrews, "but I think we owe the race teams a huge debt of gratitude for squeezing the best out of the conditions and getting the sailors racing as much as they have done.

"Thanks also must go to the Hayling Island Sailing Club for their hospitality this week, and to the team of dedicated volunteers and parents, without whom this event simply couldn't happen."

For full results and information from the 2007 RYA Youth National Championships and Trials, visit <http://www.ryaracingevents.org.uk/regattas/ythnatchamp2007/>

## **Ends**

**Photographs are available from this event, copyright free for editorial use. For these, or for further media information, please contact Lindsey Bell, RYA Team GBR Communications Officer, on 07900 570530, or email [lindsey.bell@rya.org.uk](mailto:lindsey.bell@rya.org.uk)**

### Notes for Editors

- The RYA is recognised by all government offices as being the negotiating body for the activities it represents. It continually fights for the rights and freedoms of its 103,000 personal members, the majority of whom choose to go afloat for purely recreational non-competitive pleasure on coastal and inland waters.
- It represents a further estimated 500,000 boat owners nationally through its 1600 affiliated clubs and boat owner associations.

- Olympic and Youth sailing is a beneficiary of the Lottery funded World Class Programmes (WCP) and administered by the Sports Councils. The Programmes focus on performance sport with the aim of achieving sporting excellence on the world stage. Further information can be found on the UK Sport website at [www.uk sport.gov.uk](http://www.uk sport.gov.uk) and Sport England's website at [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org). The Volvo RYA Champion Club Programme and Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme are supported by Volvo.
- Further information can be found at [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)

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