



RYA Press Release

13 April 2007

All change at top of the Youth Nationals fleets

Competitors at the RYA Youth National Championships and Trials saw a long day out on the water on Friday (13 April) as event organisers made the best of the breeze at the Hayling Island Sailing Club to catch up on the race schedule after three days of light winds.

With winds hovering between 5-9 knots today and racing for Saturday looking marginal with further light winds forecast, race officials successfully got through a tough schedule on Friday. The 29er and Laser Standard sailors each saw five races, the Laser Radial, 420s and Hobie 16s had four races apiece and the RS:X windsurfers had their mandatory two races in non-planing conditions.

There was all change again at the top of the 29er leaderboard, with all-female crews occupying the two top spots. Local girls Frances Peters and Hannah Diamond resume the lead in what's become a see-saw battle for the top female crew between them and Sophie Weguelin and Sophie Ainsworth.

Peters and Diamond take an eight point lead into the finals day, but are not getting carried away just yet.

"We came here with no pressure on us, although we knew we had the potential to do something good," said 17-year-old Diamond, from Southampton. "We've had pressure on us before when we've competed in other classes, so it was nice to just come here and compete for ourselves."

Weguelin and Ainsworth are still in the fight, although admit that the conditions this week haven't played to their strengths. "We perform best when we're flat wiring, but even so, we're pretty content to have won a race in really light conditions."

James Ellis (Plymouth) and Rob Partridge (Weaverham) are currently the top male crew, leading by just one point over Anglesey duo Bleddyn Mon and Tom Humphreys.

Weymouth cat sailors Richard and Andrew Glover maintained their superb series of eight straight race wins in the Hobie 16 class with five back to back bullets from Friday's races - Luke Butler (Christchurch) and Sam Rowles (Weymouth) are their closest rivals, ten points behind.

It couldn't be tighter at the top of the RS:X fleet, with Jacob Brubert (London) taking the lead thanks to two race wins from the two races today, although overnight leader Richard Hamilton (Barrow upon Humber) is on equal points in second place - the GBR representative at the 2006 Youth Worlds posted a 2,4 today.

Peter Irwin and David Kohler (Linlithgow Loch SC) took over at the top of the 420 fleet, thanks to two race wins and two seconds from the fleet's four races, while Imogen Stanley (Oxford) and Kate Macgregor (Poole) took over the mantle of top female crew, and were able to discard the black flag they picked up at the start of the last race of the day.

Stuart Godwin (London) enters the final day with a 12 point lead at the top of the Laser Standard leaderboard, with the help of three bullets from the five races, while Evan Scott (Huntingdon) also saw a change to his fortunes today, moving up into second place overall, although on equal points with Oliver Tweddell.

"I had a lot better day today, but until now it's been a bit of a mare!" said 16-year-old Scott. "Even so, I'm pretty shocked that I've jumped up the fleet today considering I Was 18th after the first day."

"I'm pleased that we had a bit more wind today, though - we just about got hiking at one point!"

In the Laser Radial class, Tom Willis (Doncaster) holds onto the lead for the third consecutive day, with Chloe Martin (Tonbridge) the second placed sailor and top female hovering five points behind.

With light winds forecast for Saturday's final day of racing, the quest to be crowned Youth National Champion hangs in the balance, with competitors facing a tense wait to see if the wind fills in.

Follow all the action
at <http://www.ryaracingevents.org.uk/regattas/ythnatchamp2007/>

Ends

For more media information or for press registration to attend the event, please contact Lindsey Bell, RYA Team GBR Communications Officer, on 07900 570530, or email 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.uksport.gov.uk and Sport England's website at 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

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