



RYA Press Release

10 April 2007

Youth Nationals sees a windless first day

The opening day of competition at the RYA Youth National Championships and Trials saw a slow start for the young sailors who were all rigged, ready and eager to race at the Hayling Island Sailing Club on Tuesday (10 April).

The grey and misty start to the day soon developed into bright sunshine during the course of the morning, but the one vital ingredient needed to get the regatta going - the wind - refused to appear for most of the day, leading to a long wait on shore for the 330 competitors entered across six classes at this premier youth sailing event.

By 1500hrs the breeze finally appeared, allowing the 29er and Laser Radial classes to finally see some action inside the harbour, but for the Laser Standard, RS:X, 420 and Hobie 16 classes the wait in the Hayling sunshine was in vain when racing was finally abandoned, so there will be plenty of sailors eager to get their Youth Nationals campaigns underway if the wind shows on Wednesday.

Sailors in the double-handed 29er class managed to fit in two races, with James Ellis (Plymouth) and Rob Partridge (Weaverham) topping the leaderboard at the end of day one, thanks to a race win and a second, while local Hayling Islander Frances Peters and Hannah Diamond (Southampton) have put in an early challenge. Lying in second overall and the top female boat in the fleet, Peters and Diamond are leading by two points over 29er Ladies and Under-19 World Champions Sophie Weguelin and Sophie Ainsworth, indicating the fight for selection to the GBR Youth Worlds team will be a tough one.

The fleet with the biggest entry - the Laser Radials - saw one just one race on Tuesday, with Tonbridge sailor Chloe Martin and James Spencer of Christchurch both enjoying the perfect start to their regatta series, each scoring race wins in the single-handed class. Doncaster's Tom Willis and Michael Clark of Southampton are in close pursuit, both posting second places across the two fleets.

"I think what racing we saw today initially demonstrated the depth of quality at the top of the 29er fleet," enthused RYA Youth Racing Manager Simon Wergan, who, along with the team of RYA selectors, will this week be looking out for the young sailing stars who will compete for Great Britain at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship this July in Kingston, Canada.

"We had some difficult conditions and late starts across all the fleets today," Wergan continued, "but the event and race teams did well to get as much racing out of the conditions as could be got."

Race organisers are likely to have another challenging day on Wednesday with yet more light winds forecast.

Racing is scheduled through until Saturday 14 April. For results and further information, please visit

<http://www.ryaracingevents.org.uk/regattas/ythnatchamp2007/>

End

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

Lindsey Bell
RYA Team GBR Communications Officer
T: 02380 604 216
M: 07900 570530
www.rya.org.uk