



View from the Chair and a few words for Christmas

We have had a very successful start to the 2022/2023 420 calendar. Along with concluding our first annual GP Series, as well as some key major events and selectors for the RYA Youth Squad and Class Performance Group, we have had sailors taking part in other events both home and abroad (Sailjuice Series and Basque, France). And with a stellar performance at the Endeavour Trophy it's fair to say we are truly developing sailors who will go on to have a very successful sailing life be it professionally, amateur or as a pastime.

The feedback we receive from clubs, on water volunteers and from Bill, our Juror, is also complimentary of the high quality of racing, boat handling and above all behavior that our sailors continually demonstrate. I am immensely proud to feedback and I thank all of you for your efforts on and off the water this year as ambassadors for the class.

Behind the scenes work there is a dedicated group of parents and helpers who, over the past months have been working tirelessly to support our sailors. This isn't a large group of people. It may be surprising to hear that we have a "skeleton" committee having had a reduced number of nominees come forward and as such we are seeing immense amounts of work being compiled by those volunteers and it is this I want to raise in your thoughts and thanks to these people (you know who you are) over Christmas.

Whilst we are seeing uncertain times in the economy and with the cost of living crisis hurting everyone, our ability to adapt can and will make the class stronger so long as we are all on board and supportive of change as and when it is needed and we utilise our collective capabilities to their optimal for the good of the collective class to develop.

Therefore I make the call for more people to step forward as volunteers as we need your input!

Team attending Palamos:

- ❖ Emma Breese & Charlotte Beardsall
- ❖ Sabine Potter & Merele Nieuland
- ❖ Noa Moskovich & Gabs Burlton
- ❖ Rosie Shehan & Susie Shehan
- ❖ Ellie Creighton & Bea Greenfield
- ❖ Joe Jones & Hennie Burlton
- ❖ Pat Bromilow & Olivia Creasey
- ❖ George Creasey & David Bromilow
- ❖ Henry Heathcote & Oscar Cawthorne
- ❖ Ralph Cawthorne & Harry George
- ❖ Joe Warwick & Hugo Valentine
- ❖ Arwen Fflur & Arlo Braund
- ❖ Imogen Wade & Teddy Dunn
- ❖ William Bailey & Matthew Rayner
- ❖ Dylan Creighton & Will Adams
- ❖ Alice Davis & Oli Rayner
- ❖ Freya Sewell & Arthur Bailey
- ❖ Megan Farrer & Ian Blake

Palamos

Changing tack slightly, with a strong squad off to Palamos, I am sure we will see Team GBR do well in the racing, I would therefore like to wish every success in the upcoming regatta to all competitors in the 18 GBR 420's taking part.

Palamos is a really enjoyable regatta with a good balance between serious racing and light hearted Christmas cheer. It's a good opportunity to develop relationships with sailors from other countries and to get to know your 2023 competition if you are considering Junior Euro's or Worlds so all the best and enjoy every minute.

A huge thank you to everyone involved especially those driving out and back: Chris B, Gareth G, Ben S, Simon P, Ben R, Andrew C, Craig B and Tiff C. Also a huge thanks to the behind-the-scenes organisers, and of course everyone who continually arranges flights, accommodation and transport for their sailors to events as well as earn the money to make it all happen. We all know the sailors appreciate it and I am sure there is a special gift this Christmas to show for it!!!! You are all definitely far more than Chauffeurs and Chef's as I think might have been the description in the sailor survey!

If you have not consider Palamos this year but would like to do so for next year, I am always happy to discuss its value and how you can get out their racing.

Training

I can see the structure of the class approach to training changing during the early part of 2023 and Gareth as Vice already has a partial plan in hand but will need volunteers to make this succeed.

Our training programs are the best in the UK and whether be them delivered regionally or nationally, you will not find finer coaches in any other class so you are very much in good hands.

The class will undoubtedly be looking to support more regional training such as the West Kirby Team, Draycote Academy and Royal Lynton Centre of Excellence and potentially East coast and Welsh regions also.

We will continue national training and will look to develop. Coached racing probably as part of the GP series so coaches can see performance in real race scenarios.

For all of those new to the class, I would like to offer my warmest of welcomes and very much look forward to spending time with you and seeing you all sail and develop next year. I cannot believe the first 3 months has gone past so quickly and I hope you are enjoying your initial steps with the class. You are the future of the class and joining the 420 is a fantastic decision which will support your sailing goals for life, so thank you to you all for joining and I wish you all every success over the forthcoming years.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and for those I do not see in between a Happy New Year.

JAMES

James George
420 Class Chairman



