

THE TIM WHELPTON TROPHY 2013

The Tim Whelpton Trophy is presented to 'encourage young sailors and commemorate the life of an outstanding yachtsman'. It is with great pleasure that the NSBA announce the 2013 winner of the Tim Whelpton Trophy is **Bryony Bennett-Lloyd**.

Having come 23rd at the Ladies World Championships in 2012, Hickling Broad Sailing Club member, Bryony Bennett-Lloyd and her helm, Annabel Cattermole from St Albans, have had an incredible year, improving rapidly to make their mark on the International 420 circuit, dominating the UK fleet and going on to take Gold at the 2013 World Championships!

The year began with a 7th at the 420 Inlands and 17th at the French Autumn Nationals in Bordeaux (a Tailored Support Squad international event). By the End of Seasons, their hard work over the previous few months showed through and they won the event outright. Following on from this at the beginning of December they won the Imperia Winter regatta, defeating the reigning ISAF Youth World Champions from Italy! This was where their progression to the top of the 420 fleet really kicked off.

Other competitions followed, namely the highly challenging Tiger Trophy at Rutland, where they finished 8th overall and 1st Ladies, followed by the 420 Winter Championships at Weymouth, finishing 5th and again 1st Ladies.



PHOTO: courtesy Philip & Clare Bennett-Lloyd Ladies 420 World Champion crewing in 470

After spending a good number of hours on the water preparing, the girls were ready to compete at the RYA Volvo Youth National Championships in Largs in order to earn a place as the one girl 420 to represent Great Britain at the 2013 ISAF Youth World Championships in Cyprus where they finished 3rd overall and 1st girls. A few weeks later they competed at the 420 Spring Championships in Pwllheli, the final selector event for the 420 World and Junior European Championship teams. Having not managed to beat the boys at the Youths, they came back determined to do so at this event. This focus and determination again paid off and they left the entire fleet in their wake! The hard work really began again, after being selected for the ISAFs, Ladies Worlds and Junior Europeans, as they were aiming to medal at least one of these major competitions.

The regatta at Kiel Week served as good preparation for the main summer competitions. Against a strong international fleet, they finished a very respectable 3rd Ladies.

At the ISAF Youth World Championships Bryony was to be a part of a GBR team of sailors from all inter-national youth classes. The week-long competition proved tricky to have under control being the first major event of the season, sailing in supplied boats and with an unfamiliar coach. The girls

were slightly disappointed with a result of 12th but they made sure they took forward a lot of learning points from the regatta in order to improve at the International 420 World Championships in Valencia less than a week later.

Nothing was left to chance in Valencia with a bigger and stronger fleet than in Cyprus. Throughout the week the girls gave consistent results in all conditions and kept moving up the rankings. They lead the fleet into the final 2 days of the regatta and by the final race just had to finish in the top 10 to claim the title which was duly done!

But there was no rest after taking the Gold at the 420 Worlds. Only one day later, a last minute addition to Bryony's full calendar was the 470 Ladies World Championships at La Rochelle. She was asked by the National Coach to crew for Anna Burnet, a Great Britain Podium Potential Squad sailor, since her usual crew, Flora Stewart had unfortunately broken her elbow falling off her bike just before the event. Bryony had never sailed a 470 before so she was thrown in at the deep end but she took it in her stride and learnt the ropes quickly to finish 12th in Silver Fleet, competing in fairly breezy conditions against all the top Olympic 470 Women from around the world.

Then, having had only a few days' rest, Bryony headed over to Pwllheli for her last 420 competition, the Junior Europeans. This event was light winds most days, meaning that a record number of girls were in the top positions of the mixed fleet giving Annabel and Bryony some tight competition. They didn't quite manage to catch the girls in front to get on the podium, but still finished as 4th ladies having sailed a good regatta!

Having won the World Championships in one of the toughest international fleets, Bryony has now been invited to join the Great Britain Podium Potential squad, in the International 470 class which will offer an exciting road ahead, with sights now focussed on an Olympic campaign – and studying medicine!

We wish her every success for the future.