



27 July, 2008, Athens

## International 420 Class Open World & Ladies Championships 2008



Racing in front of the Acropolis 2008 World 420 Championships, Athens  
Credit: © Dimitris Koumaras [www.sailingphoto.gr](http://www.sailingphoto.gr)

### More hard racing to complete qualifying rounds in Athens

For the second day of racing at the 420 Worlds in Athens, there were less of the extreme changes of wind direction and intensity of the first day, but sailors reported that hard racing continued. The pressure was on for sailors to achieve the vital 'cut' for the fleets for the Final Series that will be raced here on the Saronic Gulf from Monday to Thursday of next week.

The Race Officer for the Ladies' course, Elena Dimitrakopoulou, reported that, for the first two races, the wind was 280° and 10 – 12 knots (no O flag), without incident, and that a successful third race was completed for group 1, with 13 – 15 knots (O flag up). But the second group in the last race had a shortened course, finishing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> mark due to a big wind change from 280° to 180/190°.

Marino Camilla & Claudia Soricelli (ITA) established themselves at the top of the Ladies' qualifiers. Camilla, reporting on their Race 6 as they came off the water said "we were around 25<sup>th</sup> at the windward mark, pulled up to 15<sup>th</sup> by the second mark and were 4<sup>th</sup> at the last, finishing 5<sup>th</sup>". She talked of the sailing here in Athens, "I like sailing here. It is difficult (the wind) and challenging sailing". 'As good as Napoli?', we asked...."well no, of course, I am from Napoli, but it is beautiful here in Athens!"

Rita Faria & Teresa Cunha (POR) had a bullet in Race 5. Said Rita, "This is very hard racing, with cliffs for waves. But it looks windier than it is. The wind here in Athens has been very changeable, but it was more predictable today". Carlota Massana of Catalunya and Ana Lobo Massana or Andalucia (ESP), who only teamed up this year and immediately won the Spanish Nationals, talked about the challenging sailing with the shifty wind direction and varying strength – "we like strong wind!", said Ana.

For Ferdinand Gerz & Tobias Bolduan (GER), it was a stronger day's performance (at least until the last race!), bringing them to second overall in the Worlds Qualifiers. Ferdinand commented that choice upwind was all-important. "For the first race, we went right, but the advantage was left, leaving us a lot to do, but this was a nice reaching course". Commenting upon the sailing conditions generally over the two days, he said, "difficult, but great racing!".

Paul Snow-Hansen and Ben Goodwin (NZL), having just competed in the ISAF Youth Worlds in Denmark, are looking good in the 420 again after two and a half months away ("we have only sailed it one weekend!), as they finished the day in 5<sup>th</sup> (dropping a bit with a BFD in Race 6). "it was hard racing again today, with two breezes fighting, but not so extreme as the first day". Asked about their decision to sail both the 29er in the ISAF Youths and the 420 again, in the Worlds, Paul explained, "we got together to campaign for the Youths, but it seemed to work in the 420 too, so we are sailing both Championships together. Both the ISAF Youths and the 420 Worlds are important goals for us in 2008". He compared competing in the two boats. "Sure, the 29er is really enjoyable for the speed, but I missed the longer races and the bigger fleets (of the 420). Tactically the two are very different – downwind totally different, looking at the angles more in the 29er".

Now the cut for the Fleets is determined, the sailors, coaches and supporters look forward to a B-B-Q and then the lay day, before racing for the Final series starts on Monday.

### **Top 10 standings at completion of the qualifying round:**

#### **World Championship:**

- 1 Edoardo Mancinelli Scotti & Lorenzo de Felice (ITA)
- 2 Ferdinand Gerz & Tobias Bolduan (GER)
- 3 Vasilis Papoutsoglou & Akilas Drougas (GRE)
- 4 Ben Saxton & David de Boltz (GBR)
- 5 Paul Snow-Hansen & Ben Goodwin (NZL)
- 6 Federico Maria Maccari & Rocco Vitali (ITA)
- 7 Francisco Sucari & Francisco Renna (ARG)
- 8 Michalis Mileos & Evangelos-Vasileios Mitakis (GRE)
- 9 James Rusden & Joe Williams (GBR)
- 10 Micalis Stavrou & Giannis Orfanos (GRE)

#### **Ladies' Championship**

- 1 Camilla Marino & Claudia Soricelli (ITA)
- 2 Katerina & Sofia Kaitatzidou (GRE)
- 3 Maria Boulgaraki & Dionisia-Danai Paschou (GRE)
- 4 Alexandra Maloney & Bianca Barbarich-Bacher (NZL)
- 5 Federica Wetzl & Marta Parladori (ITA)
- 6 Cristina Cellis & Silvia Morini (ITA)
- 7 Martine Soffiati Grael & Daniela Adler Pimentel Duarte (BRA)
- 8 Sara Anendola & Giulia Paolillo (ITA)
- 9 Ourania Parousi & Aliko-Anna Stratigiou (GRE)
- 10 Ana Rita Rocha & Ana Sofia Oliveira (POR)

**More details:**

Class website: <http://www.420sailing.org>  
Event website: <http://www.420worlds08.gr>

**ENDS**

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Leaders in the Ladies' qualifiers: Camilla Marino & Claudia Soricelli (ITA) and Maria Boulgaraki & Dionisia-Danah Paschou  
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