

The 4.7 Europeans

By Fiona Fry and Ben Nicholls

30 GBR sailors competed in the Laser 4.7 European Championships in Morgat, France. This annual event was for sailors U18 and has a focus on the U16s. This year attracted over 300 sailors competing and a sizeable boys fleet.

The Brits had a well-organized group collaborating on all fronts. In France the sailors worked with five expert coaches afloat, including Gold Medalist Pippa Kenton-Page, Olympian Penny Clarke, Laser Podium sailors Alex Mills Barton and Jack Wetherell and the RYA's expert Transition Coach Alan Williams.

Prior to the event and as a build-up towards the Europeans and next month's World Championships in Kiel, significant practice took place organised by RYA, UKLA, RLymYC and the ASSF. Many top quality coaches including the RYA's National 4.7 Coach Martin Boatman, the UKLA's Tim Hulse, Hannah Snellgrove, James Hadden and Greg Carey. World Champions Nick Thompson and Ali Young also took timeout from their Olympic Campaigns to help the sailors.

All of this was backed up by the logistical support of the UKLA's Justine Rockett, the RYA's Tim Hall and Sarah Parker as well as Tim Anderton and the ASSF team.

The collaborative efforts of the GBR team were well rewarded:

- 14-year-old Matilda Nicholls, representing Royal Lymington YC and the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation, claimed the title European Champion for the U16 girls.
- Alex Schonrock was fifth in the U16 girls, with two more GBR girls in the top ten.
- Arthur Fry finished top ten in the U16 boys after a very credible overall result in the Gold Fleet.
- Benno Marstaller won the boys' Silver Fleet.

Best individual race result:

- Alex Schonrock achieved the only GBR bullet of the week in race 6 of the girls' event.
- Zac West got a second in race 2 of the boys' event.
- Benno Marstaller came second in races 6 and 7.

Youngest sailors:

- Flo Nicholls in the girls' event, at just 13.
- William Rowland in the boys' event, at an even younger 12.

GBR under-16 girls' results:

Matilda Nicholls: 1st and U16 European Champion

Alex Schonrock: 5th

Freya Cumpsty: 8th

Eleanor Poole: 10th

Arabella Sabberton: 16th

Flo Nicholls: 17th

GBR under-16 boys' results:

Arthur Fry: 8th

Zac West: 26th

Dan Wellbourn Hesp: 44th

James Brosnan Wren: 51st

Tom Pollard: 55th

Peter Raimbault: 61st

Lewis Coop: 85th

Adam Din: 88th

William Rowland: 89th



Event photos:

<http://www.cncm.fr/page/laser47>

Full results:

<http://www.cncm.fr/page/results-and-groups-european-laser-4-71467712929>