



Sailboat.co.uk Laser Open and National Championships: Day four

Standard by Jack Wetherell

The sailors experienced Rio Sugarloaf conditions in the morning race today. Jack Wetherell got the big shifts right up the first beat followed by Alistair Goodwin and Anatoly Krivelevich. But during the second lap, the wind shift down and turned the race inside out. Adam Stone came out on top and sailed well to hold the lead to the finish. Haydn Griffiths finished second with George Coles in third.

After the wind dropped, the fleet were moved into the harbour and were greeted with a patchy 10–12knts breeze from 250. Goodwin and Hopkins made the best of the pin-biased line and Hopkins led around the windward mark. Throughout the rest of the race the top three had a great battle. Jack Wetherell took the lead on the second beat sailing shifts up the right-hand side. But down the final run Hopkins would have the final say and took the race win. The top four boats finished nose to tail after Goodwin and Harry Gozzett had made gains on the final downwind to make an exciting finish.

Standings after day four:

1st Jack Wetherell, 8pts

2nd Alistair Goodwin, 16pts

3rd Jack Hopkins, 26pts

Radial by Hannah Snellgrove

It was a long day on the water for the sailors on day four of the Nationals, starting off with a trip out into Weymouth Bay in the morning north-westerly gradient. The Standards and 4.7s both managed to complete one race in the shifty and patchy offshore breeze, but although the Radials managed to get a start off, the race was abandoned as a huge left shift came through with pressure up the first beat.

The left shift stayed as the land warmed up and it was back into Portland Harbour to complete two races in the thermal breeze. Race one saw Hannah Snellgrove start at the pin end and tack across the fleet at the first opportunity before playing the shifts to lead at the top mark from Tom Renny and Ireland's Johnny Durcan and Ronan Walsh. Snellgrove pulled away on the downwind and led to the

finish to make it seven bullets from seven. Durcan overhauled Renny on the final downwind only to later find out he had been black flagged, handing the second place back to Renny and third to Walsh.

In the second race, it was, finally, the end of the winning streak for Snellgrove, who despite winning the pin and tacking and crossing again was overtaken by boats from both edges of the upwind leg who got into more pressure. Durcan led around the top mark, chased by Snellgrove and Walsh, and despite a tussle between the top two boats on the final downwind and right to the line, those positions held to the finish.

Standings after day four:

1st Hannah Snellgrove, 7pts

2nd Ronan Walsh, 40pts

3rd Benno Marstaller, 55pts

4.7

The shifty and patchy conditions caused today's racing to be moved after one race from Weymouth Bay into the harbour. Race one was won by overall leader Matt Beck with Matthew Caiger in second and Fergus Fox in third. Once the fleet had moved into the harbour, race two was, again, won by Matt Beck with Fouad Ghareeb in second and Chloe Collenette in third.

Standings after day four:

1st Matt Beck, 11pts

2nd Daniel Wellbourn Hesp, 26pts

3rd Chloe Collenette, 35pts