

## **International 420 Class South African National Championships 2008**

Hoedjiesbaai, Saldanha Bay was the perfect setting for the South African 420 National Championship 2008, held over the Easter Weekend (21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March). This year the Nationals were held in conjunction with the prestigious Western Cape Dinghy & Multihull Championships.

There were 13 entries in total; Zeekoevlei Yacht Club was represented by seven boats, Izivungu Sailing School by four boats, University of Cape Town Yacht Club had an entry and a local entry came from Langebaan Yacht Club. The numbers were slightly down from last year's National Championship – probably due to the fact that last year the event was held on its own, but this year it was held during the Western Cape Champs – with a number of potential 420 sailors possibly in other dinghies

Racing started on the afternoon of Good Friday, and two races were completed in a steady moderate 10 - 14 knot breeze. On Saturday, the wind was up – fresh, at around 19 knots, gusting to 22 at times. This resulted in some tight racing, with some very tired bodies coming off the water at the end of the day. Racing was called off after two races due to the strong wind conditions. A few of the boats limped off the water with damaged equipment.

On Sunday, sailing conditions were good, with a steady consistent breeze of a moderate strength, dying towards the end of the day. 5 races were sailed

On the last day, competitors sailed in a building breeze that provided excellent close racing. 3 races were completed, resulting in 12 races being sailed in total, which included two discards.

The 2008 winners viz. Izivunguvungu sailors, Asenathi Jim on the helm and Marlon Jones as crew, also won the Nationals in 2007 - what a fantastic achievement! 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Izivunguvungu sailors Ashwynn Daniels and Denzio Davids, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to father and son team from Zeekoevlei Yacht Club - Paul and Jean Jacques Gorremans. Izivungu had a strong presence with boats also in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> positions. This bears testimony to the many hours spent on the water, skilled sailors and excellent coaching.

It is almost the end of the season, but looking ahead to 2008/9, it is predicted that with dedicated sailors, and commitment from clubs, sponsors and individuals, this class will grow from strength to strength!

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