

RYA Press Release

10 February 2010

GBR Match Race Girls are on top of the world

They've proven themselves as one of the teams to beat in the newest Olympic sailing class, and now Britain's Lucy Macgregor, Annie Lush and Ally Martin have had an added boost to their 2012 campaign.

The 'GBR Match Race Girls' have stormed into the world number one spot in the ISAF women's match racing world rankings, overtaking the long-standing leader Claire Leroy of France to claim the top position for the first time.

Leroy occupied the number one spot for four and a half years, but the Skandia Team GBR trio have deposed the French skipper after proving a potent force on the women's match racing circuit in its inaugural year as an Olympic class event.

They won the ISAF Sailing World Cup series in 2009 and claimed silver at the first World Cup event of 2010 – the Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta – where they went into the final unbeaten from 18 races in the Elliot 6m competition.

"Reaching the number one spot is a great feeling," the 23-year-old Macgregor admitted.

"It's good to know that our training programme is taking us in the right direction and that we're confident in the areas we need to improve on long term."

She continued: "We were really pleased with our performance in Miami.

"I think the match racing event out there was a great success with some new teams, plus some old teams from the match racing circuit as well as former Yngling, 470 and Radial sailors coming through and racing in the new Elliot 6m boats.

"There were lots of people out watching, and a demanding schedule but it was great with everyone getting to race so much. It's all looking quite promising for this year's World Cup series."

Lush, 29, added "We're really enjoying the Elliot 6's – they're really physical boats and are producing some close, exciting races.

"The teams who are sailing the boats well are rewarded, but all the gains you make are small and hard to achieve."

As well as mastering the three-person Elliot 6m boats – selected to replace the Yngling for the 2012 sailing competition – Macgregor, Lush and Martin have also shown their match racing prowess across a range of boats, borne out by their win at the prestigious Busan Cup Women's International Match Race in Korea last year as part of a five-person team.

The GBR Match Race Girls are currently fine-tuning their winter training in the knowledgeable hands of Britain's former match racing world champion Ian Williams ahead of the European World Cup events, which kick off with the Princess Sofia Trophy in Palma (ESP) just before Easter.

"We've been sailing together for one year now as part of Skandia Team GBR and



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have proven ourselves to be a solid and competitive team.” Macgregor commented.

“We’ve had a fantastic start to our campaign, with some great support from the likes of Jenkins Marine, Spinnaker Yachts, and also the City of Livery Yacht Club and the Royal Thames Yacht Club – but we’re still looking for a title sponsor to back us in our quest for gold and help give us that extra boost to be top of the podium in Weymouth.”

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Notes for Editors:

- Skandia Team GBR is the British national sailing team in the Olympic and Paralympic Classes, and is managed by the Royal Yachting Association
- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) is the national governing body for all forms of sailing, windsurfing, and powerboat racing.
- The RYA is recognised by all government offices as being the negotiating body for the activities it represents. It continually fights for the rights and freedoms of its 103,000 personal members, the majority of whom choose to go afloat for purely recreational non-competitive pleasure on coastal and inland waters.
- It represents a further estimated 500,000 boat owners nationally through its 1600 affiliated clubs and boat owner associations.
- Olympic and Youth sailing is a beneficiary of the Lottery funded World Class Programmes (WCP) and administered by the Sports Councils. The Programmes focus on performance sport with the aim of achieving sporting excellence on the world stage. Further information can be found on the UK Sport website at www.ukssport.gov.uk and Sport England’s website at www.sportengland.org. The Volvo RYA Champion Club Programme, RYA Volvo Youth Squad, RYA Volvo Transitional training, RYA Volvo Youth National Championships and Trials and the RYA Volvo Zone & Home Countries Championships are supported by Volvo Car UK.
- Further information can be found at www.rya.org.uk

About Skandia

Skandia in the UK launched in 1979 and is now one of the leading international long term savings groups providing pensions, investment and protection products through intermediaries in the UK and overseas, with assets under management of £34.9n (as at 31.12.08). Creators of the MultiManager approach, Skandia has teamed up with the world's top fund managers to create a range of funds tailored for investors' individual needs.

Skandia UK is part of an international group founded in Sweden in 1855. The group is a leading, independent provider of long-term savings solutions.

Skandia UK is a division of the Skandia Group, itself owned by Old Mutual plc. Old Mutual is an international financial services group, listed on the London Stock Exchange where it is a FTSE 100® company, making it one of the largest 100 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. Old Mutual is headquartered in London.

Being a part of Old Mutual makes Skandia a key division of the seventh largest life insurer in Europe, with a strong financial base. The combined group has funds under management of £264.8 billion and has approximately 50,000* employees.

*As at 30 December 2008, Source: Old Mutual



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