

RYA Press Release

16 July 2011



Georgie Motherssele & Jessica Lavery © Sime Sokota/ISAF Youth Sailing

Cat sailors get the cream with Youth Worlds bronze for GBR

Rupert White and Nikki Boniface ensured a medal-winning finish for RYA Volvo Team GBR at the conclusion of a tough week's racing at the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships on Friday (15 July).

With light variable winds dominating the regatta throughout, Britain's young racing talents found the unpredictable shifts in wind and soaring temperatures challenging out on the Croatian waters at Zadar. However, it was White and Boniface in the SL16 catamaran class who rose to the challenge of competing against the world's best youth sailors as they finished the Championships with a hard-fought bronze medal.

With this being Boniface's third and final ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships, the eighteen-year-old sailor and her seventeen-year-old helm Rupert White were determined to finish on the podium this time around after Boniface narrowly missed out in the previous two years finish 5th and 4th respectively. The pair, who have been sailing together in the mixed multihull class for almost a year, went into the final race needing to finish above the New Zealand boat to secure the bronze medal. With the wind reaching 16 knots for the first time in the regatta and the pressure on, the British pair finished the Championships off in true style by posting a second place in their final race securing the bronze medal.

"It feels amazing to finally win a medal at the ISAF Youth Worlds and I am just so excited. It feels like all my hard work has eventually paid off which is a great feeling," said Boniface.

"It has been really intense racing all week with results all over the place and the level of racing has been excellent. The conditions have been tricky with massive shifts in wind but the last couple of days have picked up and we really started to enjoy it."

"We entered the final race with a three point lead over the New Zealanders but we decided to just forget about the points and just treat it like it was any other race. We knew it was our last race in the regatta so we just wanted to enjoy it and have a fun day out on the water. It was a great feeling to finish the final race in second as we knew then that we had won a medal – it's just amazing!"

Representing RYA Volvo Team GBR in the 29er class was ISAF Youth World Championship veterans Henry Lloyd Williams and Sam Batten. The pair struggled in the unfavourable conditions which left them 11th overall. However, with this being the boys' last ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships and the last time ever racing in the 29er class due to their impending transition into the 49er class, and with it being Lloyd-Williams 18th birthday, the 29er duo finished in spectacular style with a race win.

Lloyd Williams said: "To win the last race was great and it was a really nice way to bow out of the 29er class. To be able to celebrate my 18th birthday with a bullet was great. We haven't had a great week in terms of racing but the overall experience has been amazing. The 49er class is next for us and we are looking forward to starting our Olympic campaign."

Cameron Douglas had a tough start to the regatta in the boys Laser Radial class, once again due to the light and variable winds at the Sailing Club Uksok in Zadar. However once the wind picked up towards the end of the regatta Douglas proved he could mix it with worlds best as he posted a first and second on the penultimate day of the Championships. Douglas finished fifth in the last race leaving him 19th overall.

Douglas commented: "I'm disappointed not to medal as that was my main aim for this regatta. It's been a really tough week of racing with massive shifts in wind and really light breezes. Although the last couple of days have been great as the wind has picked up and I was at the top of the fleet picking up some good results.

"To finish the regatta on such a high is a great feeling and a massive confidence boost for the Laser Radial Worlds next week. I'm expecting strong winds in La Rochelle and after my performance in the last couple of races I know I can compete at the top of the fleet. It's great that Rupert and Nikki have won a medal and everyone is really pleased for them!"

In the 420 class, Jess Lavery/ Georgie Mothersele and Craig Dibb/Charlie Cox, both ISAF Youth Worlds debutants, finished the Championships off with top ten finishes which is a fantastic achievement in such a highly competitive class. The girls finished ninth overall whilst the 420 boys had a small chance of making the podium at the beginning of the day, however with results not going their way finished seventh overall.

"It has been a great experience and we have loved every minute of it. We are really happy to have finished in the top ten and we have learnt a huge amount for future regattas. Our communication has improved and we have now got the confidence to race in bigger fleets. We know we are competitive when racing against the World's best so are now looking forward to future events where we can apply what we have learnt," explained Lavery.

Solid and consistent performances over the seven days also earned RS:X 8.5 sailors Sam Sills and Jade Rogers top ten finishes with a sixth and seventh respectively.

Rogers said: "The unexpected wind yesterday was brilliant for me as I posted some great results. The event has been really well organised and the racing has been really intense. Overall it has just been a fantastic experience and I'm over the moon to have finished within the top ten."

Rheanna Pavey finished 36th overall in the girls Laser Radial class although demonstrated she has potential by posting two thirteenth places yesterday and a fourth in the final race.

"This event has been really hard but it's been a great experience. I feel I have improved my racing and just hope I can come back next year and do better," said Pavey.

Duncan Truswell, RYA Racing Youth Manager, commented: "This week has been really tough for the sailors but I am overjoyed for Rupert and of course Nicky who has been such an asset to RYA

Volvo Team GBR for the last few years, she carried the flag and has epitomised our values all week.

“Many sailors from the team would have been in with a shot at a medal on a different week in Zadar in the more stereotypical conditions, we didn’t get that, it was extremely light and fickle some days, but they hung in there, dug deep, and stuck to the processes really believing in themselves even when their confidence was taking a bit of a battering in the light Mediterranean style conditions.

“To bounce back when the breeze got up and really show their potential despite such a hot, long and draining week of competition was great. The bottom line is we are not very quick in the conditions that were prevalent for most of the regatta, it is what it is, we are inexperienced because we just don’t see those conditions in the UK and we don’t get enough time in similar conditions to really mix it with the world’s best.”

Truswell concluded: “However, every dog has his day, and not only are we on the pace when the breeze came up, even a little but it’s also clear that we are breeding passionate, robust and intelligent sailors. Their toughness was the most impressive thing for me. From here, all the sailors have great opportunities to address their weaknesses and come back with strong performances later in the summer or next year – roll on Ireland 2012, it promises to be a great event and I look forward to some wind, and rain, I’d even welcome some fog right now!

For the full line-up of RYA Volvo Team GBR sailors at the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships 2011 and for full results, information and daily blogs from the British camp - please visit the [event website](#) or follow the team on [Facebook](#).

RYA Volvo Team GBR squad for the 2011 ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships, Zadar, Croatia (7-16 July 2011):

420:

Boys: Craig Dibb (Andover & Warsash Sailing Clubs) and Charlie Cox (Lymington & Royal Lymington Yacht Club)

Girls: Jess Lavery (Emsworth & Emsworth Sailing Club) and Georgie Mothersele (Emsworth & Emsworth Sailing Club)

29er:

Henry Lloyd-Williams (Lymington & Royal Lymington Yacht Club) and Sam Batten (Lymington & Royal Lymington Yacht Club)

RS:X:

Boys: Sam Sills (Launceston & Roadford Lake)

Girls: Jade Rogers (Staffs & Carsington)

Laser Radial:

Boys: Cameron Douglas (Wirall & Wets Kirby Sailing Club)

Girls: Rheanna Pavey (Ipswich & Stour Sailing Club)

SL16:

Rupert White (Brightlingsea & Brightlingsea Sailing Club) and Nicola Boniface (Eastbourne & Pevensy Bay Sailing Club)

-Ends-

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