



RYA Press Release

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Asher and Willis aim for third 470 world title



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Only three men's crews have ever managed a hat-trick of World Championship titles in sailing's 470 class, and Britain's Nic Asher and Elliot Willis will aim to extend that list when they take to the waters of The Hague this week for the 2010 Delta Lloyd 470 World Championships (12-18 July).

Asher, 25, and 27-year-old crew Willis became the first British crew in 18 years to win a 470 world title when they captured their first World Championship crown in 2006, which they followed up with a second two years later.

Buoyed by their recent win at the Dutch leg of ISAF Sailing World Cup series at Medemblik at the end of May, the pair will hope for more success on Dutch waters when racing starts on Monday, but Asher is remaining level-headed about the prospect of an historic third world title.

"If we keep sailing how we've been sailing, and keep plugging away, I'm sure we'll be up there at the end of the event," Asher explained.

"It's still a really tough fleet – there are probably ten boats who could easily get a medal or win, so we've got to keep sailing well, keep on doing the things we've been doing and hopefully we'll get a medal.

"[Gold is] definitely in the back of our minds, but it's pretty tough so we've just got to keep concentrating on sailing well and keep on plugging away, and then hopefully we can get that third world title."

Luke Patience and Stuart Bithell, who emerged as surprise silver medallists at the 2009 World

Championship only days after teaming up, will also feature for Skandia Team GBR in the men's fleet, while double Olympic silver medallist Nick Rogers and Pom Green are notable absentees after announcing they are ending their Olympic campaign.



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In the women's fleet, Sarah Ayton and Saskia Clark head to The Hague for their first World Championship together, fresh from World Cup victory in Kiel last month, while Penny Clark and Katrina Hughes, and development squad duo Hannah Mills and Claire Cumming will also hope to challenge in the medal race positions at the end of the week.

The 470 World Championships get underway on Monday 12 July, with the final medal races scheduled for Sunday 18 July.

For all the latest news on Skandia Team GBR's sailors in action around the world visit: www.skandiateamgbr.com.

Skandia Team GBR line-up at 470 World Championships:

Men

Nic Asher-Elliot Willis
Luke Patience-Stuart Bithell
Phil Sparks-Chris Grube
Matt Mee-Ian Dobson
Ben Saxton-David Kohler

Women

Sarah Ayton-Saskia Clark
Penny Clark-Katrina Hughes
Hannah Mills-Claire Cumming
Sophie Weguelin-Sophie Ainsworth
Frances Peters-Eilidh McIntyre

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For media enquiries, please contact:
Lindsey Bell
Skandia Team GBR Communications Manager
T: 02380 604216
M: 07900 570530
www.skandiateamgbr.com