



RYA Press Release

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Three World Cup wins for GBR sailors in Miami

Nick Thompson, Ed Wright and the Sonar crew helmed by John Robertson made it a golden treble for Skandia Team GBR's sailors at the Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta, which concluded on Saturday (31 January).

The Grade 1 event, which was the second of seven stops in the new ISAF Sailing World Cup series, also saw British sailors pick up podium spots in three further classes – including one in the debut event for the new Olympic Classes women's match racing discipline.

Training partner to the now Olympic Champion Paul Goodison, the 22-year-old Thompson won bronze at the 2007 Laser European Championships, but this Miami win marks a first event victory at senior Grade 1 level.

The Lymington sailor had to fend off the two-time Youth Worlds champion from Cyprus, Pavlos Kontides, in Saturday's final medal race to clinch the regatta title.

"First I pinned him to the left and then I pinned him on the right," explained Thompson about his tactics on two different upwind legs, which left Kontides settling for silver some 17 points behind his British rival.

For Ed Wright, there was a more nail-biting finish in the Finn class. Trailing Canadian sailor Christopher Cook by just one point heading into the final double points scoring race, Wright fought back from a bad start to secure the gold.

"I got a bad shift off the line," Wright explained. "Cook got away and rounded the top mark ahead of me, but I passed him on the downwind leg.

"He sailed a great regatta; it was good to beat him, but it's a shame for him. The leading five sailors in the fleet have been knocking on the door all week.

"I came for a winter's worth of training and was pleased to get such good competition with this regatta," he concluded.

In the Paralympic Sonar class, John Robertson, Hannah Stodel and stand-in crew Alex Wang-Hansen put in a dominant display, counting all top three finishes from their 12 races to claim victory by nine points over the host's Paul Callahan, Roger Cleworth and Tom Brown.

“After the disappointment of Qingdao, it’s good to get back into winning form again,” said Robertson, who missed out on a Paralympic Games medal with Stodel and Stephen Thomas.

John Pink and Rick Peacock notched up a career best finish, clinching a silver medal in the 49er skiff class, while Paul Campbell-James and Mark Asquith – winners at the first leg of the World Cup in Melbourne in December – were unable to make it two World Cup podium finishes in a row, ending their regatta in fourth place.

Lucy Macgregor, Annie Lush and Ally Martin had a near-faultless display in the round-robin stage of the women’s match racing event, winning all but three of their preliminary matches to qualify them for the knockout stages. Macgregor, currently ranked fifth in the women’s world match racing rankings, missed out to world number four Lotte Meldgaard Pedersen in the semi-final, but clinched bronze over Genevieve Tulloch’s team in the Petit-Final.

Paralympic sailors Niki Birrell and Alex Rickham also claimed bronze for Skandia Team GBR in the SKUD-18 class to make it a six-medal haul for the British sailors in Miami.

The ISAF Sailing World Cup tour now makes its way to Palma, Majorca, for the Princess Sofia Trophy (4-10 April), with the series reaching its climax at the Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy in September.

ISAF Sailing World Cup – Leg 2 Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta

Final results - Olympic Classes

Laser

1. Nick Thompson, GBR, (67pts)
2. Pavlos Kontides, CYP, (84pts)
3. Brad Funk, USA, (86pts)

Other GBR

33. Robert Godwin (237pts)

Laser Radial

1. Anna Tunnicliffe, USA (27pts)
2. Paige Railey, USA, (34pts)
3. Jennifer Spalding, CAN, (60pts)

GBR

11. Andrea Brewster (104pts)
29. Christina Bassadone (243pts)

Finn

1. Ed Wright, GBR, (27pts)
2. Christopher Cook, CAN (28pts)
3. Zach Railey, USA, (45pts)

49er

1. Nico Delle Karth- Nikolaus Resche, AUT (53pts)
2. John Pink-Rick Peacock, GBR (58pts)
3. Federico Alonso-Arturo Alonso, ESP (62pts)

Other GBR

4. Paul Campbell-James-Mark Asquith (68pts)
6. Dave Evans-Simon Hiscocks (97pts)

Women’s Match Racing

1. Lotte Meldgaard Pedersen-Tina Schmidt-Trine Palluden, DEN
2. Giulia Conti-Alessandra Marenzi-Alessandra Angelini, ITA
3. Lucy Macgregor-Annie Lush-Ally Martin, GBR

Other GBR

7. Charlotte Lawrence-Lavinia Paternoster-Liz Rushall
10. Mary Rook-Rebecca Marriott-Nicky Macgregor

Star

1. Rick Merriman-Phil Trinter, USA (54pts)
2. George Szabo-Rick Peters, USA (57pts)
3. Flavio Marazzi-Petter Morland Pedersen, SUI (66pts)

GBR

13. John Gimson-Ed Greig (113pts)

RS:X Men

1. Dorian van Rijsselberg, NED (22pts)
2. Ivan Pastor, ESP (33pts)
3. Joao Rodrigues, POR (43pts)

RS:X Women

1. Marina Alabau, ESP (18pts)
2. Zofia Klepacka, POL (20pts)
3. Blanca Manchon, ESP (28pts)

470 Men

- 1 Onan Barreiros-Aaron Sarmiento, ESP (26pts)
- 2 Stuart McNay-Graham Biehl, USA (34pts)
- 3 Matthias Schmid-Florian Reichstaedter, AUT (44pts)

470 Women

1. Henriette Koch-Lene Sommer, DEN (22pts)
2. Erin Maxwell-Isabelle Kinsolving, USA (26pts)
3. Molly Carapiet-Molly O'Bryan Vandemoer, USA (40pts)

Final results - Paralympic Classes

Sonar

1. John Robertson-Hannah Stodel-Alex Wang-Hansen, GBR (20pts)
2. Paul Callahan-Roger Cleworth-Tom Brown, USA (29pts)
3. Rick Doerr-Maureen McKinnon-Tucker-Hugh Freund, USA (30pts)

SKUD-18

1. Scott Whitman-Julia Dorsett, USA (10pts)
2. John McRoberts-Brenda Hopkin, CAN (28pts)
3. Niki Birrell-Alexandra Rickham, GBR (35pts)

2.4mR

- 1 Allan Leibel, CAN (23pts)
- 2 Damien Seguin, FRA (31pts)
- 3 Paul Tingley, CAN (42pts)

GBR

- 9 Megan Pascoe (82pts)

ENDS

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