

RYA Press Release

17 April 2008

Eight Brits named for Buzios ISAF Youth Worlds



RYA Volvo Team GBR sailors selected for the 2009 Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships. Back l-r Dominic Tidey (coach), Steve Irish (coach), Oscar McVeigh, Hannah Tilley, Rosie Sibthorp, Ben Gratton, Duncan Truswell (RYA Youth Racing Manager). Front l-r Ali Masters, Izzy Hamilton, Rebecca Kalderon, Philip Sparks
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As the curtain came down on the 2009 RYA Volvo Youth National Championships and Trials today (Friday 17 April), selectors unveiled eight of the 10 RYA Volvo Team GBR sailors who will compete at the 2009 Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships in Brazil this July.

No fewer than seven of the selected sailors will be making their ISAF Youth Worlds debuts at the event being staged in Buzios between 9-18 July while windsurfer Izzy Hamilton is a Youth Worlds 'veteran', having competed at last year's Championships in Arhus, Denmark.

With the 420 replacing the 29er as the double-handed boat for 2009, Philip Sparks and Ben Gratton will do battle for Britain in the boys' event while Rebecca Kalderon and Rosie Sibthorp take the baton for the girls.

For the 16-year-olds Sparks and Gratton, from Christchurch and Guildford respectively, selection marks a fantastic year which has seen them assert themselves firmly at the front of the British 420 fleet. The pair followed up their national class title win last August with RYA Volvo Youth National glory at Largs this week, not scoring anything lower than second in any of their six races.

Wimbledon's Kalderon and Sibthorp from Thames Ditton, both 17, also make their Youth Worlds debut in Brazil having consolidated their position as Britain's leading

female 420 pairing with RYA Volvo Youth Nationals victory. In 2008 the pair enjoyed a triumphant clean sweep of the Youth girls' 420 class National, End of Season and Inland championship titles.

The Radial is the single-person boat for both the boys and girls in Brazil and Britain's representatives in each will be 18-year-old Oscar McVeigh from Southfields, and Llandenny's Hannah Tilley, who at 15 will be the youngest member of RYA Volvo Team GBR.

Wimbledon Park SC's McVeigh enjoyed a fruitful week in Largs going one better than the Laser Radial silver he claimed at the 2008 Youth Nationals this time last year at Pwllheli by being crowned RYA Volvo Youth National boys' Radial champion for 2009.

ISAF Youth Worlds selection is an added bonus for Llandegfedd SC's Tilley who will also be representing RYA Team GBR at the Laser 4.7 Worlds also being staged at Buzios the week after the ISAF Youth Worlds. Tilley is a former Topper sailor who has only recently started sailing the Radial and capped her RYA Volvo Youth Nationals debut with the top girls' prize.

Holsworthy's Izzy Hamilton will be looking to make the podium on her second ISAF Youth Worlds outing having successfully defended her RYA Youth Nationals title in Largs. The 16-year-old was part of Britain's 2008 ISAF Youth Worlds Volvo Trophy-winning team – for the top performing nation - in Denmark last July, finishing sixth in the girls' RS:X event.

For Ali Masters, selection will come as a boost after the 17-year-old picked up his second consecutive RYA Youth Nationals silver medal in Largs. Masters and new RS:X Youth National champion George Bowles finished tied on exactly the same points and with exactly the same scores from their five races with Bowles landing the top place on account of beating Masters in the fifth, and what turned out to be final, race at the severely wind-disrupted regatta.

However, RS:X European Youth silver medallist Masters, got the nod from the selectors after they referred to the results from the secondary indicator event – RYA Spring Series I – at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy in March, where Masters won the RS:X 8.5 Open event.

The selection trials for the Hobie 16 catamaran class will take place at Eurocat in Carnac (1-3 May).

Once again RYA Volvo Team GBR will be supported by Musto while all selections are subject to the sailors meeting an agreed performance programme.

Ben Oakley, Chairman of Selectors, said: "This has been an extremely challenging week for the sailors and organisers with some variable conditions, particularly in the only Radial gold fleet race. However, in trying to be more transparent in our selection process we have largely followed the results and we have a good blend of experienced faces and newcomers to the team.

"The broader decisions about RYA Volvo National Youth Squad selections have aimed to recognise the potential of younger up-and-coming sailors in addition to recognised performers."

For full results and information from the 2009 RYA Volvo Youth National Championships and Trials, visit www.ryaracingevents.org.uk

RYA Volvo Team GBR squad for 2009, Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships, Buzios, Brazil (9-18 July):

420:

Boys: Philip Sparks / Ben Gratton

Girls: Rebecca Kalderon / Rosie Sibthorp

RS:X:

Boys: Ali Masters

Girls: Izzy Hamilton

Laser Radial:

Boys: Oscar McVeigh

Girls: Hannah Tilley

SL16:

Trials to take place at Eurocat event (1-3 May).

Ends

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