



## RYA Press Release

27 January 2010

### British sailors continue their march at Miami mid-way stage



Nic Asher-Elliot Willis (470 Men) – credit Richard Langdon/Skandia Team GBR.

Wednesday (27 January) saw the halfway point of the Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta, with Skandia Team GBR's sailors occupying podium spots across seven classes heading in to the business end of the event.

Defending Finn Champion Ed Wright, Lucy Macgregor's match racing crew and two-time 470 World Champions Nic Asher and Elliot Willis lead their respective fleets, while development squad sailor Alison Young proved a solid performer, advancing to second in the Laser Radial fleet thanks to a race win and a fourth for her efforts today.

Conditions proved testing out in Biscayne Bay on Wednesday, with many positions changing in the shifty winds.

Ed Wright, who won this ISAF Sailing World Cup regatta and the overall World Cup series last year, leapfrogged his Skandia Team GBR teammate Giles Scott to the top of the Finn leaderboard, with 1,4,1 from the three races held.

Although contented with his performance today, Wright knows there's still a lot of work to be done if he's to remain in the running at the end of the week.

"It was tricky out there today, so I was happy to come away with three good results," Wright explained.

"Looking ahead to the next couple of days, it's pretty tough work out there so anything could happen. I'm not banking on anything just yet!"

Giles Scott had a consistent day with three third places enough to keep him in the top three in second position, just three points behind Wright.

Lucy Macgregor, Annie Lush and Ally Martin are now the only team to remain unbeaten in the Elliot 6m women's match racing event. Having already booked their berth in the quarter-finals yesterday, the trio were looking to stay in control in the gold group round-robin in order to gain a favourable seeding for their quarter-final match.

They continued their confident run on Wednesday, beating strong opposition in the form of Nicky Souter (AUS), Samantha Osborne (NZL) and Anna Tunnicliffe (USA) to remain in control, with world number one Claire Leroy (FRA) and Sally Barkow, whom Macgregor beat in the preliminary group stage, still to face before knowing their quarter-finals opponent.

Skandia Team GBR's 470 crews enjoyed mixed fortunes today, with former World Champions Nic Asher and Elliot Willis assuming the top spot thanks to two race wins and a fourth place. Luke Patience and Stuart Bithell couldn't quite match their opening day's scorecard with 25,14,18 seeing them into 11<sup>th</sup> place overnight, while Phil Sparks – crowned YJA Pantaenius Young Sailor of the Year earlier this month – and crew Chris Grube continued to post some impressive results in their first Grade 1 regatta together. With two tenth places and a fourth on Wednesday, they're hovering just below Patience and Bithell in 12<sup>th</sup> at the halfway stage.

Skandia Team GBR's crews in the Paralympic Sonar and SKUD classes advanced up the standings, with John Robertson, Hannah Stodel and Steve Thomas now in second overall in the Sonar event, and Alexandra Rickham and Niki Birrell occupying the same position in the SKUD class. World Cup series winner Megan Pascoe is the leading Skandia Team GBR sailor in the 2.4mR Paralympic event.



Alexandra Rickham and Niki Birrell (SKUD) – credit Richard Langdon/Skandia Team GBR.

In the Laser class, overnight leader Nick Thompson slipped one place in the overall standings to second, with a 23,13 from today, while development squad sailor Alison Young found favour in the shifty conditions to pick up a race win and a fourth, which boosts her into the silver medal spot at this halfway stage.

In the windsurfing events, Nick Dempsey is in seventh overall, Bryony Shaw is fifth, Sarah Ayton and Saskia Clark are 15<sup>th</sup> in the 470 Women's event, and Dave Evans-Ed Powys remain inside the top ten in the 49er fleet, picking up 2,18,5 from their three races on Wednesday.

Racing at the Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta will continue on Thursday (28 January) in all 10 Olympic and three Paralympic classes.

For the latest news and information, visit [www.skandiateamgbr.com](http://www.skandiateamgbr.com) or follow us on Twitter (@skandiateamgbr) for race updates during the regatta.

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