



Victory for Payne Hicks Beach Clients at Sail for Gold

13 June 2011

Richard Butcher, head of dispute resolution and sports, reviews the action at the Sail for Gold regatta in Weymouth.

Team GBR continued to rule the waves at the Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta which finished in Weymouth on 11 June. Once the top ten results were totaled GBR finished with 42 points followed by France on 120 and New Zealand on 143.

Britain has no less than five sailors among the world top ten rankings in the Finn class. Going into the last race Payne Hicks Beach client Ben Ainslie could only be beaten by fellow Brit Giles Scott and he made sure that was not going to happen. They finished in the last two places in their final race making Ben victorious overall followed by Giles with another PHB client, Ed Wright, in fourth spot.

It was also a wonderful victory for Nick Dempsey in the RS:X Windsurfer class. His wife Sarah Ayton (victorious in Athens and Beijing) retired from Olympic competition earlier this year and so her crew Saskia Clark teamed up with the diminutive Hannah Mills. They seem to have mastered a conceived vulnerability in the heavier breezes and beat many of the top guard to finish second in the Women's 470 Class, a magnificent achievement for such a young pairing.

Other clients also secured selection for the test event to be held in Weymouth in late July. Paul Goodison saw off a challenge by fellow Brit Nick Thompson when finishing third in the Lasers. Nick Rogers, second in Beijing and recently returned to the 470 class, finished fourth with Luke Patience and Stuart Bithell in sixth, who are also clients of the firm.

It was not such a good regatta from Bryony Shaw who finished eight overall in the Women's Windsurfer but a victory in the final medal race should be a huge confidence boost.

Iain Percy and Bart Simpson finished fifth in the Star class and Stevie Morrison and Ben Rhodes achieved a bronze in the ultra competitive 49er with John Pink and Rick Peacock in fifth.

All eyes are now on the test event with each nation only allowed one competitor per class. The selectors followed the Sail for Gold results in choosing our team, a significant factor in leading to selection for the main event next year. They have yet to announce when the team will be selected but in the classes where there is no obvious candidate they may leave it well into next year.

If you would like more information about our sports capability please contact Richard Butcher on 020 7465 4300 or email rbutcher@phb.co.uk