



## ‘Sail for Gold’ hits the headlines in the build-up to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

If you have picked up a newspaper over the past week, you cannot have missed this iconic photograph of five Skandia Team GBR sailors clad only in gold paint and Union Jacks. These stunning photographs are dedicated to Skandia Team GBR’s mantra, ‘Sail for Gold’, which Andrew McIndoe of Hillier Nurseries has taken as the inspiration for this year’s Hillier Chelsea Garden.



Ranald Mackechnie/Skandia Team GBR

The blanket coverage of the sailors’ Golden ambitions for the 2008 Olympic Sailing Regatta in Qingdao this August has raised the profile of Britain’s most successful Olympic sport in the run-up to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show later this month.

**Thirteen Skandia Team GBR sailors will be taking time out of their precious training schedules to launch the Hillier ‘Sail for Gold’ Garden in Chelsea’s Great Pavilion on Press Day.**

They will be amazed by the way Andrew McIndoe has cleverly woven the ‘Sail for Gold’ theme into the design of the garden, from the sails that cloak the Monument and the wave-like pathway that wends its way through the exhibit to the patriotic planting and circular pavours in gold, silver and bronze.

Showing their desire to win Gold at the 2008 Olympic Sailing Regatta in Qingdao this August, five members of Skandia Team GBR selected to compete at the Beijing Games, took precious time out of their intense training schedules to be photographed in this iconic ‘golden sailors’ photo shoot. The exclusive photos are dedicated to Skandia Team GBR’s mantra, ‘Sail for Gold’. The stunning images are a result of 19 hours of photography by Ranald Mackechnie, and over nine hours spent in make-up with body painting specialist Phyllis Cohen.

*Pictured in the attached ‘Golden Sailors’ image from left to right are: Skandia Team GBR Sailors Bryony Shaw, Women’s RS:X class / Iain Percy MBE, Star Class / Saskia Clark & Christina Bassadone, Women’s 470 class / Leigh McMillan, Tornado class. Iain Percy won gold in the Finn class in Sydney 2000, whilst windsurfer Bryony Shaw won gold at last year’s pre-Olympic regatta at Qingdao. Saskia Clark and Christina Bassadone joined forces after the Athens Olympics and have since won silver and bronze medals at the World Championships.*

Skandia Team GBR is the team from which the British sailors competing in the Olympic and Paralympic classes are selected. Sailing is Britain’s most successful Olympic sport. Having earned five sailing medals in

Sydney and five in Athens, Great Britain is also the world's top sailing nation, having achieved a total of 45 medals within the sport of sailing, with more golds than any other nation. The forthcoming 29<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games, in which our athletes will be sailing for gold, will be held in Beijing from 8<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and is set to be a testing sailing venue, famously known for light wind conditions and tricky tides.

For more information on Skandia Team GBR please visit: [www.skandiateamgbr.com](http://www.skandiateamgbr.com).

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