



‘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.

CHELSEA PHOTOCALL FOR SKANDIA TEAM GBR:

Date: Monday, 19 May 2008
Time: 10.30am
Location: on the Hillier ‘Sail for Gold’ Garden at GPD14, the Monument site in the Great Pavilion
Sailors: Andrew Simpson, Ben Rhodes, Bryony Shaw, Christina Bassadone, Iain Percy, Joe Glanfield, Leigh McMillan, Nick Dempsey, Nick Rogers, Ben Ainslie, Saskia Clark, Stevie Morrison and Will Howden

STAY AND MEET THE TEAM:

Andrew McIndoe of Hillier Nurseries and Garden Centres invites you and your colleagues to meet Skandia Team GBR, sponsor Skandia and the Hillier Chelsea team at the official launch of the Hillier ‘Sail for Gold’ Garden from 11am to 12pm on Press Day, Monday 19 May.

The Original Skandia Team GBR News Release reads.....

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 29th Olympic Games, in which our athletes will be sailing for gold, will be held in Beijing from 8th - 24th 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.

Images free for editorial use - Please credit Ranald Mackechnie/Skandia Team GBR

Contacts

For further information on the Hillier 'Sail for Gold' exhibit and hi-res images of the garden, please contact:

Liz Anderson	Tel: 01952 501594	Mobile: 07976 061 092	Email: liz@lizanderson.co.uk
Andrew McIndoe	Tel: 01794 369 061		Email: AndyMcIndoe@hillier.co.uk

For further information on Skandia Team GBR and hi-res images of the sailors, please contact:

Lindsey Bell	Tel: 02380 604216	Mobile: 07900 570530	Email: lindsey.bell@rya.org.uk
--------------	-------------------	----------------------	---