



VOLVO : DRIVING BRITISH SAILING

PRESS RELEASE

Volvo Car UK Introduce Match Race Girls to Team Volvo for life sponsorship

Britain's leading Olympic Women's Match Racing team, led by skipper Lucy Macgregor, today revealed their excitement at being unveiled as Volvo Car UK's newest Team Volvo for Life sponsored sailors. The Poole-based trio of Lucy Macgregor, her sister Kate and Annie Lush are the reigning ISAF Women's World Match Racing champions, are currently ranked number three in the World and are among the favourites for Olympic medal glory at next year's London 2012 games.

Women's Match Racing is a new edition to the Olympics for 2012, but Lucy and Annie are certainly not newcomers to Olympic sailing having undertaken a Yngling campaign with double Olympic gold medallist, Shirley Robertson, for Beijing 2008. Kate brings additional talent to the team with her successful background in youth sailing including a gold medal at the Youth Olympic Festival in 2007 and two 420 ladies Nationals World Championship titles.

Having narrowly missed out on selection on that occasion, 24-year-old Lucy is relishing the opportunity to put that right in Weymouth next year with Volvo Car UK's backing.

She said: *"We are really excited to be working with Volvo Car UK again. Having worked together in our previous campaign with Shirley Robertson we know how valuable their support is and feel this is a massive boost for us in our quest for Olympic success in Weymouth 2012."*

In becoming Team Volvo for Life sailors, the girls join fellow Skandia Team GBR team-mates Ben Ainslie, Paul Goodison, Nick Dempsey, Helena Lucas and Saskia Clark/Hannah Mills in receiving Volvo Car UK support. Duncan Forester, Head of Public Affairs, Events and Sponsorship for Volvo Car UK said: *"Volvo Car UK is pleased to welcome the Match Racing Girls to our Sailing portfolio. It's a privilege to be working with such an inspirational group of athletes and we hope our backing will enable them to attain their ultimate goal, Gold at London 2012."*

The girls have recently returned from Palma where they finished 7th at the Princess Sofia Regatta. The regatta was their second ISAF World Cup Series event of the year, having finished fourth in Miami in January. Palma made a welcome return to racing for Annie who was forced to sit out of Miami after falling 10ft off the girls' Elliott 6m boat while ashore and sustaining head, facial and hand injuries.

The next big focus for the girls will be Hyeres, France 23rd-29th April followed by Skandia Sail for Gold in Weymouth and Portland in June. However in terms of their 2012 preparations, Annie admits it is the Test Event at the Olympic venue in August that their focus is really on this year.

She added: *"That would be the one event we would love to win this year; it would prove we could win in the most high stress situation and it is the event that assimilates most closely to the Olympic Regatta, which of course is the ultimate goal."*

Follow the Team Volvo for life sailors' progress as they head to 2012 here <http://www.volvocars.co.uk/sailing>
Post your message of support and sign up for the updates on <http://www.facebook.com/VolvoCarsSailing>
Follow the Match Race Girls at <http://www.matchracegirls.com/>

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Editors Notes:

Team Volvo for life and Volvo sailing sponsorship programme

Volvo Car UK has been a key sponsor of British sailing since 1999, supporting everything from youth development at grass roots through to Britain's top sailors at the pinnacle of the sport.

Volvo has invested in a group of top inspirational British athletes under the banner of Team Volvo for life since 2001 winning 6 Olympic medals, (4 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze) since Volvo started their support.

- Athens 2004

- Ben Ainslie – gold medal in the Finn class

- Shirley Robertson, Sarah Ayton and Sarah Webb – gold medal in the Yngling class

- Chris Draper and Simon Hiscocks – bronze medal in the 49er class

- Beijing 2008

- Ben Ainslie – gold medal in the Finn class

- Paul Goodison – gold medal in the Laser class

- Nick Rogers and Joe Glanfield – silver medal in the 470 class

Volvo supports the RYA Volvo Youth Squad, the RYA Volvo Youth National Championships along with all nine RYA Volvo Zone and Home Country Championships and the Volvo RYA Champion Club programme along with the annual Volvo RYA Dinghy Show. Outside of the RYA they support the Optimist class which is a rearing-ground for young sailing hopefuls, giving them the opportunity to compete in sponsored events right across the UK.

Volvo is also a bronze sponsor of Skandia Team GBR. Great Britain is the world's top Olympic Classes sailing nation with the British team sailors topping the medal table at the past three Olympic Games in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Match Race Girls

The GBR Match Race Girls are one of the top International Women's Match Racing Teams and are determined to represent Great Britain in this exciting new Olympic sailing discipline in 2012. Having gained National, European and World Championship titles, and rapidly risen through the ranks to lead the World Rankings, Lucy Macgregor, Annie Lush and Kate Macgregor are a promising prospect for the future of British Sailing.

<http://www.matchracegirls.com/>