

Eastern Region sailors top at National Championships

A plethora of medals were won by Eastern Region young sailors at the recent RYA Volvo Youth National Championships, held on the waters of Weymouth and Portland. Details....



Colchester's Martin Evans (18) struck gold while Ipswich's Rheanna Pavey (16) picked up a silver medal at this year's prestigious and highly competitive RYA Volvo National Youth Championships held last week. After leading for most of the event Rheanna was beaten for the gold by the narrowest of margins in the singled-handed Laser Radial class on the final day.

Wickham Market's James Hayward (18) and Tim Carter (17), both members of Waldringfield SC, picked up bronze medals in the boy's 420 class. Colchester's Rupert White and Michael Conlon along with West Mersea's Alice Kent picked up medals at this year's prestigious and highly competitive RYA Volvo National Youth Championships last week.

Held on the 2012 Olympic waters of Weymouth and Portland, the event saw over 320 of Britain's best up-and-coming sailors and windsurfers go head-to-head over five days to land youth national titles as well as selection on to the RYA Volvo National Youth Squad with the added opportunity of securing funding for major international sailing regattas this season. During the event competitors battled with a wide range of fast changing conditions from challenging high winds earlier in the week to tricky light shifty winds in the latter part of the week.



Martin Evans (18) won gold in the highly competitive under 19 (U19) single-handed Laser Standard class.

Rupert White (16) and his crew Michael Conlon (18) pictured here on the right, took the silver in the Spitfire catamaran class while Alice Kent (17) helmed her 29er high performance dinghy to a hard fought bronze position. Rupert has something of a family tradition to



uphold as his grandfather West Mersea-based Reg White won an Olympic gold in Canada with his crew Steve Ollie in the Tornado catamaran class. Reg and Steve went on to perform in Open 40 class cats.

Martin Evans commented: “I feel really good. I was a bit disappointed not to be on the under 21 podium this year after coming second on the under 19 podium last year. The competition was tough this year so overall I’m satisfied with my performance.

“Currently I’m on Skandia Team GBR’s Development Squad programme training alongside the Olympic sailors. I hope to continue my winning streak competing at the Junior Worlds held in the UK this year and the Europeans in Poland. Then hopefully progressing to the seniors.”

RYA Youth Racing Manager Duncan Truswell said: “It was a really testing week for the sailors in terms of the quality of competition and the conditions, so to have landed a medal at the event and kept their results consistent under immense pressure throughout the week is a most impressive achievement. These sailors are definitely future sailing stars in the making.” As the premier annual racing event for Youth sailors, previous RYA Youth National Champions have included three-time Olympic gold medallist Ben Ainslie, Beijing 2008 Yngling gold medal winners Sarah Ayton and Pippa Wilson and Skandia Team GBR’s double World Champion 470 helm Nic Asher from Oulton Broad.

For more information and full event results visit www.ryaracingevents.org.uk/youthnationals

