

GB HAS NAMED CREWS TO RACE THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND 2012 QUALIFIERS

The GB Rowing Team, sponsored by Siemens, has today named its crews to race at the World Championships in Bled, Slovenia, from August 28 - September 4, 2011.

This year the World Championships double as the main Olympic and Paralympic qualifying regatta.

Four GB crews, from the lottery-backed squad, will go to Bled as world cup finals gold medallists with the team having also won four silvers and two bronzes at the event in Lucerne, Switzerland, nine days ago. They are the women's double scull and pair as well as both the open and lightweight men's fours.

"Lucerne was an excellent curtain-raiser for the World Championships", said David Tanner, the GB Rowing Team Performance Director.

"We had some great performances which we would hope to carry through as the competition steps up".

Katherine Grainger and Anna Watkins, coached by Paul Thompson, the Chief Coach for Women and Lightweights, are defending World Champions in the double scull and were unbeaten in 2010 across three world cups.

The lightweight men's four were also crowned World Champions on New Zealand's Lake Karapiro in November. They will return to that 2010 line-up in Bled if Chris Bartley's selection is ratified - after the appropriate medical and performance tests between now and the Championships - so that he can join Richard Chambers, Paul Mattick and Rob Williams.

Bartley was replaced in Lucerne by Peter Chambers, brother of Richard, allowing the siblings to race and win together for the first time in their careers.

Britain also has a very valid medal hope in the women's pair of Helen Glover and Heather Stanning who broke through in New Zealand to take silver behind the host nation and whose Lucerne gold included a victory over the Kiwis. Both have been nurtured into the sport on a fast-track through the "Start" programme, which is Siemens-backed and lottery-funded.

Matt Langridge, Ric Egington, Tom James and Alex Gregory were on top of their game in Lucerne, dominating their field to win men's four gold. Today they headline the names announced in a totally unchanged open men's squad.

James said their performance in Lucerne contained "no fireworks" and that they knew that other nations could well change their line-ups for the Worlds which would, he felt, would be a much tougher event.

Men's Chief Coach Jurgen Grobler has gone for a settled line-up in the men's eight by naming an identical crew, coxed by Phelan Hill and stroked by Dan Ritchie, to that which won silver at the Munich world cup in May and bronze in Lucerne as well as being a very similar to the crew that won silver at the Worlds in 2010.

Pete Reed and Andrew Triggs Hodge, coached by Grobler, will continue their odyssey in the men's pair in an event which is currently dominated by New Zealand with the GB duo, both Olympic gold medallists in the men's four from

Beijing, their nearest challengers alongside the recently re-formed Canadian Olympic silver medal pairing.

Three scullers who are recovering from illness or injury have been named in the team and are all subject to the same process as Bartley before their selection is ratified. Alan Campbell is named in the men's single scull and Zac Purchase in the lightweight men's double scull. Frances Houghton, multiple former world champion and twice Olympic silver medallist, is under consideration to join the quad scull which won World gold last year on New Zealand's Lake Karapiro in November.

Houghton raced in New Zealand with double Olympic silver medalist Debbie Flood, 2008 silver medallist Annabel Vernon and Beth Rodford. Melanie Wilson has joined this top group of scullers in 2011 and won world cup gold in the double scull in Munich with Grainger when Watkins was injured. All five have been named today in a group that will eventually race as both a quad and single in Bled.

The GB Rowing team's men's sculling line-up for Bled shows the progress made in this area of the sport in the past six years. All three crews could be medal contenders with Campbell as well as Matthew Wells and Marcus Bateman, in the double scull, already having savoured a World Championships podium finish last year.

Wells is also an Olympic bronze medallist from Beijing and the men's quadruple scull showed their potential once more by taking silver in Lucerne, defeating the reigning World Champions in the process. The quad features Well's Beijing double scull crew-mate Stephen Rowbotham with Sam Townsend, Bill Lucas and Tom Solesbury.

Britain's women's eight just fell short of the Lucerne podium and the eight rowers who competed there are now part of a group of nine plus cox Caroline O'Connor who are subject to further internal trials.

Britain also have strength in depth amongst its third Olympic class lightweight boat, the women's double scull. Here Hester Goodsell and Sophie Hosking have already won world cup gold and silver this year but know they have a fight on their hands with Canada, the reigning world champions, who beat them in Lucerne.

The GB Rowing Team once more takes a strong contingent of adaptive rowers to Bled including reigning World and Paralympic single scull champion, Tom Aggar, in a squad coached by Tom Dyson and Mary McLachlan and managed by Louise Kingsley.

Army Captain Nick Beighton races the mixed adaptive double scull with Sam Scowen and Britain fields a strong mixed adaptive coxed four coxed by Lily van den Broecke and featuring Dave Smith who has come back from major neck surgery to win a place in the boat.

Finally the GB Rowing Team will also field two International class contenders in Adam Freeman Pask in the lightweight single scull plus a lightweight women's quadruple scull.

Other boats may be added to the GB contingent in the international classes nearer the event dependent on performances at the World U23 championships.

GB ROWING TEAM CREW-LISTS

2011 World Rowing Championships, sponsored by Samsung August 28 - September 4,
2011 (listed bow to stroke plus cox)

OPEN

WOMEN

Helen Glover (Minerva Bath/Penzance/17.06.86)/ Heather Stanning (Army
RC/Lossiemouth/26.01.85)

Coach: Robin Williams

Women's eight from these nine plus cox:

Jo Cook (Leander Club/Sunbury-on-Thames/22.03.84)/ Jessica Eddie (Univ of
London BC/Durham/07.10.84)/ Alison Knowles (Thames RC/Bournemouth/27.03.82)/
Lindsey Maguire (Wallingford RC/Edinburgh/15.01.82)/ Natasha Page (Gloucester
RC/Hartpury/30.04.85)/ Louisa Reeve (Leander Club/London/16.05.84)/ Katie
Solesbury (Leander Club/Oxford/02.09.82)/ Emily Taylor
(Leander/Lincoln/28.06.87)/ Victoria Thornley (Leander Club/Wrexham/30.11.87)/
Caroline O'Connor (cox) (Oxford Brookes Univ BC/Ealing, London/25.04.83)

Coach: Nick Strange

Double scull

Anna Watkins (Leander Club/Leek, Staffs/13.02.83)/ Katherine Grainger (St.
Andrew BC/Aberdeen/12.11.75)

Coach: Paul Thompson

Quadruple scull - four from these five. The non-quad selection will race the
women's single scull:

Debbie Flood (Leander Club/Guiseley/27.02.80)/ Frances Houghton
(Leander/Oxford/19.09.80) - STM/ Beth Rodford (Gloucester
RC/Gloucester/28.02.82)/ Annabel Vernon (Leander Club/Wadebridge/01.09.82)/
Melanie Wilson (Imperial College BC/London/25.06.84)/

Coach: Ade Roberts

OPEN

MEN

Pair

Pete Reed (Leander Club/Nailsworth, Glos/27.07.81)/ Andrew Triggs Hodge
(Molesey BC/Hebden, N. Yorks/03.03.79)

Coach: Jürgen Grobler

Four

Matthew Langridge (Leander Club /Northwich/20.05.83)/ Richard Egington
(Leander Club/Knutsford/26.02.79)/ Tom James (Molesey BC/Wrexham/11.03.84)/
Alex Gregory (Leander Club /Wormington, Glos/11.03.84)

Coach: John West

Eight

Alex Partridge (Leander Club /Alton, Hants/25.01.81)/ James Foad (Molesey
BC/Southampton/20.03.87)/ Cameron Nichol (Molesey BC/Glastonbury/26.06.87)/
Nathaniel Reilly O'Donnell (Univ of London BC/Durham/13.04.88)/ Mohamed Sbihi
(Molesey BC/Surbiton/27.03.88)/ Greg Searle (Molesey BC/Marlow/20.03.72)/ Tom
Ransley (York City RC/Cambridge/06.09.85)/ Daniel Ritchie (Leander Club/Herne
Bay/06.01.87)/ Phelan Hill (cox) (Leander Club/Bedford/21.07.79)

Coach: Christian Felkel

Single scull

Alan Campbell (Tideway Scullers/Coleraine/09.05.83) - STM

Double scull

Matthew Wells (Leander Club/Hexham, Northumberland/19.04.79)/ Marcus Bateman
(Leander Club/Torquay/16.09.82)

Coach: Mark Earnshaw

Quadruple scull

Tom Solesbury (Leander Club/Petts Wood, Kent/23.09.80)/ Stephen Rowbotham
(Leander Club/Winscombe, Somerset/11.11.81)/ Bill Lucas (London
RC/Kingswear/13.09.87)/ Sam Townsend (Reading Univ BC/Reading/26.11.85)

Coach: Mark Banks

LIGHTWEIGHT

WOMEN

Double scull

Hester Goodsell (Imperial College BC/London/27.06.84)/ Sophie Hosking (London
RC/Wimbledon/25.01.86)

Quadruple scull

Steph Cullen (London RC/Bury, Lancs/27.11.80)/ Imogen Walsh (London
RC/Inverness/17.01.84)/ Kathryn Twyman (OUWBC/Edmonton, Canada/29.03.87)/
Andrea Dennis (Imperial College BC/Oxford/03.01.82)/

Coach: Ben Reed

LIGHTWEIGHT

MEN

Four

Richard Chambers (Leander Club /Coleraine/10.06.85)/ Chris Bartley (Leander/Wrexham/02.02.84) - STM/ Paul Mattick (Leander Club /Frome, Somerset/25.04.78)/ Rob Williams (London RC/Maidenhead/21.01.85)/

Coach: Rob Morgan

Single scull

Adam Freeman-Pask (Imperial College BC/Windsor/19.06.85)

Coach: Darren Whiter

Double scull

Zac Purchase (Marlow RC/Tewkesbury/02.05.86) - STM/ Mark Hunter (Leander Club /Romford, Essex/01.07.78)

Coach: Darren Whiter

ADAPTIVES

MEN

Arms & shoulders single scull (ASM1x)

Tom Aggar (Royal Docks RC/London/24.05.84)

Coach: Tom Dyson

Trunk & arms mixed double scull (TAMix2x)

Nick Beighton (Guildford RC/Yateley/29.09.81)/ Sam Scowen (Dorney BC/Wokingham/29.10.87)

Coach: Tom Dyson

Legs, trunk & arms mixed coxed four (LTAMix4+)

Pamela Relph (Birmingham Uni BC/Aylesbury/14.11.89)/ Naomi Riches (Marlow RC/Harrow/15.06.83)/ James Roe (Stratford upon Avon BC/ Stratford upon Avon/28.03.88)/ David Smith (Reading Uni BC/Dunfermline/21.04.78)/ Lily van den Broecke (cox) (Headington School BC/Oxford/08.01.92)

Coach: Mary McLachlan

SUPPORT STAFF

Performance:

Team Manager: David Tanner

Chief Coach Men: Jürgen Grobler

Chief Coach Women & Lightweights: Paul Thompson Assistant Team Manager (Adaptive): Louise Kingsley

Medical & Sports Science:

Doctor: Ann Redgrave
Lead Physio: Mark Edgar
Physios: Liz Arnold, Sally Brown
Psychologist: Chris Shambrook
Physiologists: Craig Williams
Nutritionist: Wendy Martinson

Media/Admin/Logistics:

Assistant Team Manager (admin): Maggie Netto Resources Manager: Maurice Hayes
Boatman: John Tetley
Sponsorship Liaison: Fran Bullock
Press Officer: Caroline Searle