

o,

International 49er Class Associations

Jerelyn Biehl
www.49er.org
www.49erworlds.org

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

SEIKO 49er Worlds - London Bound

Although the forecast of 12-15 knots didn't quite materialize for the day, nothing could have been better for the five teams that have now qualified their countries for the 2012 Olympics in Weymouth this August. The lighter winds once again provided a great theatre for the skiffs and their boat handling skills as they fought around the track jockeying for places. At the end of the qualifying series the following countries have punched their ticket to Weymouth; Bermuda with Jesse and Zander Kirkland in 8th; Japan's Yuko Makino and Kenji Takahasi in 22nd; Canada's Gordon Cook and Hunter Lowden in 23rd; Dionisis Dimou and Mihalios Pateniotis of Greece in 24th and rounding out the Gold fleet, Pietro and Gianfranco Sibello of Italy in 25th.

Regatta leaders Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen (AUS) turned on the heat today with a 1-1-2 sailing their distinctive purple kite to the front of the fleet. Tobias Schadewaldt and Hannes Baumann (GER) sit 5 points behind. Hannes commented that they had "light conditions, not that breezy with around 5-9 knots. We scored an 8th in first race and managed to win the next race; had a short lunch and went back out. We went out to Course B and we thought we'd have much more wind and would pick up like yesterday, but it didn't. But we had lovely sailing, just beautiful," he said with a huge smile.

When asked about the competition on the race course, he continued saying, "The nations that are qualified (for the Olympics) I think they are racing quite similar to normal racing. Those countries that are aiming for one of the open spots are pretty tense and fighting pretty hard." His strategy for the finals? "Going into the finals the gold fleet racing is always more intense and more tight with 25 boats in the fleet so we are looking forward to it and try to be as good as we can."

The forecast for tomorrow is for 8-12 knots and once again, clear skies.

Follow the action on www.49erworlds.org. The final series begins Thursday with the prizegiving held on May 12.

Photos by Nikola Sisko

Photo 6515: Germany's Tobias Schadewaldt & Hannes Baumann

Photo 5941: Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen (AUS)

Photo 6606: 49er Fleet start

Photo 6667: Peter Burling & Blair Tuke (NZL)

About Seiko

SEIKO has been the main sponsor of the International 49er Class since 2006. Through this agreement, SEIKO has assisted the growth of the sport and has supported the future development of the 49er sailing through the supply of funds and equipment to the new generation of sailors. In return, SEIKO has gained valuable insights into the needs and wishes of the top athletes in world sailing, and is incorporating this knowledge into each new generation of Velatura, its marine watch collection.