



Press Release  
18 May 2010

## **RYANI Sailor Wins Prestigious Eric Twiname Final for Second Year**

Jack Brien, RNIYC, has won the Topper Class in the Eric Twiname Final - the second year A RYA Northern Ireland Squad sailor has done so. Fellow Royal Yachting Association Northern Ireland (RYANI) Junior Squad member Laura Gilmore, SLYC, came in 3<sup>rd</sup> Lady, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> overall.

The Eric Twiname Final took place over 8 - 9 May at Rutland S.C, bringing together the top Junior (U15) sailors from across the nine English Zones and Home Countries in the UK. Eight sailors were selected from the RYANI Junior Topper Squad to represent Northern Ireland at the event and were supported with their coach, Debbie Hanna and Performance Manager, Richard Honeyford.

This win marks the fourth UK National title a RYANI Junior Squad member has won within the last year.

The team of eight RYANI Junior Squad sailors all finished in the top half giving them the best team result to date. Over 320 competitors took part in eight Dinghy and Windsurf classes, with 72 in the Topper Class. The event is the pinnacle of the Junior Training Programmes across the UK and the accumulation of winter training programmes by the relevant squads.

The Northern Ireland squad and the Eric Twiname event are both supported through Sport Northern Ireland funding. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> Eric Twiname Regatta, which has seen all the top GBR Olympic sailors take part in their Junior years, including Ben Ainslie, three times Olympic Gold winner.

For further information visit:

<http://www.sailracer.co.uk/events/event-v2.asp?eventid=50554>

