

Sailing

GB SAILING MEDAL TALLY

Year	G	S	B	Total
1900	4	1	1	6
1908	4	1	1	6
1920	2	0	0	2
1924	0	1	0	1
1932	0	1	0	1
1936	1	0	1	2
1948	1	0	0	1
1952	0	1	0	1
1956	0	1	2	3
1964	0	1	0	1
1968	1	0	1	2
1972	1	1	0	2
1976	1	1	0	2
1984	0	0	1	1
1988	1	0	0	1
1992	0	0	1	1
1996	0	2	0	2
2000	3	2	0	5
2004	2	1	2	5
2008	4	1	0	5
2012	1	3	0	4
Total	26	18	10	54

The United States, with 60 medals, is the most successful sailing nation at the Olympics while Great Britain's haul of 26 is a gold medal record haul.

The most successful individuals are Britain's Ben Ainslie and Denmark's Paul Elvstrøm, each with four golds while Ainslie, Robert Schiedt and Torbe Grael, both of Brazil, have all won a record five medals.

SAILING was known as Yachting until 1996. It was scheduled to be part of the inaugural Olympic programme at Athens in 1896 but severe weather caused the cancellation of all races. It was subsequently held for the first time in 1900 and then again in 1908.

Since then Sailing has been part of every Olympic Games. Great Britain has won a medal at every Games with the exception of 1928, 1960 and 1980 when the British sailing team boycotted the Moscow Olympics.

After Ainslie, Britain's next most successful sailors are Rodney Pattison and Iain Percy, each with two gold medals and one silver.

Team USA was trailing the New Zealand challenger Aotearoa 4-0. That is when Oracle's tactician John Kosteki was replaced by Ben Ainslie. He did not immediately stop the rot, as the score went to 8-1 in the best-of-17. But then Ainslie's tactics were instrumental in Oracle winning eight races in succession and retaining the Cup from a seemingly impossible position.

A few months earlier, Ainslie had been knighted in what he described as the proudest moment of his life. And to then fulfil a lifetime dream to win the America's Cup made 2013 a memorable year for Ben.

Although born in Macclesfield, Cheshire, Ben learned to sail at the age of eight at Rostrouguet in Cornwall where he was brought up. In 1993, at the age of 16, Ben won the Laser Radial world title. Three years later at Atlanta he won an Olympic silver medal in the Laser class.

At Sydney in 2000 he fulfilled a dream by winning the Laser Olympic gold medal after the Brazilian Robert Scheidt was disqualified from the last race but Ainslie had to then endure a two hour wait for the result of an appeal. It was justice for Ainslie who was 'bumped' out of the race by Scheidt four years earlier.

After Sydney he switched from Laser to Finn which involved increasing his body weight and a gruelling training regime in between 2000 and the next Olympics in Athens but it paid off as he won his second gold medal.

Having set his sights on a third Olympic gold medal he went into the Beijing Games with the Finn world title and Finn Gold Cup assured which made him favourite for that Olympic gold which he secured despite a scare, after falling ill shortly before the games.

A fourth Olympic gold on home waters at Weymouth was beyond even Ben's wildest dreams when he started out on his journey as an eight-year-old. But that is exactly what he achieved in front of thousands of adoring fans after a very tense final. Ben was Britain's only sailing gold medallist at the Games. Furthermore, he had the added honour of being Team GB's flag bearer at the opening ceremony and this came after he had the further honour of being the first of the 8,000-plus torch bearers who carried the Olympic torch around Britain in 2012.

He announced his retirement from Olympic sailing and turned his attention to the America's Cup which, as we know he won in remarkable circumstances. But he has one further dream and that is to bring back the America's Cup to Britain for the first time since it left British shores in 1851 and that is why he officially launched Ben Ainslie Racing (BAR) on 10 June 2014. Ben will develop a British entry with the aim of winning sailing's most prestigious trophy for the first time.

Ainslie was the British Yachtsman of the Year outright in 1999, 2002 and 2012 and he shared it with fellow Olympic medallists in 2000, 2004 and 2008. He was awarded the CBE in the 2008 New Year's Honours list and a Knighthood in the 2012 New Year's Honours list having previously been honoured with an MBE in 2000 and OBE in 2004. He also won the ISAF Male Sailor of the Year an unprecedented four times in 1998, 2002, 2008 and 2012..

Ben married sports presenter Georgie Thompson at Hampton Court just before Christmas 2014.

British Sailing Gold Medallists

AINSLIE, CHARLES BENEDICT "Ben"

Born: 5 February 1977, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England
Olympics competed in: 5 (1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

1996 Silver – Sailing – open (Dinghy [Laser])

2000 Gold – Sailing – open (Dinghy [Laser])

2004 Gold – Sailing – men (Dinghy [Finn])

2008 Gold – Sailing – open (Dinghy [Finn])

2012 Gold – Sailing – men (Heavyweight Dinghy [Finn])

Britain's Ben Ainslie is the most successful yachtsman in Olympic history with four gold and one silver medal and he is the first person to win five sailing medals at consecutive Games. He was only the second man after Paul Elvstrøm of Denmark to win four yachting golds.

On top of his four Olympic gold medals, Ben won 11 world and nine European titles. For a man who has won so much, you would not think he could eclipse that, but he did in 2013 when he was the man behind one of the greatest comebacks in world sporting history.

After five races of the 34th America's Cup in San Francisco Bay, the United States defender Oracle

ASPIN, Robert Bain

Born: 21 March 1872, Anderston, Glasgow, Scotland

Died: 27 June 1933, Hunters Quay, Argyllshire (now Argyll and Bute) Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

Robert Aspin was one of the 10-man crew aboard Thomas Glen-Coats' yacht Hera that won the 12-metre class at the 1908 Olympics on the River Clyde.

The son of a varnish manufacturer, Robert Aspin went into the family business. He was a member of the Royal Western Club, and 1926 was elected a member of the Yacht Racing Association but sadly died in 1933 at the age of 61. Ironically he died at Hunters Quay, which was the start and finishing point of his Olympic triumph 25 years earlier. The start of the Clyde Fortnight Races on 29 June 1933 were delayed for one hour because of Aspin's funeral.

NOTE: There is some dispute whether it was Robert Bain Aspin who crewed in 1908 or his brother John Symington. Many trusted sources opt for the former.

AYTON, Sarah Lianne

Born: 9 April 1980, Ashford, Surrey, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2004, 2008)

Olympic medals:

2004 Gold – Sailing – women (Keelboat [Yngling])

2008 Gold – Sailing – women (Keelboat [Yngling])

Sarah Ayton was the youngest crew member of the famously dubbed 'Three Blondes in a Boat' that won the 2004 Olympic gold in the Yngling class at the Athens Games. On that day she partnered Shirley Robertson and Sarah Webb and when she retained her title at Beijing in 2008, Webb was again aboard the winning boat but Pippa Wilson had replaced Shirley Robertson, who had taken time out to start a family.

Ayton married windsurfer Nick Dempsey shortly after the 2008 Beijing Olympics and after starting a family Sarah put her own career on hold while she brought up their two children and this let Nick chase his dream of winning Olympic gold at London 2012, By not competing in 2012 Sarah missed out on the opportunity to become the first British girl to win three consecutive Olympic gold medals. Sadly, Nick could only win silver at the London Games and the couple have since divorced.

Ayton began sailing when a family friend took her to the Queen Mary Sailing Club in Staines when she was six and she started in an Optimist dinghy. As a 14-year-old teenager Sarah Ayton battled with a form of meningitis and septicemia. But she came through that and by the age of 18 she was the British number one and was a silver medalist at the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships in 1998.

Sarah, a patron of Meningitis UK, was awarded the MBE in the 2004 New Year's Honours list and the OBE in 2008.

BINGLEY, Frederick Sparkes Norman

Born: 17 September 1863, London, England

Died: 16 January 1940, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

Norman Bingley was a member of the crew that won the 1908 7-metre gold medal aboard Charles Rivett-Carnac's yacht Heroine.

The son of a wealthy publican, his father Alfred was the landlord of the Brunswick Hotel, Jermyn Street in the City of Westminster. It was at the Brunswick, probably during Alfred's tenure, that Louis Napoleon lived at the hotel under an assumed name, following his escape from captivity in France.

Norman was educated at Brighton College and University College London before he went to Magdalen College Oxford in 1885 where he obtained a BA and MA before being called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1893.

Having spent most of his life in London and Surrey, where he served on the Chessington Parish Council, he moved to Dorset before the outbreak of World War One but retired to Surrey some 20 years later and he died there in 1940.

BELLVILLE, Miles Aubrey

Born: 28 April 1909, Stoughton, Leicestershire, England

Died: 27 October 1980, Bromyard, Herefordshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1936)

Olympic medals:

1936 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

A member of Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Burnham-on-Crouch, Miles Bellville was a member of the crew of Tommy Sopwith's Endeavour that came close to taking the America's Cup in 1934.

Two years later he made up for that disappointment when he was a member of the crew of Lalage which won the 6-metre class for Britain at the Berlin Olympics. Bellville was one of the co-owners of Lalage, with Chris Boardman and Charles Leaf.

Bellville attended Jesus College Cambridge and rowed at University, representing them at the 1930 Henley Royal Regatta.

During World War II he served with the Royal Marines, rising to the rank of Major. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1942 and the MBE a year later.

In his later years he became a Herefordshire farmer and was a county Sheriff in the latter half of the 1960s.

BOARDMAN, Christopher Alan

Born: 11 June 1903, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Died: 29 September 1987, Aylsham, near Norwich, Norfolk, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1936)

Olympic medals:

1936 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

Chris Boardman was the helmsman of the yacht Lalage (pronounced La-La Gee) which won the 6-metre gold medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, and like all his fellow crew members, sailed out of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club. Lalage was built in 1936 by Charles Nicholson and was owned by a syndicate consisting of Boardman and two of his fellow crew members Miles Bellville and Charles Leaf. Lalage was in the silver medal position after the final race but promoted to first place after the Swiss boat YLLIAM II was disqualified.

Two years before his Olympic success, Boardman, Bellville and fellow 1936 crew member Leonard Martin were members of Tommy Sopwith's crew aboard Endeavour that challenged for the America's Cup and, despite winning the first two races in the best-of-seven series, failed to bring the Cup back to Britain, as the Americans won 4-2.

After completing his education, Boardman worked in the family business - Colman's Mustard. His mother Florence was the daughter of Colman's founder, Jeremiah Colman.

During World War II, Chris was an officer with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR).

As part of his 'prize' for winning the Olympic gold medal, Boardman was presented with an oak sapling by Adolf Hitler and he planted it at the family estate at How Hill in Norfolk. Sadly, the last known surviving "Hitler Oak" in the United Kingdom was severely damaged in the great storm of 1987 but, because of its heritage, it was not felled but restored as best as possible.

Boardman's younger brother Humphrey was a rower and took part in the doubles sculls at the 1928 Olympics. And at the 1930 Empire Games he won two gold medals.

BOND, David John Were

Born: 27 March 1922, Falmouth, Cornwall, England

Died: 23 March 2013, Falmouth, Cornwall, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1948)

Olympic medals:

1948 Gold – Sailing (Two person keelboat [Swallow])

David Bond, known as 'Dinghy', was Stewart Morris' crewman on Swift in the two-man Swallow class at the 1948 Olympic Games. They won the gold medal by the narrowest of margins, just 14 Seconds. It was the first and only time the Swallow class was seen at the Olympics, and it was the last time Bond and Morris race together.

Bond lived in Bournemouth and worked in the aircraft industry for British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) at the time of the London Olympics and had to take eight weeks unpaid leave to train for the Games. How different it was in those days? And how different the post gold medal-winning celebrations were; Bond and his Great Britain team-mates celebrated his success with a dance at the Imperial Hotel Torquay.

Bond was raised in Falmouth by his father who was also a keen sailor but sadly he never saw his son win Olympic gold because he died in 1940 when David was just 18.

At the time of the 2012 Olympics, David Bond was the only surviving sailing gold medallist from 1948 and how appropriate that Ben Ainslie should become the most celebrated Olympic sailor as Ainslie was raised just outside Falmouth.

After the 1948 Olympics Bond, a member of the Poole Harbour Yacht Club, excelled in the Swordfish class, winning many races and titles. He also had a new love of flying after obtaining his pilot's licence in 1949. He later became a well known yacht builder in his native Cornwall. He died in 2013 just before his 91st birthday and used to spend his time between Cornwall and his second 'home' in Spain

BUCHANAN, John

Born: 1 January 1884, Rhu, Argyllshire, Scotland

Died: 25 November 1943, Rhu, Argyllshire, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

A farmer from the coastal town of Rhu on Scotland's west coast, he dovetailed his farming activities with his love of sailing, and was one of the 10-man crew aboard Thomas Glen-Coats' yacht Hera that won the 12-metre class at the 1908 Olympics on Buchanan's home river, the Clyde.

Like all of his fellow crew members in 1908, Buchanan was a member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club and in 1936 he won the coveted Tarbert Cup on the Clyde with his 8-metre yacht Falcon.

BUNTEN, James Clark

Born: 28 March 1875, Glasgow, Scotland

Died: 3 June 1935, Glasgow, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

A member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club, he was one of the 10-man crew aboard Thomas Glen-Coats' yacht Hera that won the 12 metre class at the 1908 Olympics which took place at his home club on the River Clyde.

He attended the St John College boarding school at Ribchester near Preston in Lancashire and later became a mechanical engineer.

CAMPBELL, Charles Ralph

Born: 14 December 1881, Newton Abbott, Devon, England

Died: 19 April 1948, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (8 metres)

Sir Charles Campbell was the second son of the 11th Baronet of Auchinbreck, one of the oldest Baronetcy's in Scotland, to which he became the 12th Baronet upon his father's death in 1919. Charles' oldest brother William would have succeeded his father but was killed in action in 1915.

Charles was educated at Eton and served as a Captain in the 2nd Regiment Life Guards and the Royal Tank Corps between 1914-18.

A member of the Royal Yacht Squadron and also the Bembridge Sailing Club, who he served as secretary and commodore, he was a member of the crew aboard Blair Osborne's Cobweb, the winning yacht in the 8-metre class at the 1908 Olympics on his home water.

Like Osborne, Charles Campbell died at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight, just three months before the start of the next Olympic Games in London in 1948.

COCHRANE, Blair Onslow

Born: 11 September 1853, Croft, near Darlington, Co.Durham (but now in North Yorkshire), England

Died: 7 December 1928, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (8 metres)

Blair Cochrane was the helmsman and owner of the yacht Cobweb that won the 8-metre class at the 1908 Olympics after winning two of the three races around Ryde, Isle of Wight. The boat was entered by the Royal Victoria Yacht Club of which Cochrane was the Rear Commodore from 1909-13. Two of his fellow crew members on Cobweb were Henry Sutton and John Rhodes, who were his brothers-in-law.

The son of a wealthy land and coal owner from Durham, unlike his father, who spent the majority of his life in his native north-east, Blair moved south to first attend Wimbledon School and then, in 1872 he was admitted into the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, from where he joined the senior Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery, better known as The Chestnut Troop. He rose to the rank of Captain and after the war he was, in 1919, awarded the OBE.

A founder member of the famous Redwings Club at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight, which is one of the oldest established sailing clubs in the United Kingdom, Cochrane was the club's first Captain in 1886. Ten years later he was one of the three men who introduced the Redwings class into yachting.

Although he was born in the north-east and lived in London and later Devon, where he was a magistrate, it was surrounded by water on the Isle of Wight that he made his 'home' and he was appointed the island's deputy Governor in 1905. He died on the island a wealthy man in 1928, just four months after coming second in the Redwings class at Cowes Week.

Cochrane was also a keen tennis player and was a member of the Ryde Tennis Club and he donated a trophy to be contested at the ladies singles championship of the club each year.

Cochrane's youngest daughter Jean was also a keen yachtswoman and was sadly found dead aboard the yacht Myra in Bembridge Harbour 1947. She was only 55 at the time and had gone aboard to prepare the yacht for a forthcoming race and died suddenly, and alone.

COLEMAN, Robert Henry Schofield

Born: 1883, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia

Died: 1 January 1960, Brentwood, Essex, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1920)

Olympic medals:

1920 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

Like all members of the 1920 7-metre gold medal winning crew, Robert Coleman was a member of the Burnham Yacht Club.

He won the gold medal aboard the yacht Ancona which was co-owned and helmed by Cyril Wright whose wife Dorothy was part of the crew. Dorothy was Robert Coleman's sister-in law as he married her sister Constance in 1915. And to keep it further in the family, Constance's father Percy Machin was the other co-owner of Ancona.

The step-son of Essex solicitor Leonard Coleman, Robert chose accountancy over the legal professional as his chosen career. He served as a lieutenant with the 5th Battalion Essex Regiment during the first World War and during a secondment to the 63rd Battalion Machine Gun Corps he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and initiative at the Canal de l'Escaut in September 1918.

CRICHTON, Charles William Henry

Born: 7 July 1872, Colchester, Essex, England

Died: 8 November 1958, Bontddu, Gwynedd, Wales

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

Crichton was a descendant of William the Conqueror and was the son of Sir Henry George Louis Crichton who was an Aide-de-Camp to King Edward VII having previously reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the 10th and 21st Hussars.

Charles was educated at Radley College and was also to serve with the 10th Hussars in both the Crimean War and World War One, where he was mentioned in despatches. Like his father, he also reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was decorated with the award of the Companion, Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1915.

Crichton was a member of the British crew that won the 6-metre gold medal in the Solent at the 1908 Olympic Games. His fellow crewmen were Thomas McMeekin and Gilbert Laws, the helmsman and designer of their winning yacht Dormy.

Charles' son on Ronald was a music critic for the Financial Times

CURRIE, Lorne Campbell

Born: 25 April, 1871, Le Havre, France

Died: 21 June 1926, Le Havre, France

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (.5–1 ton class)

1900 Gold – Sailing (Open class)

French-born member of Société des Régates du Havre (Regatta Society of Havre) Lorne Currie was also a member of the Royal Temple Yacht Club, Ramsgate and raced his yacht Scotia as a representative of the British team at the 1900 Olympics – in Paris. And he won two gold medals, in the Open class and in the 1/2-1 ton class with compatriots John Gretton, Linton Hope and Algernon Maudslay.

Although he was born in France, his father John Martin Currie was British and was the younger brother of the famous ship owner Donald Currie who was notable in the sporting world for donating the Currie Cup to the sport of Rugby and also for forming Castle Swifts FC, the first professional football team in Essex and it was a club that had a significant role in the development of the Thames Ironworks FC, who took over the Swifts ground following their demise in 1895. Thames Ironworks later became West Ham United.

Lorne Currie served as a Captain in the Royal Army Service Corps during the First World War, and was awarded the British Medal, Victory Medal and the 1914-15 Star.

DAVIES, Christopher

Born: 29 June 1946, place not known

Olympics competed in: 1 (1972)

Olympic medals:

1972 Gold – Sailing (Two person heavyweight dinghy [Flying Dutchman])

Chris Davies was crew to Rodney Pattison's Superdoso when he won his second Flying Dutchman Olympic title in the Bay of Kiel at the 1972 Munich Olympics. They won four of the seven races to beat the French brothers Yves and Marc Pajot with a day to spare

Davies and Pattison only formed their partnership in the Summer of 1971 and within a year they had won the European Flying Dutchman championship at Muiden, Netherlands and enjoyed a comfortable win at the Kiel Week Regatta. Davies had won the European title ten years earlier when he crewed for Johnson Wooderson.

Davies retired from top level racing after the 1972 Olympics. He was never recognised with an honour like so many athletes and Rodney Pattison campaigned for him to receive recognition and eventually, in the 2001 Birthday Honours list Chris Davies received an MBE.

DIXON, Richard Travers

Born: 20 November 1865, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Died: 14 November 1949, Mylor, nr Falmouth, Cornwall, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

Captain Richard Dixon was probably the most successful member of the four-man crew that won the 7-metre gold medal at the 1908 Olympic Games aboard Charles Rivett-Carnac's yacht Heroine.

A commissioned officer with Royal Engineers since 1885, he started sailing in 1895 and was an active member of the Flushing Sailing Club and the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club for many years. It is reported that he won over 1,000 prizes in his racing career that saw him race many times in America and other parts of the world. One of the trophies he won as a very large trophy presented by the German Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II, in 1912. A year later, following a dead-heat in a race involving Dixon and another competitor, they agreed to literally share the Kaiser's cup – and cut it in half!

Captain Dixon specialized in 6-metre racing and in his yacht Vanda he won 60 prizes from 64 starts in 1912. Dixon was the man responsible for introducing the Bermudian Rig into the 6-metre class. He was also well known for his cutter Lady Maud who won two, and came second twice and third once in the five Ocean races she entered.

Dixon became one of the first officers of the newly formed Yacht Racing Association in 1900 and he served them for 38 years.

Although a native of Australia he made Southampton his home before moving to Cornwall in 1926 when he was aged 60. Captain Richard Travers Dixon died at his home, Admiralty Cottage at Mylor Dockyard near Falmouth just one week short of his 84th birthday. He was still actively racing in the summer of 1948, just over a year before he died.

DOWNES, Arthur Drummond

Born: 23 February 1883, Kelvinside, Glasgow, Scotland

Died: 12 September 1956, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

Arthur Downes qualified as a doctor from Glasgow University only two weeks before the 1908 Olympic yachting races on the Clyde and he went on to practice for over 45 years, initially in Kelvinside and for more than 40 years at Helensburgh.

A member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club, he was one of the 10-man crew aboard Thomas Glen-Coats' yacht Hera that won the 12-metre class at the 1908 Olympics.

One of five children of a wealthy Glasgow paper manufacturer, his older brother Henry was also a member of the crew of Hera.

DOWNES, John Henry

Born: 18 October 1870, Anderston, Glasgow, Scotland

Died: 1 January 1943, Hunters Quay, Argyllshire, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

The older brother of Arthur Downes, Henry joined his brother as part of the 10-man crew aboard Thomas Glen-Coats yacht Hera that won the 12-metre class at the 1908 Olympic on the River Clyde.

An electrical engineer by trade he was, like his fellow crew mates aboard Hera, a member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club.

DUNLOP, David

Born: 22 December 1859, Rhu, Argyllshire, Scotland

Died: 3 September 1931, Prestwick, Ayrshire, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

David Dunlop was another member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club who was part of the 10-man crew aboard Thomas Glen-Coats yacht Hera that won the 12-metre class at the 1908 Olympic on the River Clyde.

Like 1908 Olympic team mate John Buchanan, Dunlop came from Rhu, the Argyllshire coastal town, and it was where he and his brothers learned their sailing skills.

EXSHAW, William Edgard

Born: 15 February 1866, Arachon, Gironde, France

Died: 16 March 1927, Valencia, Spain

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold - Sailing (2-3 ton class)

William Exshaw won both races in the 2-3 ton class at the 1900 Paris Olympics in his own yacht Ollie, but only the first race was regarded as for the Olympic title. Race Two was part of the Paris Expo taking place at the same time and some sources do cite it as a second Olympic race but we don't – that was the uncertain nature of the sailing events in 1900.

Along with his French crew of Frédéric Blanchy and Jacques le Lasseu Ollie beat the French yacht Favorite into second place and on home soil – or water to be more accurate. Ollie also competed in the Open class but did not finish.

Born in France Exshaw spent much of his time living there and looking after the Bordeaux based family brandy business, John Exshaw and Co. He did, however, maintain roots with his homeland by maintaining an estate in Inverness.

Exshaw was married to Lily, the daughter of Sir Sandford Fleming, one of the engineers involved in the setting up of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Exshaw died of pneumonia aboard his own yacht Freelance in Valencia harbour while cruising in the Mediterranean in 1927.

GLEN-COATS, Thomas Coats Glen

Born: 5 May 1878, Ferguslie Park, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Died: 7 March 1954, Milton, Glasgow, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

Glen-Coats' full style is Sir Thomas Coats Glen Glen-Coats, 2nd Baron of Ferguslie Park. He inherited the title in 1922 on the death of his father, the former Liberal MP for West Renfrewshire and co-owner of the famous J & P Coats weaving and thread manufacturing company. The company was established in Paisley in 1802 and now employs more than 20,000 people worldwide.

Thomas could have gone into the family business but following his education at Eton and then Oxford, where he got a BA, he decided to become an apprentice with Alfred Mylne boat builders. He designed the 12 metre Hetherbell which was built in 1907 and finished third in the 1912 Olympic Games with an all-Finnish crew.

He also designed and helmed Hera which won the gold medal at the 1908 Olympic Games on the river Clyde in what was the first Olympic event held in Scotland. Hera had already won the coveted Tarbert Cup on the Clyde three months earlier.

Hera was one of only two boats entered in the 12 metre-class in 1908 and the race consisted of a 13-mile round lap starting and finishing at Hunters Quay. They beat the other entrant Mouchette, another British yacht, after winning the first two races thus ruling out the third race as the gold medal had already been won.

Hera disappeared off the coast of Argentina in 1950 and four years later Sir Thomas died and with his passing the Baronetcy ended as he had no children or a surviving brother - his only brother Alexander died in 1933.

An interesting football connection - Archie MacLean, a former member of the Coats company in Paisley is known as the "Forgotten Father of Brazilian Football" because he moved to Sao Paulo, Brazil, with the company in 1912 and taught the Brazilians the fast, short passing and dribbling game not seen before in Brazilian football. Of course, the Brazilians developed it into their own familiar style that the world was in awe of for many years.

GOODISON, Paul

Born: 29 November 1977, Brinsworth, Rotherham, England

Olympics competed in: 3 (2004, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Sailing - men (Dinghy [Laser])

Paul Goodison's first taste of the Olympics was at Sydney in 2000 when he went as Ben Ainslie's training partner and after seeing Ben, his friend of many years, win the first of his four Olympic golds, Paul wanted some of the same. Four years later he got his chance when selected to represent Great Britain in the Laser class. Sadly he just missed out on a medal when he finished fourth.

However, it was a different story four years later when Paul won the gold medal after taking a virtually unassailable lead into the medal race. Paul followed his Olympic success with his fifth consecutive European Laser championship gold medal in 2009 and then added the World title for a unique treble. He was awarded the MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours list.

In his spare time Paul enjoys windsurfing, kiteboarding and playing golf.

GRETTON, John jnr

Born: 1 September 1867, Newton Solney, Derbyshire, England

Died: 2 June 1947, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (.5–1 ton class)

1900 Gold – Sailing (Open class)

John Gretton junior holds the unique distinction of being the only serving member of the House of Commons to win an Olympic gold medal.

At the time of his two gold medals at Paris in 1900 he was the Conservative MP for Derbyshire South, a seat he held from 1895 to 1906. He continued as an MP until 1943 serving the Rutland and Burton constituencies.

Gretton won two gold medals, in the Open class and also in the 1/2-1 ton class with compatriots Lorne Currie, Linton Hope and Algernon Maudslay.

The son of John Gretton of Burton-on-Trent, who was part of the family brewing business Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton which merged with Mitchells and Butlers in 1961 to form Bass, Mitchells and Butlers, John junior was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

In 1944 Gretton junior was created the First Baron Gretton of Stapleford in the County of Leicestershire, having earlier being awarded the CBE and becoming a Privy Counsellor, a rare honour for a House of Commons back-bencher.

When he died in 1947 Baron Gretton left an estate worth £2.3 million, the equivalent of around £76 million in present-day terms.

HARMER, Russell Thomas

Born: 5 November 1896, Cambridge, England

Died: 31 October 1940, Rackheath, near Norwich, Norfolk, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1936)

Olympic medals:

1936 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

The son of Sir Sidney Harmer, a famous zoologist and director of the Natural History Museum from 1919-27, Russell Harmer was a member of the Great Britain crew that won the 6-metre class at the 1936 Olympics on board Lalage. Like all his fellow crewmen he sailed out of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Burnham.

After attending the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich he served with the Royal Engineers Signal Service Training Centre but was demobbed with the rank of Captain after being wounded in action in the 1914-15 campaign in France. He then worked in the family clothing manufacturing business.

Russell obtained a pilot's licence from the Aero club in 1927. Sadly he died in 1940 at his home at The Grange, Rackheath in Norfolk one week before his 44th birthday.

HOPE, Linton Chorley

Born: 18 April 1863, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England

Died: 20 December 1920, Midhurst, Sussex, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (.5–1 ton class)

1900 Gold – Sailing (Open class)

At the 1900 Paris Olympics, Hope won two gold medals, in the Open class and the 1/2-1 ton class with compatriots Lorne Currie, John Gretton and Algernon Maudslay. Both their gold medals came aboard the yacht Scotia, designed by Hope.

Hope was born as Linton Chorley Hopps but he later changed his name to Hope. He was a naval architect of note and he designed many yachts and flying boats for the British Admiralty. His son Eustace Jack Linton Hope was killed in action in 1941 whilst serving with the RAF 87 Squadron.

There is some doubt as to whether Hope took part in the two gold-medal winning races at the 1900 Olympics. However, the IOC and International Sailing Federation both recognise him as a double gold medallist and whilst a lot of evidence points to him not taking part I feel I must err on the side of caution and go with the IOC and ISF on this one.

HORE, Edward

Born: 17 November 1849, Knightsbridge, London

Died:

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (3-10 ton class)

1900 Bronze – Sailing (10-20 ton class)

The son of a Royal Navy Lieutenant, Edward Hore was a member of the Royal Yacht Club at Cowes and Club Nautique de Nice, which he joined in 1898, Hore was aboard the gold medal winning yacht Bona Fide, helmed by Howard Taylor, in the second race in the 3-10 ton class at the 1900 Paris Olympics.

Some sources do not recognise this as for an Olympic title. But such was the confusion surrounding the sailing events in 1900, some sources do! The IOC do, however, recognise that he won a bronze medal at the same Games in the 10-20 ton class, as helmsman of the yacht Laurea.

Hore's yacht Laurea twice successfully defended the Coupe de France for the Royal Temple Yacht Club but in February 1901 she sank after colliding with the breakwater at the start of the Marseilles Regatta in front of 5,000 spectators. Hore was also the owner of the 368-ton steam-powered three-masted Aries.

JEFFERSON, Harry Wyndham

Born: 9 March 1849, Bombay (now Mumbai), India

Died: 23 June 1918, Alcombe, Somerset, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (3-10 ton class)

Jefferson was a member of the crew aboard the gold medal winning yacht Bona Fide, helmed by Howard Taylor, in the 3-10 ton class (race two) at the 1900 Paris Olympics.

The IOC do not recognise the gold medal won by Jefferson, Taylor and third member Edward Hore, but they, like other people, are uncertain about the sailing events at the 1900 Paris Games. Some sources credit Bona Fide with the gold medal – so, as it was a British triumph, so will we!

Harry Jefferson spent many years as a trader in the Stock Exchange in London.

LAWS, Gilbert Umfreville

Born: 6 January 1870, Tynemouth, Northumberland, England

Died: 3 December 1918, Newchurch, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

The son of George Laws, a Tynemouth ship broker, Gilbert Laws helmed Dormy to win the 6-metre class to win the gold medal at the 1908 London Olympics. Laws had designed the boat for Tom McMeekin who also crewed the boat along with Charles Crichton. Dormy won first two races in the Solent and, because places were decided on wins, and as there were only three races, the British team had the gold medal won after just two races.

At the age of 21 Gilbert had moved to London and worked as a shipping clerk before moving to Burnham-on-Crouch to set up the Burnham Boat Building Company in 1897 with James Arndell Youl and they soon gained a reputation for manufacturing some of the finest small racing yachts in Britain. Sadly, Youl died of double pneumonia in February 1900 at the age of 27.

The company designed boats for, amongst others, Prince Leopold of Battenberg and the King of Spain. One of the finest Burnham-built boats was My Lady Dainty, an 18-footer. She won 217 prizes, including 165 firsts, in her 248 starts in British waters between 1898 and 1907, when was sent to America,.

Laws served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in the Mediterranean during World War One but was discharged on health grounds and Lieutenant Laws died in December 1918 at a nursing home for naval officers at Shanklin on the Isle of Wight – the site of his Olympic triumph.

LEAF, Charles Symonds

Born: 13 November 1895, Marylebone, London

Died: 19 February 1947, Reading, Berkshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1936)

Olympic medals:

1936 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

Charles Leaf was one of the co-owners of Lalage, winner of the gold medal in the 6-metre class at the 1936 Olympics. Fellow crewmen Chris Boardman and Miles Bellville were the other two owners.

Educated at Trinity College Cambridge, Leaf was the first elected Junior Head of the Cambridge University Cruising Club in 1921. He married Catherine Blanch Kay-Shuttleworth, the daughter of the First Baron Shuttleworth and he lived off private means and was a noted archaeologist. He was also a Justice of the Peace (JP), Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (F.S.A.).

During World War I he served as an acting captain in the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and in World War II he originally served with the Balloon Command, who were responsible for barrage balloons around Britain. In 1943 he switched to the Royal Marines and reached the rank of Lieutenant.

MACDONALD-SMITH, Iain Somerled

Born: 3 July 1945, Oxford, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1968, 1976)

Olympic medals:

1968 Gold – Sailing (Two person heavyweight dinghy [Flying Dutchman])

Iain Macdonald Smith won the silver medal as crewman to former schoolmate Rodney Pattison at the 1967 European Flying Dutchman championship. The following year the two men completed the double of European and Olympic titles, when they captured the Olympic title in Superdocious with a record low points tally of just three.

Macdonald Smith and Pattison won the British Yachtsman of the Year Award in 1968 and they went on to win both the European and World championships in consecutive years, 1969 and 1970.

He was selected as a reserve for the 1972 British Olympic sailing team and in 1976 was helmsman to the three-man Soling class team but they could finish only 13th at the Montreal Games.

A London solicitor, Iain was educated at Marlborough and then Cambridge University and later went on to become a British sailing team selector.

MACKENZIE, John

Born: 21 September 1876, Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland

*Died: Not known **

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

John Mackenzie had a long and successful sailing career and won more than 250 prizes in a career lasting over 50 years, many wins coming on his 18-foot yacht Florence.

Probably the pinnacle of his career was in being a member of the gold-medal winning crew on

Thomas Glen-Coats yacht Hera in the 12 metre class at the 1908 Olympic competition on the his home river, the Clyde.

Like his fellow 1908 crew members, Mackenzie was a member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club but he was previously a member of the Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club who, from its early days staged many handicap races and in 1891 Mackenzie was appointed the official Clyde measurer to assess handicaps based on boats' size etc.

Some sources cite his death as 9 December 1949 but that seems to refer to a Lieutenant-Colonel John Mackenzie who died in London, Ontario, Canada on that date.

MADDISON, William John

Born: 1882, Canning Town, London

Died: 10 June 1924, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, London

Olympics competed in: 1 (1920)

Olympic medals:

1920 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

The son of a Southend builder and contractor, William Maddison followed his father's profession.

At the time of the 1920 Olympics, Maddison was an established yachtsman racing his own 18-foot yacht Cutty Sark but joined the crew of Cyril Macey's Dormy to help them win the 7-metre gold medal at the Antwerp Olympics. Like his fellow crew members, Maddison was a member of the Royal Burnham Yacht Club.

Maddison sadly died in 1924 at the age of 41 just three days after racing in his own yacht Nancy and finished second in the Royal Caledonian Yacht Club's East Coast One-Design race on the Crouch.

MARTIN, Albert

Born: not known

Died: not known

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

Nothing is known about Albert Martin other than he was a member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club and was a crew member on Thomas Glen-Coats yacht Hera that won the 12-metre class at the 1908 Olympics.

MARTIN, Leonard Jack

Born: 24 November 1901, Wandsworth, London

Died: 1968, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1936)

Olympic medals:

1936 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

Leonard Martin, known as Jake, was a member of the Great Britain crew that won the 6-metre gold medal aboard Lalage at the 1936 Olympics. Two years earlier he was a member of the crew of Endeavour who challenged for The America's Cup. Two of his fellow Olympic gold medallists Chris Boardman and Miles Breville were also part of the Endeavour crew. Martin continued racing beyond the age of 50, winning many races with his International One-Class Design yacht Bombero. During both World wars, Martin served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR).

MAUDSLAY, Algernon

Born: 10 January 1873, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England

Died: 2 March 1948, Winchester, Hampshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (.5-1 ton class)

1900 Gold – Sailing (Open class)

Algernon Maudslay's name does not appear in all records as being an Olympic medallist, such was the flimsiness of the race details and results from the Paris Olympics. But historians have subsequently discovered that he was the helmsman of the yacht Scotia that won gold in the half-ton and open classes.

A member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, he served as the Honorary Treasurer of the Yacht Racing Association from 1927 until his death in 1948.

Maudslay devoted a lot of his time to the British and International Red Cross Society and in 1919 he was awarded the CBE for services to the Belgian War Refugees Committee.

McINTYRE, Michael Mackay

Born: 29 June 1956, Glasgow, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 2 (1984, 1988)

Olympic medals:

1988 Gold – Sailing (Keelboat [Star])

Mike McIntyre was born in Glasgow. The son of an eminent Veterinary Scientist, Professor Ian McIntyre, he was brought up in Helensburgh on Scotland's west coast and it was only natural that he would take to sailing although it was as a swimmer that he first enjoyed success on water and he was a Scottish schools champion at the age of 12.

He soon discovered he had an aptitude for sailing and spent six years training hard for the 1984 Olympics where he competed in the one person dinghy Finn class. Sadly 13th and 15th places in the first two races cost him dearly and ended any medal chances. He finished seventh.

Four years later he was helm in the two-man Star class with Bryn Vaile as his crew and unlike the Olympians of today, they were normal full-time working lads who sailed together at weekends. But their training and dedication was to pay off on the River Han at Seoul in 1988, but only after a tense climax to the regatta.

They went in the Games as outsiders and went into the seventh and final race with a chance of a gold medal. McIntyre and Vaile had to win while the American pair of Mark Reynolds and Hal Haenal had to finish in sixth place or lower. It was a tall order for the British pair but they did what they to and won the final race while fortune was on their side as the Americans had to withdraw with a broken mast and gold went to the Britons.

As a result of their exploits McIntyre and Vaile were each awarded the MBE in the 1988 New Year's Honours list and were also the joint winners of the British Yachtsman of the Year Award.

Despite moving to the south coast of England where his daughter Eilidh, known as Bambi, is now a very competent 470 class yachtswomen, McIntyre still retained his connection with Scotland as the President of the Helensburgh Sailing Club.

In 2012 he made a brief return to competitive Star class racing when he took part in the Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta in Weymouth for nostalgic reasons. Since the 1988 Olympics he had spent barely half an hour in a Star.

McMEEKIN, Thomas Doodputlee

Born: 31 December 1866, Cachar, Assam, India

Died: 24 October 1946, Chichester, Sussex, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (6 metres)

Thomas Doodputlee McMeekin was the son of an Indian tea plant manager who ran the Doodputlee Tea Estate in Cachar, hence McMeekin's rather unusual second name.

Thomas, like her father before him was involved in the tea trade as a planter and growers' agent.

He was a member of three three-man crew that won the six-metre gold medal at the 1908 London Olympics. He was also the owner of the winning boat Dormy, which was helmed by Gilbert Laws, the designer of the boat. Charles Crichton made up the crew that won the first two races off the Isle of Wight which was enough to give them the gold medal.

A member of the Royal Burnham Yacht Club at the time of the Olympics he was also the secretary of the Eastern Yacht Club in Burnham at the same time.

Thomas served with the Royal Flying Corps during World War One and died in hospital in Chichester in 1946, seven months after the death of his wife Leila.

MORRIS, Stewart Harold

Born: 25 May 1909, Bromley, London

Died: 4 February 1991, West Wittering, Sussex, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1948)

Olympic medals:

1948 Gold – Sailing (Two person keelboat [Swallow])

Stewart Morris was the helmsman of Swift, the gold medal-winning yacht in the new Swallow Class in 1948. Out of seven races Morris and David Bond won two, came second once, third twice, fourth once and were disqualified in one race. They won the gold medal by just 14 seconds. It was the first and last time the Swallows were seen at the Olympics.

Educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was largely responsible for the formation of the Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society in the 1920s and he sailed three times against Oxford. He was elected Junior Head of the Cambridge University Cruising Club in 1929.

It was in the International 14 Dinghy class that Stewart excelled and between 1932 and 1966 he won the Prince of Wales Cup a staggering 12 times. In the 34 races he entered up to 1970 he finished in the first six on no fewer that 24 occasions and was runner-up on a record five occasions. Nobody has come anywhere near to his total of 12 wins. Having been a reserve to Peter Scott at the 1936 Olympics he was a reserve again for the British team at the 1952 Olympics and he was still racing dinghies beyond his 50th birthday.

The son of a Norfolk hop merchant, he worked in the family business after University and eventually took over the running of it but played a far lesser role after the War to spend more time sailing. He served as Rear Commodore of both the Royal Yacht Squadron and Royal Thames Yacht Club, and in 1980 he replaced the Duke of Edinburgh as president of the Royal Yachting Association.

During World War II he served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) and became a commander in the Fleet Air Arm. He was awarded the OBE in 1944 for his part in developing an air defence system for the carrier HMS Formidable. After the war, his system was adapted to all aircraft carriers.

OSBORN, John

Born: 8 September 1945, Essex, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1976)

Olympic medals:

1976 Gold – Sailing (Multihull [Tornado])

John Osborn was brought up in the Essex coastal town of Brightlingsea like his brother-in-law Reg White, with whom he won the Tornado class gold medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. They won four of the first six races and didn't need to take part in race seven as the gold medal was already won with a day to spare.

White (helm) and Osborn (crew) went into the Olympics as clear favourites having won six major international championships earlier in the season, including the world Tornado championship in Sydney

Three weeks after winning his Olympic gold medal, Osborn announced that the partnership would be breaking up because he and his family were emigrating to Canada where he went to work for a boat building company. John continued racing in Canada and in the 1980s he completed two Transatlantic crossings.

Reg and John Osborn were the joint winners of the British Yachtsmen of the Year in 1976, and in 1977 were both honoured with the MBE in the New Year's Honours list.

PATTISSON, Rodney Stuart

Born: 5 August 1943, Campbeltown, Argyll and Bute, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 3 (1968, 1972, 1976)

Olympic medals:

1968 Gold – Sailing (Two person heavyweight dinghy [Flying Dutchman])

1972 Gold – Sailing (Two person heavyweight dinghy [Flying Dutchman])

1976 Silver – Sailing (Two person heavyweight dinghy [Flying Dutchman])

Until the arrival of Ben Ainslie, Rodney Patisson was Britain's most celebrated Olympic sailor with two gold and a silver medal to his credit.

Patisson won the first of his golds at Mexico in 1968 when he won the Flying Dutchman class with Iain Macdonald-Smith, an ex-competitor from his school days. Favourites for the gold medal due to their unbeaten run in 1968 they were, however, disqualified from race one at the Olympics but then won five of the remaining six races in their boat Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (from the film Mary Poppins), which officials shortened to Superdocious. They beat the West German crew with ease and with just three points, the lowest ever Olympic gold medal-winning total. Understandably, they jointly won the British Yachtsman of the Year Award in 1968.

Patisson and Macdonald-Smith went on to win the Flying Dutchman world title in 1969 and 1970 and Patisson made it a hat-trick in 1971 when Rodney and new crewman Julian Brooke-Houghton captured the title.

At the 1972 Olympics in the Bay of Kiel, Patisson retained his Olympic title with another new crewman, Chris Davies, as they won four of the seven races to beat the French pair of Yves and Marc Pajot.

At Montreal in 1976 Rodney had the honour of carrying the Great Britain flag at the opening ceremony, the first time a sailor had such an honour. But sadly he could not make it a hat-trick of gold medals because Patisson and Julian Brooke-Houghton had to be content with silver despite being in the lead after three races.

Any chance Rodney had of appearing in four consecutive Olympics were scuppered by the RYA who chose to boycott the Moscow Games despite not consulting with the competitors.

Rodney retired from Flying Dutchman-racing with two Olympic titles, three world titles and six European titles to his name. He then moved on to larger boats and he was, in 1983, co-skipper of Peter de Savaray's yacht Victory 83 in the America's Cup. Victory did not qualify, and the series was won by Australia II as the United States lost their 132-year hold on the trophy.

Patisson was one of the original inductees into the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame in 2002 because he was born in Campbeltown where his father, an English airman, was posted during the War. Because Rodney was described as: "The first Scot to win an Olympic sailing gold medal," he merited induction.

However, as he left Scotland when just two months old, he has never regarded himself as Scottish but very much English and he actually regretted being inducted into the Hall of Fame and felt embarrassed by his inclusion, so-much-so that he later asked to have his name removed, which it has now been done,

Patisson went to the Pangbourne Nautical college in Berkshire and then to the Britannia Naval College at Dartmouth as a cadet where it was soon obvious that he was an excellent helmsman. He was selected to crew at an inter-service regatta but the helm was taken ill and Patisson was asked to take his place – something extremely rare for a cadet.

He eventually joined the Royal Navy but resigned his commission shortly after the 1968 Olympics to concentrate on his sailing career.

Rodney was awarded the MBE in the 1969 New Year's honours list for services to yachting and was also elected into Sailing Hall of Fame.

Sadly Rodney was snubbed as a torch bearer when the Olympic flame come through his home county of Dorset before the 2012 Olympics. Not a fitting way to treat the man who was Britain's most successful sailor for 32 years.

PERCY, Iain Bryden

Born: 21 March 1976, Southampton, Hampshire, England

Olympics competed in: 4 (2000, 2004, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Sailing - men (Dinghy [Finn])

2008 Gold – Sailing - men (Keelboat [Star])

2012 Silver – Sailing - men (Keelboat [Star])

Sailing since he was four, Iain Percy began his career in dinghies at Southampton's Weston Sailing Club. After completing a degree in economics at Bristol University, he turned professional in 1998 and two years later he was winning the Olympic gold medal in the solo Finn class.

At Athens in 2004 four years later he teamed up with Steve Mitchell in the two-man Star class but could finish only sixth. He then took a year away from Olympic class sailing to become helm of the Italian-owned America's Cup challenger +39 Challenge, but they finished way down the list of qualifiers in the Luis Vutton Challenge Series and failed to qualify.

Iain then returned to the Star class with his friend of 25 years, and fellow crew member aboard +39 Challenge, Andrew Simpson. They finished third at the 2007 world championship and came a very disappointing 52nd the following year in their build up to the Olympics.

At Beijing they were unfancied, and after a poor start they were playing catch-up from race one, but going into the medal race they were lying in second place. The race leaders Lööf and Ekstrom from Sweden finished last of the ten starters, whilst the British pair finished fifth and leapfrogged them into the gold medal position.

Iain and Andrew turned their attention to the America's Cup once again in 2010 when they joined the crew of the British challenger Team Origin, under the helm of Ben Ainslie. But the team announced plans to abandon its challenge for the 2013 America's Cup.

The Percy-Simpson partnership was unbreakable and at the London 2012 Olympics they won the silver medal in the Star class when Fredrik Lööf of Sweden got his revenge by edging out the British pair in the final medal race. It was Iain's third Olympic medal as he became only the third Britain after Rodney Pattison and Ben Ainslie to win three Olympic sailing medals.

After the 2012 Olympics Iain and Andrew joined the Artemis Racing America's Cup team but that is when the Percy-Simpson partnership was sadly brought to an abrupt end following a tragic accident whilst training in San Francisco Bay in which Andrew Simpson drowned. The team continued, and under Iain's guidance they reached the semi-final of the Luis Vutton Cup only to lose to the Italian challenger.

In 2000 Percy was one of the joint winners of the British Yachtsman of the Year Award with the other six Olympic medallists that year, and following his Olympic triumphs he was awarded both the OBE and MBE in 2000 and 2008 respectively.

QUENTIN, Cecil

Born: 1852, Waterford, Ireland

Died: 29 October 1926, Ramsgate, Kent, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (20+ton class)

Although he was born in Ireland, Quentin's family moved to England when Cecil was a schoolboy, and they settled in the Gloucestershire area. An engineer by profession Quentin became a financier and businessman. His yacht Cicely was only one of four entries in the 20+ ton class at the 1900 Olympics and whilst he was beaten to the line by fellow Britain Selwin Calverley, Quentin's adjusted time meant he took gold.

Quentin served in World War One and received the 1914 Star, also known as the Mons Star, given to servicemen who served in France or Belgium between August and November 1914.

Some sources say that at one time he was the business partner of Cecil Rhodes, the British-born South African financier who founded the De Beers diamond company, but this has not been substantiated.

RHODES, John Edward

Born: 13 February 1870, Knowl Hill, Wargrave, Berkshire, England

Died: 6 February 1947, Ryde, Isle of Wight, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (8 metres)

John Rhodes was a crew member of Blair Cochrane's Cobweb that won the 8-metre gold medal at the 1908 Olympics. Osborne, Rhodes, and another crew member, Henry Sutton, were brothers-in-law to make it a family affair.

Educated at Winchester College, Rhodes obtained a commission into the Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment) in 1887 before transferring to the Kings' Royal Rifles in 1890 where he fought in the Boer War before serving in India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

Upon retiring from the Army he was a reservist with the 60th Rifles and as a Lieutenant-Colonel was involved in the Gallipoli campaign in 1915 before ill health caused him to be invalided home to the Isle of Wight.

Rhodes was a member of many well know sailing clubs including the Solent Yacht Club, Royal Victoria Yacht Club and his local Bembridge Club of which he was a one time commodore.

A former Justice of the Peace (JP), Rhodes died in 1947 one week before his 77th birthday.

RICHARDS, Francis Augustus

Born: 9 August 1873, Campagne Gordheoff, Nr Geneva, Switzerland

Died: 8 January 1955, Kensington, London

Olympics competed in: 1 (1920)

Olympic medals:

1920 Gold – Sailing (18 foot dinghy)

There is some doubt as to whether Francis Richards won a gold medal or not at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics.

Competing in the 18-foot dinghy class in his boat Brat, Richards was the only entrant. However, they did not finish the first race and did not start the second race. The International Sailing Federation and IOC accepts it was a bona fide race but other sources do not.

Richards was born in Switzerland, but his Irish-born father died when he was just five months old. He was subsequently educated at Harrow before going to New College, Oxford in 1892 and he subsequently qualified as an architect and was responsible for some well known buildings in the London area including Surrey's Reigate College. A member of the Royal Southampton Yacht Club amongst others, he was elected as a member of the Yacht Racing Association in 1923 and between 1941-49 he was the Commodore of the Royal Southern Yacht Club.

Richards had one crew member aboard Brat in 1920 – Thomas Hedberg, but nothing is known about him at all.

RIVETT-CARNAC, Charles James

Born: 18 February 1853, Berhampur (now Brahmapur), India

Died: 9 September 1935, St Helier, Jersey

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

Charles Rivett-Carnac was the owner and helmsman of the yacht Heroine that won the gold medal in the 7-metre class at the 1908 Olympics. There was very little chance that Heroine was not going to win the gold medal as she was the only starter because the only other entrant, Captain Sloane Stanley's Mignonette, withdrew. Heroine 'sailed over' in both races over the 13 nautical mile course from Ryde Pier on the Isle of Wight and back, to claim gold.

Rivett-Carnac's fellow crew members were Norman Dingley, Richard Dixon and Charles' second wife Frances. Consequently Charles and Frances carved their name into Olympic history as the first husband and wife to win a gold medal.

Although born in India, Charles was educated at Rugby, before returning to India to work for the Government in various capacities. He then worked for the Burma Government before being appointed the financial advisor to Siam in 1898 where he played a significant role in reorganising the finances of the State for which he was honoured with the Grand Cross (First Class) of the Order of the Crown of Siam.

On his return to Britain in 1905 he became the financial agent in Europe to the Siamese Government.

A very keen yachtsman Charles was a member of the Royal Southern and Royal Southampton Yacht Clubs.

His great-granddaughter Cleone won a bronze medal in the javelin representing New Zealand at the 1950 Empire (now Commonwealth) Games at the age of 17.

RIVETT-CARNAC, Frances Clytie

Born: 1875, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Died: 1 January 1962, Hampstead, London, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

The second wife of Charles Rivett-Carnac, the owner and helmsman of the yacht Heroine that won the 7-metre gold medal at the 1908 Olympics, Frances was a member of the four-man crew.

The daughter of Canon Greenstock, she married Charles in 1906 following the death of his first wife the previous year.

Her step great-granddaughter Cleone won a bronze medal in the javelin representing New Zealand at the 1950 Empire (now Commonwealth) Games at the age of 17.

ROBERTSON, Shirley Ann

Born: 15 July 1968, Dundee, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 4 (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Sailing - women (Dinghy [Europe])

2004 Gold – Sailing – women (Keelboat [Yngling])

After winning her second Olympic gold medal in 2004, Shirley Robertson became the first British yachtswoman to win two Olympic Gold Medals.

Shirley started sailing at the age of seven in a Mirror Miracle dinghy which her father built in the garage of their home in Scotland. She never lost the love of sailing and after graduating from Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University in 1990 she took up the sport competitively and appeared in the 1992 and 1996 Olympics at Barcelona and Atlanta finishing ninth and fourth respectively in the Europe one-person dinghy class. A disastrous 10th race (out of eleven) at Atlanta cost her a chance of a medal when she was ranked 12th. She lost out on a medal by just two points after looking certain to win one throughout the entire regatta.

She went into the next Olympics, at Sydney in 2000, having won silver medals at the three consecutive world championships leading up to the Games and in Sydney she went one better to collect her first Olympic gold medal and become the first British female sailor to win Olympic gold since Dorothy Wright in 1920.. Her win saw her capture the ISAF World Female Sailor of the Year Award and an MBE for her services to sailing.

In 2001 Shirley switched from single-handed racing to the three-person Yngling class and after steady progress over the next three years it culminated in her winning her second Olympic gold with crew members Sarah Ayton and Sarah Webb, who the media dubbed "Three blondes in a boat".

After receiving an OBE in 2005 to go with her earlier award, she took time out from racing for most of 2005 and 2006 to give birth to and look after her twins.

She then turned her attention to carving out a television career and got a job presenting a sailing programme for CNN and was one of the BBC commentary team at the Beijing Olympics – after she failed to get selected for the Games.

Her former crew members Sarah Ayton and Sarah Webb had formed a new Yngling partnership with Pippa Wilson. As a result, Shirley was left to form a new team with Annie Lush and Lucy Macgregor but they lost out on selection for Beijing to her old crew mates.

Shirley was involved with the 2012 London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) Sport Advisory Group, and was again a commentator for the BBC at the sailing events at Weymouth.

SIMPSON, Andrew

Born: 17 December 1976, Chertsey, Surrey, England

Died: 9 May 2013, San Francisco, USA

Olympics competed in: 3 (2000, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Sailing - men (Keelboat [Star])

2012 Silver – Sailing - men (Keelboat [Star])

Andrew Simpson, affectionately known as 'Bart', started sailing at the age of four when he took to the water when visiting his grandparents' home at Christchurch in Dorset. He started sailing a Seafly dinghy, but when he took up racing he moved into the Laser class before moving up to the heavier Finn class and it was at the 2001 Finn European championship that Andrew won his first major international medal, a silver. He then won a bronze at the 2003 Finn World championship behind British gold medal winner Ben Ainslie.

After moving to the two-man Star class, and teaming up with his long-standing friend Iain Percy in 2007, the pair won the bronze medal at that year's Star World championship. They then went to the 2008 Beijing Olympics as one of the unfancied pairs in the Star class, but they kept clawing away at the race leaders after a poor start, and eventually captured the gold medal in the final race.

Two years later, Simpson and Percy won the gold medal at the Star World championship in Rio de Janeiro,

Simpson and Percy had been friends for more than 25 years and had raced together aboard +39 Challenge in the Luis Vuitton America's Cup Challenge series prior to the Beijing Games. Andrew, and Iain, were again involved in the America's Cup when they joined the crew of the British challenger Team Origin, under the helm of Ben Ainslie. But the team announced plans to abandon its challenge for the 2013 America's Cup.

Simpson and Percy looked like defending their Star gold medal at London 2012 but were edged out of the gold medal position in the very last race and had to settle for silver. The pair also had to settle for a silver medal in that year's World championship.

After the London Olympics, Andrew and Iain once again turned their attention to the America's Cup but their long friendship ended when Andrew was sadly drowned in a tragic accident whilst training in San Francisco Bay.

In memory of his friend, Iain Percy founded the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation in 2013, Its aim is to help sailors at the grass roots level of the sport and also to provide opportunities to deserving children who would otherwise not get the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of sailing,

Andrew was himself honoured with the MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours list.

SUTTON, Henry Cecil

Born: 26 September 1868, Newbury, Berkshire, England

Died: 24 May 1936, Speen, near Newbury, Berkshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (8 metres)

Henry Sutton was the fourth son and the youngest of 12 children of Sir Richard Sutton, 4th Baronet Sutton of Norwood Park, Nottingham. He was educated at Radley and held a commission in the Hampshire Yeomanry Cavalry, serving as a lieutenant.

Sutton was a crew member of Blair Cochrane's Cobweb that won the 8-metre gold medal at the 1908 Olympics. Sutton was the brother-in-law of both Cochrane and a fellow crew member John Rhodes, who both married Sutton's sisters.

Henry was a member of Royal Yacht Squadron and commodore of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. He was also a member of the famous London Gentlemen's Club Arthur's.

Sutton died at the family manor at Benham Park near Newbury in 1936. A portrait of Sutton hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.

In 1885 Sutton's father, Sir Richard, was the fifth man to try and wrestle the America's Cup from the American's when his challenge with the cutter Genesta ended in a two race to nil defeat.

TAIT, Thomas Gerald

Born: 7 November 1866, Campbeltown, Argyllshire, Scotland

Died: 18 December 1938, Glasgow, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (12 metres)

Gerald Tait was one of the 10-man crew aboard Thomas Glen-Coats yacht Hera that won the 12-metre class at the 1908 Olympic on the River Clyde.

Born in Argyllshire, he moved to Glasgow with his older brother David to study law and they later both became partners in the family firm of solicitors.

TAYLOR, J Howard

Born: not known

Died: not known

Olympics competed in: 1 (1900)

Olympic medals:

1900 Gold – Sailing (3-10 ton class)

Howard Taylor helmed the gold medal winning yacht Bona Fide, that won the gold medal in the 3-10 ton class at the 1900 Paris Olympics along with crew members Edward Hore and Harry Jefferson. He also took part in the Open class but failed to win a medal.

The IOC do not recognise Taylor's gold medal but they, like other people, are uncertain about the sailing events at the 1900 Paris Games. Some sources credit Taylor and his crew with the gold medal – therefore, as he is British, so will we!

Whilst still in France after the Games, Howard sold Bona Fide, a 13-metre cutter built in 1899 by famous yacht designer Charles Sibbick.

VAILE, Philip Bryn

Born: 16 August 1956, Enfield, London, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1988)

Olympic medals:

1988 Gold – Sailing (Keelboat [Star])

The son of two junior school teachers, Bryn Vaile was brought up in Leigh-on-Sea and his early boating skills were under the watchful eye of John Fisk. Bryn raced Ospreys and 505s as a teenager. He spent some time in Singapore but when he returned to Britain in the early 1980s he bought his first Star and it was after he crewed for the legendary Vernon Stratton that his talent was recognised by the great man.

Bryn teamed up with Mike McIntyre ten months before the 1988 Seoul Olympics and they could only train at weekends as they both had full-time jobs. Their dedication paid off as they narrowly won the Star class gold medal by pipping the American pair in the final race after the Americans had the misfortune of their mast breaking in a race battered with winds of more than 35 knots and waves in excess of three metres.

Both Bryn and Mike were honoured with the MBE in the 1988 New Year's Honours list for their services to their sport and were also the joint winners of the British Yachtsman of the Year Award.

Bryn trained in marketing and he later became a director of a specialist Media and PR company. He was a founder member of the RYA's Olympic Steering Group and sat on the committee which published the BOA Athlete Report in 1993 which looked into how many British athletes went into debt in their quest for Olympic glory. As a result an English Institute of Sport and Athlete Funding was sent up. Vaile also served as President of the British Bob-Skeleton Association.

WEBB, Sarah Kathleen

Born: 13 January 1977, Weybridge, Surrey, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2004, 2008)

Olympic medals:

2004 Gold – Sailing – women (Keelboat [Yngling])

2008 Gold – Sailing – women (Keelboat [Yngling])

Sarah Webb started sailing when she was just six years of age and at the age of 20 had become a full-time yachtswoman. But, having reached number seven in the 470 class world rankings in 1999 she then took two years away from the sport to work for British Petroleum (BP). But the possibility of racing in the Olympics drew her back to the sport she loved.

Webb then moved from 470 to Yngling class and formed a partnership with Shirley Robertson and Sarah Ayton with a view to Olympic glory.

She was one of the original 'Three Blondes in a Boat' as they were dubbed by the media during the 2004 Olympics. But in Athens they were far from being 'dumb blondes' as they won the Yngling class gold medal with a day to spare in a boat appropriately named Legally Blonde.

Robertson then took time out to start a family so the two Sarahs had to find a new partner, and they teamed up with Pippa Wilson as they set about trying to retain the Olympic title in Beijing.

They won the world Yngling title in 2007 and then went into the Olympics with the European and world titles under their belt and, as clear favourites, they successfully defended their title.

After the Beijing Games Sarah started her own consulting company and now spends time as a motivational and after-dinner speaker. She shares those duties with that of mother following the birth of her first child after her 2009 marriage to Adam Gosling, the son of Sir Donald Gosling, the founder of National Car Parks (NCP). Sir Donald owns one of the world's classic super yachts, Leander, named after HMS Leander, the first boat he served on in the Royal Navy.

Sarah was awarded the MBE in the 2004 New Year Honours list and the OBE in 2008. She was also the Yachting Journalists' Association Yachtsman of the Year in 2004 and 2008, along with her fellow Team GB members.

WHITE, Reginald

Born: 28 October 1935, Brightlingsea, Essex, England

Born: 27 May 2010, Brightlingsea, Essex, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1976)

Olympic medals:

1976 Gold – Sailing (Multihull [Tornado])

The son of a Brightlingsea oyster merchant, Reg White started sailing at the age of six when he rowed a skiff that was originally built to take oysters to the quayside. Sailing was always in his blood and after senior school he went on a boatbuilding apprenticeship.

While serving his apprenticeship he started his racing career aboard his father's Brightlingsea One Design, Tiller Girl, which was named after the famous Tiller Girls dancers, of which his older sister Pamela was a member.

White sailed in five winning boats either as helmsman or crew member, in the International Catamaran Challenge Trophy – known as the Little America's Cup - between 1963-68 including 1966 when he won aboard the catamaran Lady Helmsman, and won that year's British Yachtsman of the Year award.

He won his second British Yachtsman of the Year in 1976, with John Osborn, after being at the helm of the winning boat in the Tornado class at the Montreal Olympics with his brother-in-law Osborn. White was married to Osborn's older sister Marylyn, better known as Lyn.

White and Osborn also won the Tornado world championship in 1976, and White regained the title in 1979 but he was denied a second chance to win an Olympic gold medal when the British sailing team was withdrawn from the 1980 Moscow games. However, four years later, his eldest son, Robert, represented Britain in the Tornado class.

Well known as a Brightlingsea boatbuilder, he was responsible for the development of his Olympic gold-medal winning boat and later produced a range of catamarans.

He died of a heart attack while racing in the 18ft Brightlingsea One-Design White Spirit at his home town. He was competing in an evening race on 26 May 2010 and suffered a heart attack shortly after crossing the finishing line. He was 74-years-old at the time but died doing what he loved best and also crewing with him on that fateful evening was one of his 13 grandchildren, Freddie, and Stephen Olle, his longtime crew member with whom he won the 1979 world Tornado title.

At his funeral, the one mile procession from his home to the All Saints Parish Church at Brightlingsea was lined with townspeople paying their final respects as they lost a yachtsman, Olympic gold medalist, and friend. He is remembered with an annual regatta in Brightlingsea, known as the 'Reg Fest'.

At White's funeral, his brother-in-law John Osborn returned from his Canada home to pay respects to his 'best friend' and related the story about them both loving curry and how they agreed before the Olympics that they would treat themselves if they won gold. And as he said: "We weren't racing for a title or for cups, we were actually racing for a curry."

WILSON, Philippa Claire “Pippa”

Born: 7 February 1986, Lymington, near Southampton, Hampshire, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2004, 2008)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Sailing – women (Keelboat [Yngling])

Hailing from Lymington in the Solent, and from a sailing family, there was always a good chance that Pippa Wilson would take to the water and at the age of five she sailed Optimist dinghys at the Salterns Sailing Club, Lymington. And it was not long before it became apparent that she had a natural talent for sailing and she soon took part in junior club competitions, and with the full support of her parents.

She made her international debut in the Cadet Class World Championship in Poland at the age of 14 in 2000 and finished fourth. Then, at the age of 16 she won the 29er class gold medal at the 2002 Youth World Championships and two years later she took the bronze medal in the 420 class. But even greater things were not far away.

Pippa replaced Shirley Robinson and teamed up with the two Sarahs, Webb and Ayton as they retained their Yngling Class gold medal for Great Britain at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. They also won two Yngling world championships in 2007 and 2008, and in the latter year Pippa completed the hat-trick of European, World and Olympic titles.

After the Beijing Olympics Pippa learned to kitesurf and windsurf but, after competing in the ‘Sail for Gold Regatta’ at Weymouth in September of 2009 Pippa decided to step aside from the sport for a while to take a Sports Science Degree at Chichester University and, after missing the 2012 London Olympics, set her sights on a return at Rio in 2016 but announced that she was scrapping those plans in November 2014.

Pippa was honoured with the MBE in the 2009 New Year Honours list.

WOOD, Arthur Nicholas Lindsay

Born: 29 March 1875, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, England

Died: 1 June 1939, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Sailing (8 metres)

Sir Arthur Wood was a crew member aboard Blair Cochrane’s Cobweb that won the 8-metre gold medal at the 1908 Olympics.

A native of the north-east he was educated at Eton and later served as a Captain in the Northumberland (Territorial) Artillery. He succeeded his father in 1920 to become the second Baron of The Hermitage, the seat of the family home in Durham.

Like his father before him, Arthur was a mining engineer and colliery manager. He was appointed a deputy Lieutenant of County Durham in 1932 and the following year he became the County Sheriff.

Actively involved with the Boy’s Club movement, Sir Arthur died while on holiday at the Marine Hotel, St Andrews, Scotland in 1939.

The Wood Baronetcy was created for Arthur’s father Lindsay in 1897. His father was a magistrate and the president of the Durham Coalowners Association for more than 40 years, at a time when the coal industry thrived in that part of Britain.

In his earlier days he worked alongside George Stephenson in his early days of pioneering the first steam train, The Rocket.

The 1891 census showed that Sir Lindsay Wood had 14 servants while living at The Hermitage, thus indicating the standing of the man in the local community. In his will he left over £850,000 – around £40 million in modern-day terms.

WRIGHT, Cyril Macey

Born: 17 September 1885, Hampstead, London

Died: 26 July 1960, Bournemouth, Hampshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1920)

Olympic medals:

1920 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

Cyril Wright was the joint owner and helmsman of the yacht Dormy which came from behind in the first race to win the next two races and beat the Norwegian entry in the 7-metre class at the 1920 Olympics to capture the gold medal.

Dormy was designed by Morgan Giles and built in 1913. Wright’s co-owner was his father-in-law Percy Machin and his daughter Dorothy, Wright’s wife, was also a member of the four ‘man’ crew.

Cyril was a prominent member of the Burnham Yacht Club and he was originally a clerk for an insurance brokers before later becoming a Naval Architect. He served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Service between 1915-19 and again between 1941-46,

Other boats that Wright enjoyed success as helmsman and co-owner of included Erin, Lady Anne, Thermopylae and Dormy II.

WRIGHT, Dorothy Winifred

Born: 19 August 1889, Leytonstone, London

Died: 1960, Poole, Dorset, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1920)

Olympic medals:

1920 Gold – Sailing (7 metres)

The daughter of wealthy paper merchant Percy Machin, Dorothy married Cyril Wright in 1918. She was the only female contestant at 1920 Olympic yachting competition and was part of the crew aboard Dormy, the gold medal-winning yacht in the 7-metre class. The yacht was jointly owned by her father and husband. Another crew member was her brother-in-law Robert Coleman.