

TEAM PROFILE

Niki Birrell

VITAL STATISTICS...

Name:	Niki Birrell
Class:	Skud 18
Position:	Crew
DOB:	16 August 1986
Born / Grew up:	Manchester / Knutsford, Cheshire
Currently Living:	Knutsford, Cheshire
Started Sailing:	I sailed Mirrors, 420s and 470s with my brother Christian and we qualified for Worlds in each of these classes
Duration in current class:	Teamed up with Alex Rickham in November 2007
Name of Sailing Partner:	Alexandra Rickham
Coach:	Marcus Lynch
Greatest Strengths in Sailing:	Tactics
Greatest Weakness in Sailing:	Boat work
Biggest Goal:	Paralympic gold medal
Who has been the most influential person in your sailing career:	There are two – my dad and my brother Christian
Other interests away from sailing:	Watching Manchester City and spending time with my friends. I also play a bit of table tennis sometimes.
Personal sponsor:	Little Britain Challenge Cup
Sailing Career to date:	<p>Paralympic Games: Beijing 2008 5th</p> <p>IFDS World Championships: 2012 Gold 2011 Gold 2010 Gold 2009 Gold</p> <p>2012 record: Skandia Sail for Gold Gold Hyerres Regatta Silver Rolex Miami OCR Silver</p>



2011 record:

Sail Melbourne Regatta
Skandia Sail for Gold
Hyeres Regatta
Miami Regatta

Gold
Silver
Gold
Silver

Find full SKUD career results [here](#)

MEET THE SAILOR...

Who is Niki Birrell?

A cerebral palsy athlete, Niki is the youngest member of the British sailing team and enjoyed significant success sailing with his brother, qualifying for the 420 Worlds when European Junior Mirror champions as well as making the 470 Worlds, before switching into the Paralympic Classes, firstly in the 2.4mR and then the SKUD. He has one aim; win Paralympic gold and says the Americans and Australians have been their toughest opponents so far. His hero is Tiger Woods and says he has too many embarrassing moments to mention falling out of boats although probably the worst was hitting a lobster pot in Miami!