



HANNAH MILLS – MERIT AWARD WINNER, 2004

The Achievement Award (formerly the Merit Award) is intended both to act as recognition for those who can already claim achievement in their own field and to offer them encouragement to progress further. The 2004 Merit Award was unusual in that the age of the recipient was a mere 16 and the achievement was in sport, but it certainly identified one who was able to achieve considerably more. Hannah Mills, then still at Howells School, won the Merit Award that year on account of her dedication to sailing and for becoming a Junior World Sailing Champion.

Graeme Morgan admits to showing some prescience when he presented the award to her at his Installation on the 8th October, 2004, at Cardiff Castle because he warned her that it seemed that Olympic yachting medallists were required to be either blonde or bearded. (he was not sure who he was thinking of for the former, but the latter must have been Ben Ainslie). Anyway, the fair-haired Hannah went on to compete in the 2012 Olympics at London (a silver medal) and in 2016 at Rio der Janeiro (a gold medal). At the 2020 (actually 2021) Games at Tokyo, Hannah was selected to lead the GB Team into the arena – an honour she shared with another waterborne sportsman, the oarsman Moe Sbihi; he must be the tallest in the team whilst Hannah the most petite, showing that in sport talent comes in all sizes. This item is written before the Olympic sailing competition has started so the outcome for Hannah this time is not known, but the Livery Company wishes her well in her endeavour to equal the success of 2016.



Graeme Morgan presenting Hannah Mills with her Merit Award