

Sheffield Hallam University Sailing Club

Report of the Hallam Hangover 2014

The Scots clean up at the 2014 Hallam Hangover



They say that things go wrong in threes. However, the 2014 Hallam Hangover is proof that simply is not the case! In the weeks prior we'd been plagued with everything from storm damaged equipment, broken RIBs/support boats, double bookings, and members of Hallam Sailing Club even going as far as admitting themselves to hospital, just to get out of weekend duties!

I dubbed that with everything that had happened, all that could have gone wrong must have done so already, leaving nothing else left to go wrong at the weekend, but the weather! We've definitely been plagued with bad weather in 'the north' over the past year; I think it's the year when I've attended the most sailing events, but managed to do the least amount of sailing! With all the bad weather we've had, surely we were overdue some good weather?

With the Hangover only being in its second year, we were very pleased to receive entries from nine teams spread out across the country. It was great to see such a strong interest from the Scottish teams, receiving entries from Strathclyde and Glasgow.

By 11pm on Friday night the teams had travelled from far and wide, and all made it to the houses of their hosts for the weekend. This meant it was time for the 'hangover' to start in earnest!

On Saturday morning the weather was not in our favour, with rain, hail, and winds in excess of 35 knots. Racing was first postponed for an hour in the hope the weather would improve. This announcement was gratefully received by the majority of the competitors, giving them some much needed time to recover from the previous night's antics!

Unfortunately, AP over L remained firmly outstretched from the club flagpole for most of the day, with few breaks in the bad weather!



We eventually made it out onto the water mid-afternoon, and managed to get in one race. However, the brief gap in the weather had been and gone, and the wind and hailstones came back again. With no improvements in the weather being visible on the horizon the decision was made to bring all the boats ashore and abandon racing for the day. N.B believe it or not the photo below hasn't been modified in any way, this was taken just after the hailstone storm descended on the lake and gives you a good idea of the conditions throughout most of the day!



The teams did not let the lack of sailing get them down, and went all out for Saturday night's 'high school stereotypes' themed social. Some teams, definitely embraced their allocated theme more than others!



With the majority of teams continuing to nurse an ongoing hangover, it was time for Sunday's sailing to begin. Thankfully the weather was perfect, with racing getting underway after a brief 30 minute delay.



Despite having to bring the boats ashore mid afternoon for an incoming hailstone storm, we managed to get through nearly 40 races, plus final playoffs. I think this well and truly made up for the lack of sailing on Saturday!

The final standings were as follows:

1. Strathclyde 1
2. Strathclyde 2
3. Glasgow
4. Lancaster
5. Loughborough Cheetahs
6. Loughborough Tigers
7. Liverpool
8. Sheffield
9. Sheffield Hallam

All the teams commented on how much they had enjoyed the racing, and despite not sailing on Saturday, felt like they'd had a lot of time on the water. The weekend was particularly useful for several teams, giving them the opportunity for some last minute practice ahead of the BUSA playoffs in just over a weeks' time.

We will be back next year (hopefully with some better weather) to start the two-day Hangover all over again!

Sean Clarkson
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Commodore SHU Sail and Windsurf

P.S. Please have a look at the sneak preview of our Hallam Hangover 2014 summary video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_3_myi4n9Q. Full version to be released shortly!