



The London Six Pack 2017

The weekend of 21st to 22nd of October saw the return of the London Six Pack with an exciting, revised format! With a training day on the Saturday and a one day team racing event on the Sunday, this was the perfect way for teams, especially those with novice team racers, to start this academic year. With eight teams attending the training on the Saturday and team racing on the Sunday, it was an ideal environment for Universities to hone their team racing skills.



Saturday got off to an eventful start. With wind that was forecast to be gusting 45kt it looked, at first, like training couldn't happen. Nevertheless, with a combination of first class coaching from Charlie Makepeace and Paul Robson, excellent boat handling skills from the teams and a wind that was slightly less than expected, everyone was on the water by 10am.

It's no understatement to say that the wind caught us a little unawares –the view we all saw from the clubhouse of calm water did not correspond with the howling gusts that blew through and put more than a few boats on their sides! Nevertheless, we struggled through with all 18 boats on the water, during which teams got some real heavy weather practice!



Spicy wind on the Saturday making for some exciting planing and capsizes!

After a well deserved lunch of pasta bake and a slight rethink, half the teams headed back on to the water with Charlie to focus on some race training between the start and mark 3 whilst the other half did theory, based around the playbook with Paul in the clubhouse. The teams swapped round halfway through the afternoon so everyone still got plenty of time on the water.

After a tough but rewarding day on the water, the teams then headed out for a night on the town in Camden.



Sunday's weather was considerably better. Despite cut downs still being needed, the sun was out and we managed to keep the rain away throughout the day! With decent weather and a top team of umpires consisting of Nick Rusbridge, Chris Simon, David Lees and Paul Robson, we managed to get in an impressive number of races.



A close rounding at mark 3.

All teams raced impressively well despite the fact that for most this was their first event, no doubt buoyed along by an excellent lunch of pie and chips! As the round robin progressed smoothly, it was clear that there were four teams standing out ahead of the rest; The Castaways, Southampton Alumni, Yorkshire Puds and Plymouth. At the 80% mark of the round robin all 4 teams were still in contention for the top spot so in order to find a stand-out winner we transitioned onto the semi-finals.

The semis all featured some compelling team racing, during which the Yorkshire Puds defeated Plymouth after two races and Southampton alumni did the same to our own alumni team, The Castaways.

And so it was that the final for the Six Pack 2017 was fought out between two alumni teams. Both sailed admirably but it's fair to say that Southampton lived up to the standard that they had set all weekend and brought home the title in two succinct final races.

All in all the new format turned out to be a marked success and it looks like the Six Pack as a training/racing weekend is here to stay! All that remains is to say thank you to all the teams for coming along and making the event a fun weekend for everyone.

A massive thank you is also due to the four Umpires and to Mark Kitchen for results, the time that you all give up is really appreciated. Can we also say thanks to Welsh Harp Sailing Club

and Wembley Sailing club for powerboats and patience and all our lovely London University helpers for everything from starting every race to spending 4 hours glued to a chip fryer!

We hope to see you all again next year!

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Events coordinators