

Day 3 at the BUSA Team Racing Finals – 12th April 2019



The tack that won the finals – photo credit to Francis Treherne-Pollock

Teams arrived to a chilly but bright day to end Finals - "...great day to go sailing" was heard from various corners of Spinnaker, from competitors, organisers, coffee van proprietors and volunteers alike. Everyone was almost as excited about the races to come as they were about the presence of an ice-cream van; chairs were set out and spectators, including families, sprawled across the lakeside to watch the races. First races were hectic, and cheering came from beside the race office where teams sunbathed on the banks, watching in between racing. Edinburgh discussed the skills essential to the roles of helm and crew, whilst contemplating their first race – crews, according to their captain, are "melons – they just roll around..."

PRO Robyn Fitzgerald was interviewed on a RIB to the background sound of the first few races. She said "It's been going exceedingly well – 126 races yesterday, 112 on the first day. Every forecast has been different, none of them correct – it's been getting better day on day, hopefully it'll hold out."

Asked how she got into PRO-ing – "Originally started, humble beginnings – in the start boat (at this point she's called on two separate walkie talkies) did that enough to get asked to do PROing for the Scottish University Leagues. Did that enough to get asked to do BUSA, which is an absolutely fantastic opportunity.

Questioned a little bit about a new RYA initiative, she told us "we've got a new initiative to get more female race officials – just trying to break down the barriers for getting women into race officiating, if you're interested at all then get in touch with us, drop us a message on the BUSA page, we can give you more information." They're heavily subsidising these courses, so it's a great chance to learn and get involved.

The Media Boat was among the busiest today, as panoramic coverage of the majority of races was underway – among its crew was photographer Francis Treherne-Pollock, who has provided many of the beautiful action shots for the Championship, along with fellow photographers Tom Martin and Hugh Tompkins, alongside Emily Mitchell, videographer. Commentator and Reporter,

the aptly-named Lucy Storey was also on board, providing coverage throughout the day, with commentary and interviews broadcast over Facebook live (these can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/BUCStrChamps2019/videos>), whilst Mark Trap commentated from the shore. Drone pilot Andrew Donald was there too, synchronising drone footage with live commentary.

They interviewed UCD, University College Dublin, from the water - the top Irish university team was finishing on a high after winning a race with a beautiful 1-2-3. Asked by commentator Lucy Storey about what it's like to get out on the start line and not be worried with an early lead, they said: "You can't put toothpaste back in the tube... so sync at the start and play it from there." Possibly the quote of the day.



Lakeside van, providing bacon rolls. They tell us they have an ideal position for watching the boats at the finish line. Asked if they had a favorite team, they said Edinburgh.



Volunteers on the Finish boats discussed the most exciting races they've seen so far – it's a tough call.

The Errand boat was busy all day with one of the most important of the volunteer jobs, delivering tea and coffee to all the race officials and volunteers and ferrying changeovers of people between start and finish boats and the shore.



Sarah, captain of the errand boat



Anthony Butler, Senior Secretary of Cambridge (CUCrC)

One of the most prominent spectators is this man, Senior Secretary of Cambridge University Cruising Club, Anthony Butler, who's been spotted frequently throughout the three days. "People always think I'm in charge – I tell them I'm just pretending." He thinks it must be the hat and the binoculars. He's seen a fair few races at BUSA, though this is the last year he'll be here as Secretary. "Let the battle commence..." he says as he watches the quarter-finals, which happen in slow motion because the wind had died by two o'clock in the afternoon. Exeter Blue, Oxford Blue, Southampton Green and Cambridge Blue make it through to semi-finals, whilst Edinburgh jump into the water for a dip on the sidelines. For London White it's happy days, in 6th place – it's the furthest they've come in fifteen years, so they'll be listening to 'We are the Champions' on their way home.

Semi-finals are dramatic, with racing delayed due to super-light winds – teams watching from the shore debate as to whether it will be called off, as teams still competing lie across boats stalled on mirror-water, but the organization team rearrange the course and winds return to see some incredible racing. Best of threes have spectators shouting, 'oohing' and 'aahing' as spins at the finish and crazy overtakes at mark 1 make it worth coming to see this final from however far... After some very close finishes and excellent racing, Exeter and Cambridge make it through to finals, whilst Oxford and Southampton race Petit Finals which sees Southampton Green in third place for finals 2019.

The final is intense, a full five races featuring double mark traps and gybe backs – the commentators can't talk fast enough and those who've stayed to watch have their own running commentary, as the race is narrated by teams who've stayed to watch, cutting it fine on time to get changed out of dry suits and into swanky suits for the ball which rounds off the competition – it's held on a boat, but there aren't many rules. The fifth race and the competition is won by Exeter with a sleek 1-2-5, trophies are given out and Finals come to a close in the sun. Exeter are glad they brought their flag just in case they won.



Exeter Blue, who brought their flag "in case" © Tom Martin

Thanks go out to everyone who sailed, all the BUSA organising team, volunteers, visitors & spectators, Spinnaker and everyone who helped make these 2019 Finals such a full and wonderful few days.

A full report on the Finals will be posted in due course.

Saskia Lloyd-Gaiger
Championship Media Team
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Final results:

1. Exeter Blue	11. Cardiff Black	21. Birmingham White
2. Cambridge Blue	12. Plymouth Pink	22. Newcastle Blue
3. Southampton Green	13. Bristol Red	23. Bath Black
4. Oxford Blue	14. UCD	24. Strathclyde Pink
5. Loughborough Purple	15. Warwick Black	25. Edinburgh Green
6. London White	16. Edinburgh Blue	26. St Andrews Pink
7. Cambridge Black	17. Imperial Blue	27. Sheffield Yellow
8. Southampton Black	18. Durham Purple	28. Nottingham Green
9. Bath Blue	19. Exeter Black	
10. Southampton Blue	20. Manchester Purple	

BUSA Media:

News, videos and photos posted on the FB Event page - <https://www.facebook.com/BUCStrChamps2019>
- @BUSAStrChamps2019

on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BUSASAILING> - @BUSASAILING

and on Instagram: @BUSAMedia.

Results were updated live on ksail: <http://events.ksail.co.uk/2019/BUSAFinals/RaceResults.html>

The official Championship page is at: <https://busa.co.uk/championships/bucs-team-racing-championship-2019>
BUSA Media: <https://www.facebook.com/BUSAMedia/>