



**British Universities
and Colleges Sport**

**British Universities'
Sailing Association**



British University Team Racing Championships 2019



© Andrew Donald

The best UK & Irish university team racers were at Spinnaker Exeter are 2019 Champions



© Tom Martin

The Finals of the annual Team Racing Championships of the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) and British University Sailing Association (BUSA) were held at Spinnaker Sailing Club from Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 April 2019.

This was the culmination of an academic year's selection, training and competition. In February, the largest team racing event, probably worldwide, was simultaneously held over five venues across the UK. 540 sailors, in over some 90 university teams, competed in Qualifiers. Four of these covered English and Welsh universities, at four venues: Derwent Water, Grafham, Spinnaker and *Chew Valley*. In Scotland the event was the third in a

series of 'League' weekends held between December and February at Bardowie Loch and on the Tay (planned events at Forfar having been iced up – inside and outside!).



© Tom Martin

From these five events, 20 teams qualified direct to the Finals. A further fifteen teams went forward to Playoffs, held on Derwent Water, to find a further seven teams to go forward to the Finals. The 28th team invited to Finals is the winning team from the Irish Intervarsities, held in March. The story of the qualifiers this year was covered in a Finals Preview – see link listed below.



© Francis Treherne-Pollock

This year the Finals were held at Spinnaker Sailing Club. It was organised directly by BUSA with support from Spinnaker, but with the incredible support of an army of volunteers, this year from all over the country, many accompanying their teams. The BUSA Technical Delegates are responsible for quality assuring the event, ensuring the best competition possible, but this year it meant directly involving themselves in the leadership and management of the event. BUSA would want to pay tribute the massive commitment, over many months and throughout the event, from the "TDs" Emily Robertson and Chris Lindsay.



© Francis Treherne-Pollock

Robyn Fitzgerald provides a full report on the racing and conditions: "The forecasting was all over the place pre-event; the most interesting I saw was 4 gusting 22. At that point I decided that we would just have to react to, rather than predict, what was happening.



© Andrew Donald

Day one was fairly stressful until racing was well underway; we had an army of volunteers to get organised and briefed, as well as registration and briefing of the competitors. The wind was light, and we had drizzle all day - it made me and the rest of the Scots feel very at home. We saw through 112 races, despite some big shifts; we managed it with the help of our outstanding course manager, Stephen Green.

"We brought the start time forward by half an hour on day two; the aim was to get in as many - if not more - races than day one, as again we had very little idea of what the wind would actually do. The race

committee were well settled into roles, and everyone was happy with the plan. The sun shone, the breeze was mostly light, and we got to race 238. A competitor was overheard saying that racing was running 'too efficiently', a compliment that any RO is happy to hear.



© Tom Martin

“Although the forecasts were again all over the place, they mostly agreed that the wind would die out in the afternoon of day 3. The start time was brought forward to 9am; with a cut-off time of 12.45 for starting a new round. The biggest decision was when to end the Swiss league and go into knockouts. On one hand you want to get in as much racing as possible for everyone, and on the other you want to have decent breeze for the top boats to battle it out in the final. With places 4-11 tied in round 20, the decision was made to get to round 21 in to help decide overall rankings without using tie breaks. Unfortunately, that’s when the breeze decided to go haywire, with massive shifts and AP’s constantly going up and down.



© Francis Treherne-Pollock

“We had our brilliant start boat manager, Abby West, staying on top of everything; Stephen managing the placement of marks 1 & 2 (we had him with mark 1 in his rib until 10 seconds pre start so as to lay it in the best possible place) and Sarah Alcock and Emily Robertson manning marks 3 & 4 to move them accordingly. The course was constantly changing, we even had all the umpires lift every mark when the wind totally died, ready to lay it when the wind decided where it was going to fill in from.



Spectators' Gallery

© Andrew Donald

"We got through quarters when the breeze shut off entirely. There was an agonising wait for it to come back, the contingency plan was made and about to be put in motion, when the wind eventually filled in at about 10 past 4 and gave us an absolutely perfect semi-finals and final.



"The tack that- won the Final"

© Francis Treherne-Pollock

"Emily Robertson and Chris Lindsay, alongside Spinnaker Sailing Club, did an amazing job of organising the event. Nicole Ames was constantly on the go and generally being indispensable, as were Emily and Keith Sammons. Chris and Jemima Riley brought a wealth of experience and did a fantastic job of keeping me in the right. I learned a huge amount from everyone." Well, thanks to Robyn too, we think.

A flavour of the event was posted each day in a series of daily reports (see links below), whilst a Media Team, led by Izzy Burroughs of Glasgow, posted a continuous flow of updates, blogging, live commentary, photos, video, including drone footage, making this the most 'covered' BUSA Finals to date.

The Championship went to Exeter Blue, winning the Finals from Cambridge Blue, whilst Southampton Green took the bronze medals in the petit final from Oxford Blue.



Exeter Blue

© Tom Martin

Murray Hampshire, Exeter's Captain, spoke of "BUSA Finals - this is the big one, what we train for, which makes it the one you want to win.....so it is really nice to do so [Murray must have been keen to be the first of the Hampshire team racing dynasty to 'win BUSA']. I have been to three BUSA Finals – West Kirby was very good – but this one was very high quality. The wind was good- except for the wait for the final races; to get in 21 races each was really good. The event was run very well. I am glad to say that, with a couple of freshers in the team, the potential for Exeter looks good. Particular tribute goes to Cambridge and Southampton that have been pushing all year, as well as through the Swiss League this week".



Cambridge Blue

© Anthony Butler



Southampton Green

© Tom Martin

This year the Finals were run directly by BUSA, led by BUSAs two Technical Directors, Chris Lindsay and Emily Robertson, worked closely with the host club, Spinnaker Sailing. Teams of volunteers from across the country were recruited, a race team to be led by Robyn Fitzgerald established and an international umpiring team led by Jon Napier, together with Jury Chair, Andy Wibroe.

A full Media Team was led by Izzy Burroughs of Glasgow. We are particularly grateful to the drone pilot, Spinnaker Rear Commodore, Andrew Donald and photographers, Tom Martin of Exeter and Francis Treherne-Pollock and Hugh Tomkins of Cambridge, together with Emily Mitchell (Solent) on videography. Lucy Storey (formerly Manchester) and Mark 'Trap' Taylor (formerly Edinburgh) provided commentary over the second and final days for the large audiences on line and on shore, the former synchronised with drone and other video footage. Links to their work are appended.

OVERALL PLACES
with team membership and allocation of BUCS Points

Place & Team (+ bib)	Team Membership	BUCS Points
1. Exeter Blue (H)	Murray Hampshire/Emma Baker, Jack Hanslope/Phoebe Warren, Dom Lewis/Gemma Keers	50
2. Cambridge Blue (T)	Jamie Webb/Juliette Welham, Robbie King/Bethan Matthew, Alex Smallwood/Michael Smith	35
3. Southampton Green (Z)	Matt Whitfield/Charlie Darling, Crispin Beaumont/Tom Daggitt, Tommy Darling/Cat Hunt	24
4. Oxford Blue (O)	Lucy Mellers/Tiarnan Finney, James Scott/Remi Pfister, John-Joseph Marie/Helen Jones	16
5. Loughborough Purple (L)	Elysia Dooley /Olivia Petty-Mayor, Will Bedford /Grace Bradley-Shankhar, Hamish Eckstein /Lucie Offord	14
6. London White (K)	Matt Thornton/Laura Bevan, Lucia Albelda Gimeno/Lazar Liebenberg, Victoria Hinkovska/Yinglai Wu	12
7. Cambridge Black (C)	Paris Thomas/Nina Luckmann, Henry Morley/Laragh Harvey-Kelly, Alex Baxter/Oliver Jagger	
8. Southampton Black (R)	Gus Dixon/Harry Jolly, Oli Aldridge/Elle Wollmann, Pete Ballantine/Morgan Dibb	
9. Bath Blue (B)	Ben Batten/Victoria Upton, Tim Riley/Esmé Shepherd, Matt Lulham-Robinson/Will Ward	10
10. Southampton Blue (Y)	James Leetch/Kurt Repose, Bobby Hewitt/Lulu Knott, Matthew Viney/Florence Tanner	
11. Cardiff Black (V)	Daniel Discombe/Amy Sparks, Oscar Wright/Eve Gadd, Duncan Jamieson/Vicky Cowan	8
12. Plymouth Pink	Alaric Bates/Madeleine Watkins, Nick Devereux/Elle Harding, Matt Currel/Harry Odling	
13. Bristol Red (P)	Freddie Grogono/Issy Gordon, Josh Adam/Orla Mitchell, Alice Kidd/Alex Holmes	
14. University College Dublin (U)	Daniel Raymond/Katie Cassidy, Jack Higgins /Alanna Lyttle, Patrick Cahill/Lucy McCutcheon	
15. Warwick Black (W)	Dan Venables/Suzanne Lefebvre, Hamish Oliver/Oli Bone, Dom Hall/Alexandra Ling	
16. Edinburgh Blue (E)	Matthew Caiger/Angus Lawson, Hugh Braidwood/Kiyo Wong, Michael Wollmann/Hannah Jones	
17. Imperial Blue (I)	Joe Burgin/Calvin Chan, Gabriel Ing/Caroline Boule, Felix Crowther /Krystal Law	
18. Durham Purple (D)	Huw Edwards/Emma Smith, Tom Smith/Lucy Mearns, Tom Goodbourn/Olivia Balfour	
19. Exeter Black (G)	Jessie Main /Jonny Musgrove, Edward Harris/Emily Gent , Robert Giardelli/Becky Mitchell	
20. Manchester Purple (M)	Rebecca Barry/Philip Aldhous, Jenny Smallwood/Jonathan Mitchell, James Morson/Ella Vincent	
21. Birmingham White (J)	Adam Stone/Abbey Williams, Giles Kuzyk/Emily Walters, Niall Houston/George Zavos	
22. Newcastle Blue (N)	Kieran Graham/Elana St-George, George Haynes /Grace Summers, Thomas Clayton/Gabriella Viner	
23. Bath Black (A)	Will Hopes/Henry Chesson, Merrick Stanley/Amalia Maiden, Oliver Cage-White/Izzie Clay	
24. Strathclyde Pink (FRA)	Sophie Taylor/Katrina Longstaffe, Arturo Beltra/Pascal Pace, Jose Aroca/Anna Sturrock	
25. Edinburgh Green (F)	Ota Dvorak/Anna Protheroe, Calum Rosie/Ana Scougall, Ilias Gavriilidis/Philippa Howie	
26. St Andrews Pink (CHN)	Emily Hill/Ben White, Henry Hayden/Caspar Schwahn, Hector McKemey/Suzie Davidson	
27. Sheffield Yellow (S)	Henry Hughes/Robbie Langford, Henry Mills/Lizzie Geraghty, Sam Yale /Millie Little	
28. Nottingham Green (X)	William James/Alice Semenenko, Iona Smith/Hannah Thompson, Peter Bradley/Catherine Pooler	

For full results see KSail: <http://events.ksail.co.uk/2019/BUSAFinals/>, provided by Keith Sammons.

The official BUSA Championship page for all Notices and documentation was: <http://www.busa.co.uk/events/bucs-team-racing-championships-2016-17>.

News coverage:

Finals Preview : https://busa.co.uk/application/files/5815/5467/3818/19BUCS-TRchamps_Final_EventPreview.pdf.

Saskia Lloyd-Gaiger (London) posted **daily reports:**

Day 1: <https://busa.co.uk/application/files/9715/5490/4832/Day1Report.pdf>

Day 2: https://busa.co.uk/application/files/5215/5515/0462/19BUCStrFinals_Day2Reportv2.pdf

Day 3: https://busa.co.uk/application/files/6715/5510/1829/19bucsTRfinals_Day3Report.pdf

The event was very fully covered on the BUCS Team Racing Championship 2019 Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/BUCStrChamps2019> - @BUCStrChamps2019 – including photos and videos

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

Photographs by **Andrew Donald, Francis Treherne-Pollock, Tom Martin** and **Hugh Tomkins** may be found in galleries on BUSA Sailing Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/busasailing>.



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