



British Universities and Colleges Sport British Universities' Sailing Association

Student Yachting Championship 2019



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Exeter Blue wins the Championship and Bristol leads the Trophy Fleet



Championship Medallists: Swansea – Exeter - Edinburgh

The Yachting Championships of the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS), in conjunction with the British Universities' Sailing Association (BUSA) and the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), was held on the Solent from Monday to Thursday, 15 – 18, April. Over 175 student sailors, in 22 teams of 8, representing universities from St Andrews to Plymouth and Swansea to Surrey set off from Port Solent in Sunsail Fast 40s first thing on Monday morning.

For the rest of the week, until their return to Port Solent for the Closing Ceremony on Thursday afternoon, they were berthed at Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth, with a land base for coach debriefings etc. at TigerTiger. The event was hosted socially by Portsmouth University Sailing Club, with a specially-devised programme, including, a black-tie dinner on the first night.

PRO Jon Nabney and RO Peter Bateson reported on each day's sailing.



Southampton Red and Exeter in the forefront © Harry Bowerman

The Qualifying Series

While the competitors gathered for the evening video debrief from the coach, Mason King, Jon Nabney briefed us on the first day's racing: "We chose the Peel Bank in the mid-Solent, south of the Isle of Wight, for racing today, having regard to the anticipated weather conditions. Three practice starts were held. Due to the weather conditions, one reef was used for Race 1. The first start produced a general recall: Flag 'U' was flown for the re-start and six boats were UFD. The second start of Race 1 commenced at 120°, with gusts on the course of 28 knots or more, but about half way through moved a bit to the left. Race 1 was fairly short at about 3/4 hour.



Edinburgh and Swansea © Harry Bowerman

"The course was altered for races 2 and 3, at 105° and lengthened to 155 nm. During these two races the crews will have struggled to keep control, and, for some, attempts to use the kite had very mixed results, at least one ending up under the keel. So, it was hard work for the sailors, but a good test of their skills and

team-working. The mark layer [Eilidh Millar, with Photographer, Harry Bowerman] and the coach [Mason King] especially faced big seas and, with a heavy chop for the drive back to Gunwharf, a heavy wetting [BUSAs Abby West, who accompanied the coach for much of the day, had to suspend her Twitter blog to just hold on!].”



Edinburgh

© Harry Bowerman

Edinburgh’s skipper, Miles Jones was busy with a hearing, so we caught up with Hugh Braidwood, the Edinburgh Commodore: “Today has given us confidence in the boat, handling it in heavy weather. We were one of only a few to successfully hoist and manage the kite. One member of the crew had a small leg injury, caught between lines, but we are in good spirits”. Close rivals on Day 1 (2 points in it at the end of the day), were Southampton Green. Tommy Darling gave crisp comment: “Drama free”, then adding “take the line at speed”, which drew some banter from his team-mates; we are pretty sure someone said, “cannot kite without a kite”. The significance became clearer when we learnt about the several kite mishaps that day.



Bristol and Oxford Blue’s sailors at work

© Harry Bowerman

The plan for day two was for two Windward-Leeward races, followed by an inshore coastal race of approximately 2 – 2 ½ hours duration. The latter was non-discardable and carried 1.5 points per placing.

Jon Nabney reported on the day. Sailing was to be off Langstone, where the Fleet found light winds, 2 – 5 knots from the North West. With a slow build, there was a slightly delayed start. The first race (Race 4 of the Qualifying Series) was set at 295° with a 1.25 nautical miles first leg. When there was a slight drop in wind strength, the course was shortened slightly. Race 5 started at 295°, with a first leg of 1.1 nm. The wind dropped and moved toward the north, so the start was re-set, only for the wind direction to revert and the start re-set again, after a small delay.

The Inshore Coastal Race (race 6) was started at 305°, with a 1.1 nm windward first leg. The Race Committee did provide a close spinnaker reach, but noted that no boat chose to hoist. A couple of boats suffered navigational issues with local underwater obstacles.



Exeter

Harry Bowerman

When the Fleet returned to Gunwharf Quays, following the Coach's video debrief, the BUSA Annual General Meeting was held. Neil Marshall handed over the reins as Chair to Karen Thomas, with Abby West taking on the new role of Vice-Chair



Bristol

© Harry Bowerman

The plan for the third day of the Qualifying Series was for one windward-leeward race, followed by the long inshore race of approximately 5 hours.

RO Peter Bateson reported on the day in practice. "Misty. No wind. Out off Langstone. Light South Easterly, visibility about 1 mile. OK to start. R1 of the day getting underway, but fleet was too pushy, so a general recall. Half way through the re-start sequence, the race officer realized that the *ODM* (Outer Distance Mark) had disappeared, in fog! Postponement. Breeze dropped. Eventually a light S Easterly again and the fog lifted. Enough wind for one windward-Leeward – started just in time before the 16:00 deadline. So, by then, there was no time for the 'long inshore' race".

The Qualifying Series results determined the Championship and Trophy Fleets for the finals held on Thursday. Each team carried forward its ranking from the Qualifiers, but the top eight universities gained places in the Championship Fleet: Edinburgh, Southampton Green, Exeter, St Andrews, Swansea, Warwick, Portsmouth and Solent White.

The Great BUSA Bake Off

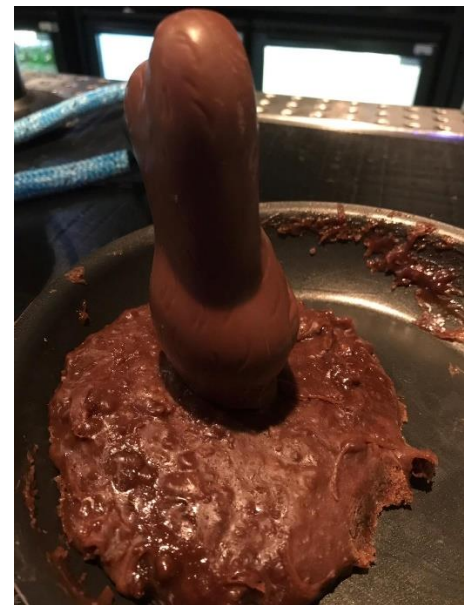
A highlight of the penultimate day of the Championship was "The Great BUSA Bake Off". Instituted some year's ago when the Fleet was becalmed during the long inshore race, this competition has become a traditional part of the event. With no long inshore race, the teams had most of the day for preparation and baking, according to the strict rules of the competition, and the product of their labours was judged by the BUSA Bake Off Jury after racing. Oxford White celebrated their win.



Oxford White



Oxford White's Head bakers



Two of the excellent runners-up are shown left and centre. Portsmouth had made the mistake of putting a photo of their frying action on social media, and the judges were forewarned about this dry-fried cake with melted jelly babies (right) and declared it...inedible!

Championship and Trophy Series

The Fleet divided into the Championship (the top eight boats from different universities from the Qualifying Series) and Trophy Fleets, each with three windward-leeward races scheduled.

RO Peter Bateson reported on the final day: "Sparkly day. 8 – 12 knots of breeze. Off Langstone. Due to technical difficulties, the aim of operating on-the-water judging for the Championship Fleet under Addendum Q had to be abandoned and, with the agreement of all boats, the racing proceeded under the normal RRS. After a short delay, three windward-leeward races were successfully run, using a wide trapezoid course, with the Trophy Fleet on the outer loop and the Championship Fleet on the inner loop, with separate finish lines. Sterling work by the Mark Layers adjusting the course kept the sequences running, and the last race was started with just 4 minutes left before the time ran out!



2019 Champions - Exeter

At the prize giving, the Sunsail Trophy and BUCS medals were awarded to Exeter, together with Championship medals for Edinburgh and Swansea. The John Derbyshire Trophy was awarded to Bristol, together with Trophy medals to teams Cambridge and Southampton Red.

The overall placings and the BUCS points to be awarded by the British Universities and Colleges Sport are summarised as follows.

Results: Places and BUCS Points

Championship Fleet

Place	Institution	Helm	BUCS points
1st	Exeter	Murray Hampshire	50
2nd	Edinburgh	Miles Jones	35
3rd	Swansea	Robbie Robinson	24
4th	Southampton Green	Tommy Darling	16
5th	Portsmouth	George Bridge	14
6th	St Andrews	Balázs Gecse	12
7th	Solent White	Elliott Wells	10
8th	Warwick	Dan Venables	8

Trophy Fleet

1st	Bristol	Sophie Caseldine	30
2nd	Cambridge	Chris Cantillo	21
3rd	Southampton Red	Ed Myers	14
4th	Oxford Blue	Rebecca Anthony	12
5th	Solent Red	Chay Taylor	11
6th	Solent Black	Will Van Dyke	9
7th	Glasgow	Alasdair Ireland	7
8th	Durham	Zoe James	5
9th	Surrey	James Harayda	
10th	Imperial	Ian Emerson	
11th	Plymouth White	George Kennedy	
12th	Plymouth Pink	Dominic James	
13th	Oxford White	Ryan Schenck	
14th	Newcastle	Josh Dawson	

The detailed results may be found at: Qualifying Series:

https://busa.co.uk/application/files/8415/5645/9159/19bucsYachtingChampionships_QualifyingSeriesResults.pdf

Championship & Trophy Series:

https://busa.co.uk/application/files/5115/5645/9372/19bucsYachtingChampionships_ChampionshipTrophyResults.pdf

Jack Hanslope, Commodore of Exeter, was, understandably, bouncing when Exeter came off the water – what a year: 2nd in the BUCS Match Racing, 1st at the Team Racing and ,now, winning Yachting too! Skipper Freddie Liardet was more prosaic: “Pretty conditions today, sunny. Three really nice starts helped. Clean races. Event was pretty well run and the debriefs were useful”.

Bristol’s skipper, Sophie Caseldine, winning the Trophy Fleet, said “Really enjoyed it. Easier and harder – a nice team, working well – more difficult for us in the heavier winds at the beginning of the week. Good conditions today, especially for us”. When asked about being the leading women’s helm, Sophie said, “there is no reason why there shouldn’t be more women helms. Perhaps, in the past we have been underestimated, so it is nice that Becca and I can prove otherwise. Hopefully, there will be more in the future”.



Oxford White

© Harry Bowerman

Oxford’s Yachting Captain and skipper of Blue, Becca Anthony, and White’s skipper and OUYCs Cruising Captain Ryan Schenk, were joined by the new joint Yachting Captain, Annika Möslein to explain Oxford’s approach to entering the event this year. “This is the first time for Oxford to have two teams here. The aim was to get more sailors involved and build a squad for future years, giving freshers an opportunity to race. It is all about accessibility, opportunity, including for some who have never raced, and sustaining capacity for the future”. Oxford White will have been pleased to be nominated by the Coach as the most improved team through the Championship, as well as recognition of their baking prowess.



Swansea

© Harry Bowerman

Swansea certainly showed significant improvement too as they achieved third in the Championship, not having had a podium finish since records of the event began back in 1996. Bella Cooper, Swansea's Commodore, reflected that 'BUCS Yachting nationals this year was very competitive, and the varying conditions challenging. The running of the event was a real testament to BUSA and all its volunteers, and the coaching aspect helped all teams improve during the week.

"As for my team, having never sailed together, they adapted to the conditions and worked together extremely well. We sailed cleanly and fast, made some great tactical calls. After three years at Nationals, me and my helm Robbie were ecstatic to finish our university yachting on such a high note.'

Murray Hampshire, Exeter's helm, who had helmed his match racing crew to Silver in the BUCS Match Racing Championships a fortnight before and then gone on to captain the victorious Exeter team in the Team Racing Championship last week, summed things up after this week's success. "It was a lovely way to end three years' student sailing - a good three years, a good three weeks. Racing here was very close and went our way today, but it could have gone anywhere. Huge congratulations to Edinburgh, with great results across the event". Murray mentioned how pleasing it was that their team, mainly from a dinghy, non-keelboat background, worked so well over the week.

The RYA again provided a coaching team, led by Mason King, over the week, with on-the-water observation, videoing and, for some crews where coaching resources allowed, on-board consultation. One of the guest coaches was Niall Myant-Best, the British Keelboat Academy (BKA) Head Coach, was at the event for Wednesday, when there was plenty of time for on-board coaching. Niall did the event twice for Solent University (then the Institute), going on to win the Worlds and has coached Solent 3 or 4 times. He said of the BUCS Championships: "Each time standards improve, and you get a sneak peak at the next generation of keelboat sailors. Soon to be going out from university - and some will be looking to sail professionally –it (the Championships) creates a pool of skilled sailors for the yachting community to pick from".



The medallists in the Trophy Fleet: Cambridge, Bristol and Southampton Red

All information, including on-line results and progress with protests etc., was provided on the on-line Official Notice Board: <https://busa.co.uk/championships/bucs-yachting-championships-2019/bucs-yachting-championship-2019-official-notice-board>. Frequent updates on the racing and photos throughout the day (for the photos, thanks to Karen Rawson of Sunsail) were posted on the BUCS Yachting Championships Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2344068348958431/permalink/2351116004920332/>, together with Abby West's blog (when she is not holding on for dear life!) at BUSA Sailing Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BUSASAILING>. The fleet could be tracked on Marine Traffic's tracker: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/home/centerx:-1.2/centery:50.8/zoom:11>. Photographs taken by Harry Bowerman, BUSAs Keelboat Officer, on Monday and Wednesday may be found at: <https://harrybowerman.shootproof.com/gallery/9150717/>



Edinburgh, with their silver medals



Bristol, Trophy winners

The teams:

Bristol (4030) Sophie Caseldine /Oliver Sellers/David Haw/Milly Pugh/Nicky Savage/Elia Sciana Bandel/Aylwin Racher/George Hyett
Cambridge (4011) Chris Cantillo/Anna Prescott/Freddie Scott/Holly MacAskill/Karen Thomas/Niels van Fraassen /Laurence
Cochrane/Garrett Bray
Durham (4013) Zoe James/Huw Edwards/Ollie Tait/Jackie Truhol/Harry Raffan/Nikita Federov/Rosie Hill/Fergus Stembridge
Edinburgh (4019) Miles Jones/Lewis Smith /Iain McLaughlin /James Holmes (Tues-Thurs only)/Matt Cagier (Monday only)/Emily
Whyte /Patrick Eves /Rachel Scarfe
Exeter (4006) Murray Hampshire/Willow Bland/Freddie Liardet/Jack Hanslope/Freya Anderson/Nellie Gannon/Jakob Schmutz/Will
Roberts
Glasgow (4001) Alasdair Ireland/Alexandra Brown/Alexander MacKinnon/Cameron McCosh/Katie Tayler/Ciaran McMonagle/Olivia
von Pein/Fergus McGowan
Imperial (4007) Ian Emerson/Daniel Hails/Toby Freeland/Krystal Law/Marta Nunes De Abreu/Alex Eckl/Tamar Gomez/Anastasios
Koutian
Newcastle (4028) 8Josh Dawson/Grace Summers/Kieran Graham/Ben Lulham Robinson/Georgie Mckenzie /Elana St George/Will
Hawkins/Alex Hutchings
Oxford Blue (4022) Rebecca Anthony(Mon/Wed/Thur)/Tiarnan Finney/Harry Gilchrist/Annika Moeselin /Max Jamilly/Zac
Coleman/Meirian Evans /Sean Linsdall/Bryn Phillips (Tues only)
Oxford White (4014) Ryan Schenck/Maximilian Strobl/Lasse Wolfe/Fraser Goldsworth/Maria Prange-Barczynska/Benjamin
Saunders/Jessica Flower /Marcel Schopen
Plymouth Pink (4024) Dominic James/Nicholas Devereux/Christopher Roberts/Louisa Briggs/Eleanor Harding/Ryan Pickup/Francesca
Evans/John Parkes
Plymouth White (4025) George Kennedy/Edward Yallop/Elias Marchetti/Rufus Wright/Isabel Brosnan/Humphrey Nightingale/Tobias
Woodings /Charlotte Small
Portsmouth Purple (4004) George Bridge/Fiona Mulcahy/Alistair Bolton/Alex Coles/Ella Boxall/Arthur White (Monday & Rest
TBC)/Gavin Kramer/George Coles
Solent Black (4021) Will Van Dyke/Jacob Hutchings/Alavro Barneuvo/Felix Trattner/Finn Jones/Megan Smith/Noah
McWatters/Nicole Ames
Solent Red (4012) Elliott Wells/Emily Mitchell/Greg Kelly/Alvaro Garcia Requena/Ollie Goodhead/Jess Harman /Andrew
Pimm/Robby Boyd
Solent White (4018) Chay Taylor/Christian Huelss/Bence Dénes/Elle Gillespie/Aaron Rogers/Juilette Letort/Greg Chalk/Thomas
Payne
Southampton Red (4017) Tommy Darling/Harry King /Nick Robins/Ceci Wollmann /Hatty Ward /Simon Leeming /Fergus Angel /Will
Birch-Tomlinson
Southampton Green (4023) Ed Myers/Courtney Bilbrough /David Saunders /Dominic Clark /Elle Wollmann /Tim Atkins /Josh
Croft /Cat Hunt
St Andrews Blue (4005) Balázs Gecse/ Hector McKemey/ Alex Carter/Charlotte Scarff/ Sarah Wright/Andras Nemesanszky/Connor
Lurring/Aleksander Sakharov
Surrey Blue (4008) James Harayda/Huw Owen/Mattias Chambers/Rebecca Manning /Johan Beavis-Berry/Imogen Slinn/William
Auger/Niamh Chess
Swansea Green (4015) Robbie Robinson/Bella Cooper/Cameron Webber/Lucy Harris/Joe Hills/Andrew Robinson/Sarah
Jarman/Adam Rowlatt
Warwick White (4026) Dan Venables/Sam Crafer/Dom Hall/Hamish Oliver/Laurence Harris/Tim Haines/Alexandra Ling/George Jolly
