



BUCS Fleet Racing Championships 2019

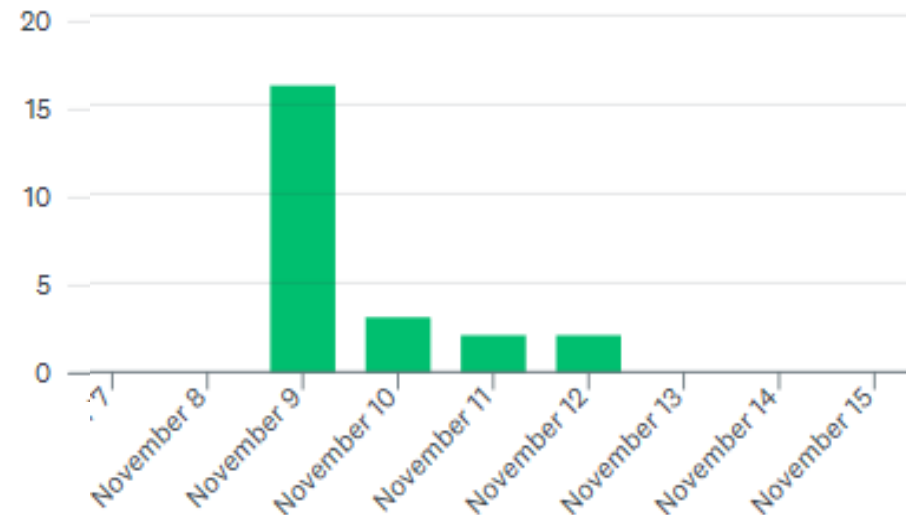
Post-Event Competitor Survey Results Analysis and Key Outcomes

Overview

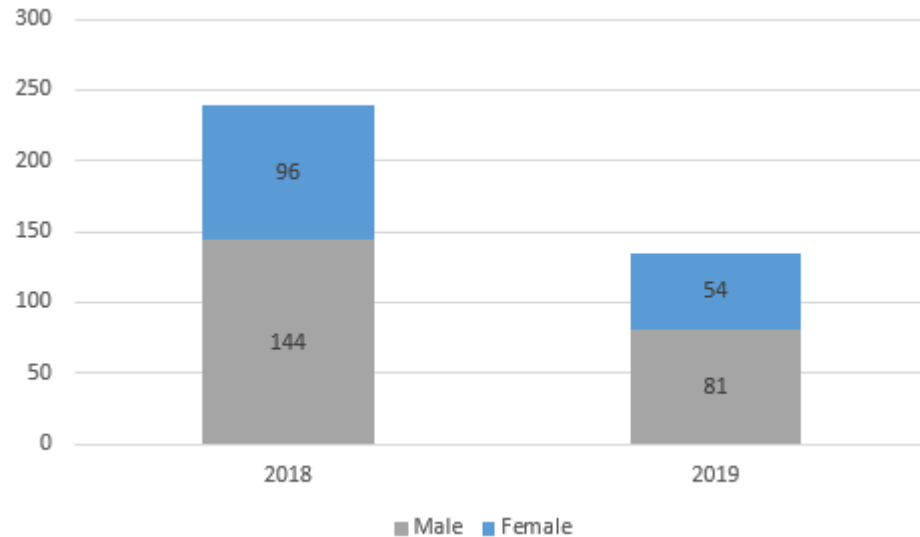


- Following the 2019 BUCS Fleet Racing Championship, hosted by the University of Plymouth Sailing & Powerboating Club at the Mount Batten Centre, Plymouth on the 2nd-3rd November 2019, a post-event survey was circulated to gather competitor feedback.
- The survey was launched on the 9th of November 2019 and remained open until the 14th of November 2019. During this time, it was promoted via the BUSA Facebook and Instagram channels and distributed via email to registered competitors, although response rate remained low.

Total Responses
Received = 23



Competitor Numbers



2018 Championship

Total **240**

Male **144**
(60%)

Female **96**
(40%)

2019 Championship

Total **135**

Male **81**
(60%)

Female **54**
(40%)

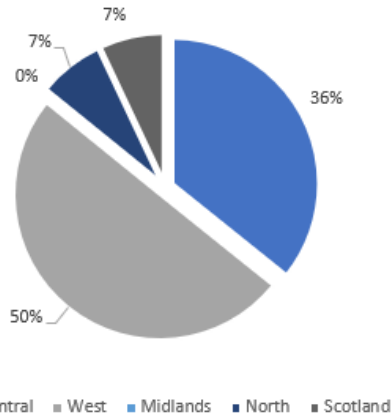
KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Competitor numbers were significantly lower in 2019 than 2018 – perhaps due to the geographical location of the event and the inclement weather at the start of the weekend.
- The percentages of male and female competitors stayed the same.

Event Demographics



Which BUSA Regions were represented?



- South Central Area – 36%
 - Western Area – 50%
 - Midlands Area – 0%
 - Northern Area – 7%
 - SSS – Scottish Student Sailing – 7%
- (% of teams at event representing that region)

Which University Sailing Clubs attended the event? Plus number of boats competing from that Club.

Represented:

- Bath (6)
- Bristol (8)
- Bournemouth (3)
- Cardiff (5)
- Durham (4)
- Edinburgh (1)
- Exeter (7)
- Falmouth (FXU) (1)
- Imperial (2)
- Plymouth (10)
- Portsmouth (3)
- Southampton (7)
- Solent (5)
- UWE (2)

Not Represented:

- Aberystwyth
- Bangor
- Birmingham
- Brunel
- Cambridge
- Dundee
- East Anglia (UEA)
- Glasgow
- Highlands & Islands Kingston
- Kent
- Lancaster
- Leeds
- Liverpool
- London
- Loughborough
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- Nottingham
- Oxford
- Oxford Brookes
- Reading
- Royal Agricultural
- Sheffield
- Sheffield Hallam
- St Andrews
- Strathclyde
- Surrey
- Swansea
- The Arts University Bournemouth
- Warwick
- York

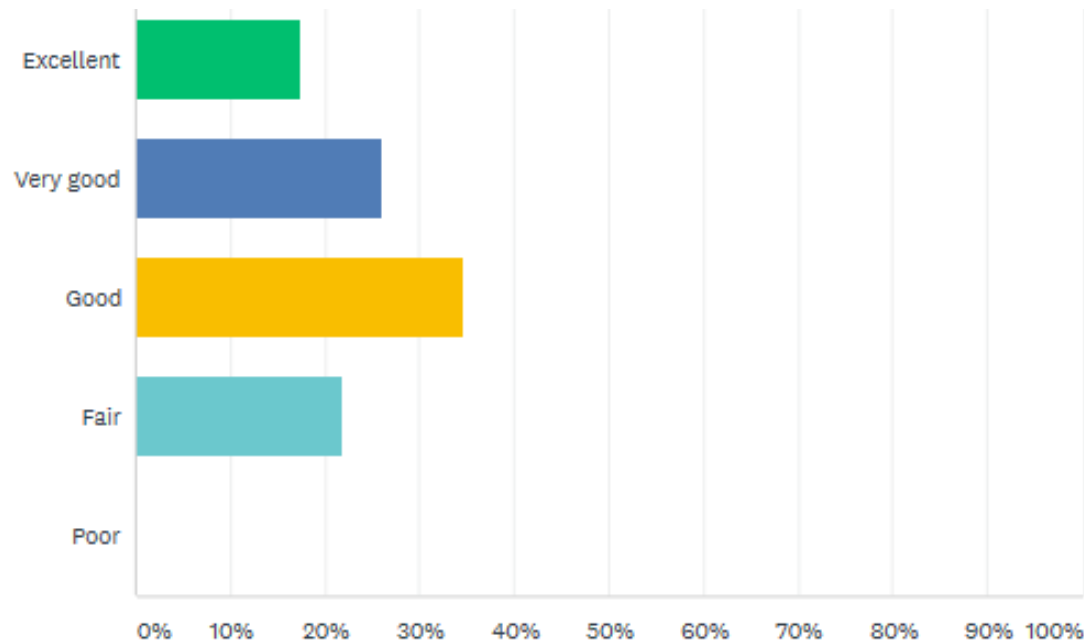
KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Event location means that competitors predominately attended Southern/Western universities.
- The Midlands, North and Scottish regions were under-represented (if at all).
- This could be a source of bias for the results and should be considered accordingly.

Overall Event Rating



Overall, how would you rate the event?



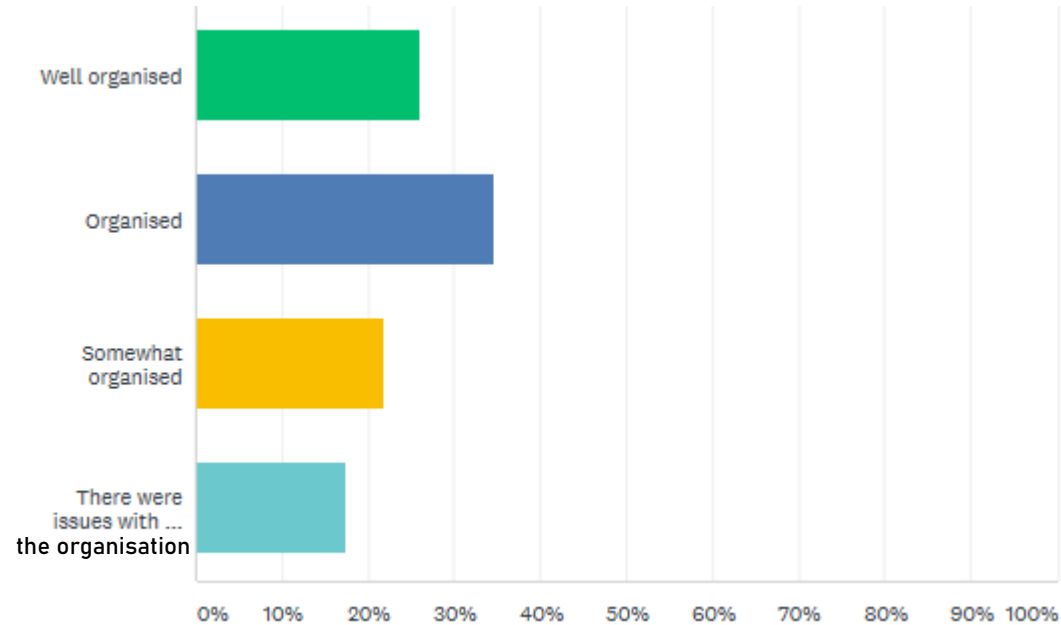
KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- This question was perhaps worded inappropriately – it was not a balanced scale of good-poor. (more good options than poor options!).
- 43% of competitors rated the event as 'excellent' or 'very good'.
- Nobody rated the event as 'poor', suggesting that those who attended enjoyed it.

Event Organisation



How well organised do you think the event was? Consider timings, availability of information, inter-event delays.



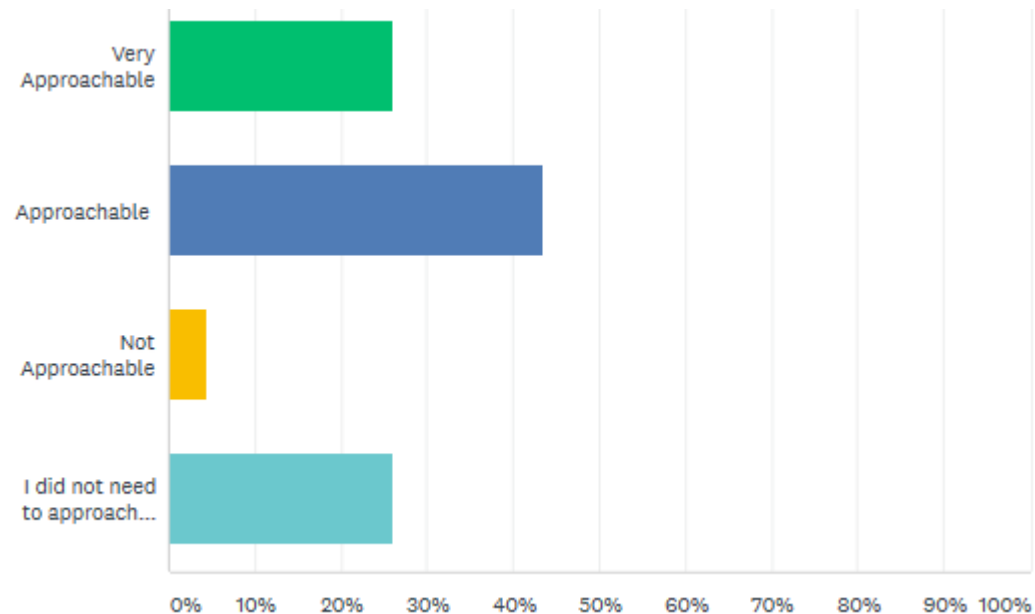
KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 61% of competitors rated the event as 'well organised' or 'organised', with only 17% suggesting there were issues with the organisation.

Event Organisation Team



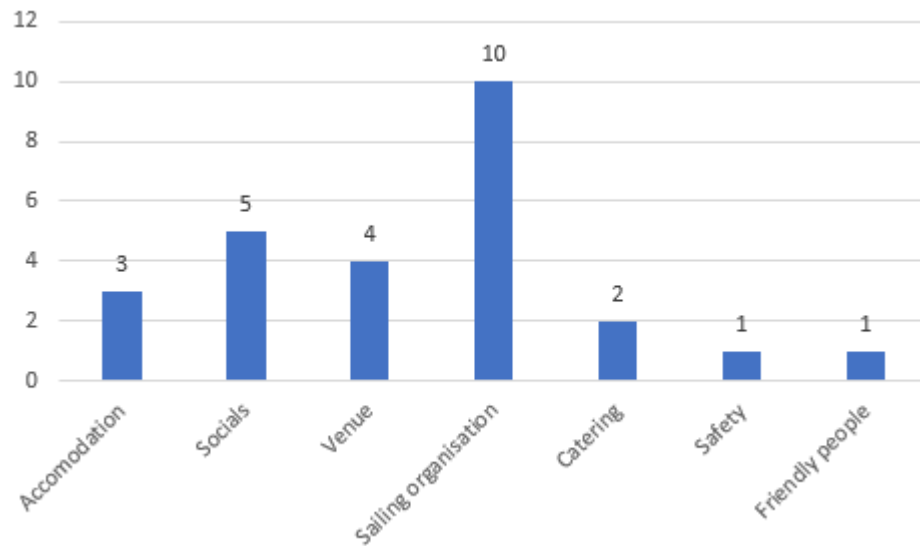
How approachable were the event organisation team?



KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 69% of competitors rated the event organisers as 'very approachable' or 'approachable', with only 4% rating them as 'not approachable', suggesting there were not significant issues in this respect.

What did the hosts do well?



Comments received:

Sailing organisation:

- "Organisation for the day we went sailing".
- "ran a great days racing given the tricky circumstances."
- "easy launching.. And fair intervals between races".
- "making the most of the one day of racing."
- "Good assessment of the conditions."
- "The racing was of high quality and well run."
- "Racing was well organised".

Venue:

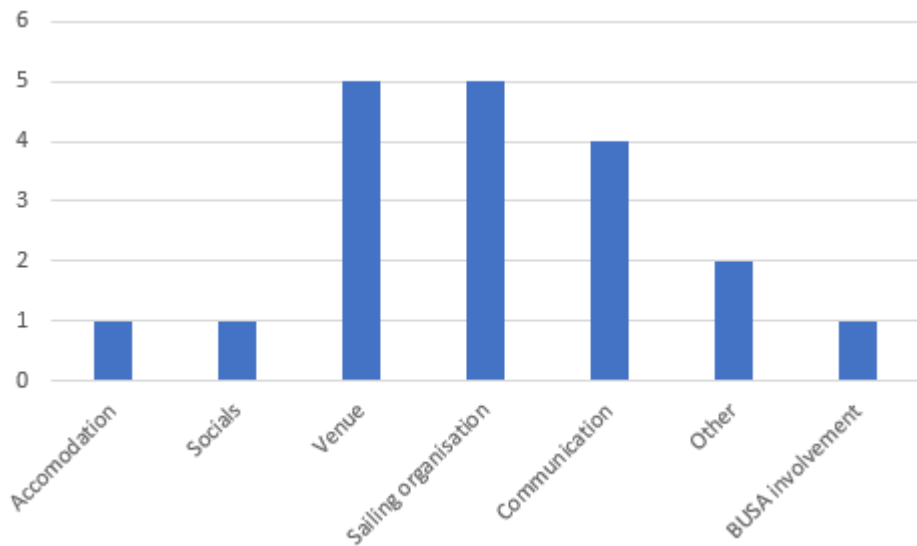
- "Everything, especially the sailing venue, the sound was great."
- "Great sailing venue"

- "provided accommodation for everyone".
- "Socials"
- "Great people. Big compliments to our host."

KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- The organisation of the sailing was particularly complimented, including racing format, launching, registration and safety.
- Socials and friendliness of student hosts also mentioned.
- Those who attended rated Plymouth Sound as a good venue.

What could be improved upon?



Comments received:

Sailing organisation:

- "Race management could have been slicker on Sunday morning. Committee wasn't anchored and no marks set by the time we got out"
- "each of the races should've been the same number of laps"

Communication:

- "The call not to go ahead in Saturday shouldve been made sooner,"
- "Decisions re the weather could have possibly made sooner/earlier, given the clarity of several forecasting models"

Venue:

- "we put 977 miles on the car we used to drive down there. That's the reason why only 1 northern team and a couple of Midlands teams showed. It's not really on to exclude these teams like this particularly given the problem BUSA has with the domination of the South coast compared with the rest of the country."
- "Change the location of it so it is more central in the country"
- "somewhere more accessible from all parts of the country. This meant there were very few northern teams. I am at Durham university and we had to drive a total of 18 hours over the weekend to attend the event resulting in missing some academic commitments on the Friday and Monday."
- "Make it more inclusive for other universities as plymouth makes it hard for northern unis to take part and so miss out on opportunity to get BUCS points/costs a lot of time and money to take part."

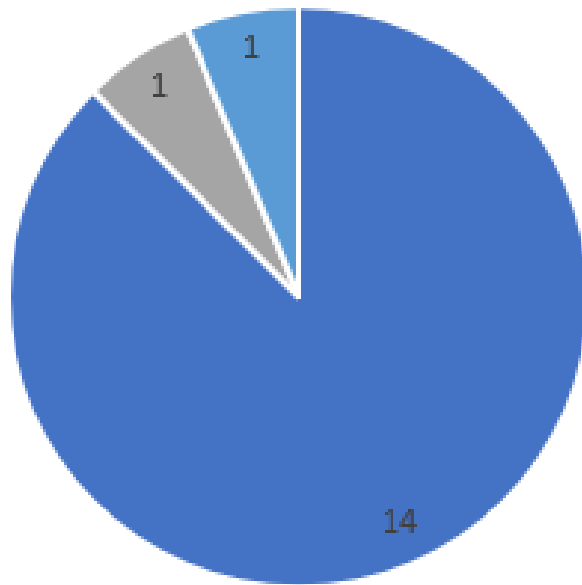
Other:

- "The accommodation was sorted very late, which meant when the hosting university announced it there weren't many places left"
- "Entry fee very expensive. £50 is typical for a Laser qualifier. £75 for a weekend is too much"
- "Busa involvement "

KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- The biggest area of improvement was the choice of venue to make it more accessible for more universities.
- Point raised around the entry fee being expensive compared to other events.
- Some issues regarding race management but outnumbered by positive comments in this area.

Was all pre-event information accessible?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Sure

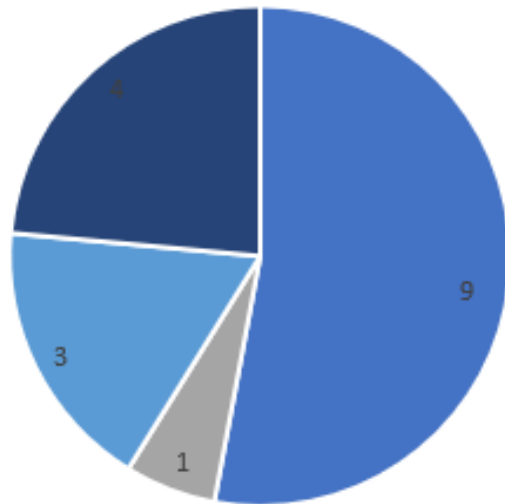
Comments received:

- “Yep, but BUCS Play was s**t and terrifically hard to use”.
- “Yes, but there was some delays in handing over of ‘need to do activities’ such as signing on to the BUCS website. The portal wasn’t overly intuitive but not impossible to use.”
- “All pretty good. However I wasn’t made aware of the WhatsApp and was not invited to it. Would have made things less stressful at my end.”
- “Somewhat, I didn’t know where the most up to date info was either on the website or on facebook.”

KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Biggest issue in this respect was BUCSPlay.
- Better publicity of the event Whatsapp would have been useful.
- Better pre-event media coverage would also probably have helped

Was the online official notice board beneficial?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Sure ■ Didn't use it

Comments received:

- "Didn't see it"
- "Didn't use it."
- "What online official notice board?"
- "Didn't know we had one"

- "Yes, made it a lot easier to see any updates"
- "Yes it was very useful"
- "Yes very, great idea. Saves time having to wait around and check a physical one."

- "Somewhat, it wasn't always up to date."
- "Useful - but not updated properly on the Saturday. Most communication was through team captains rather than using the notice board fully."

KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Mixed views on this.
- Those that used it found it helpful, but some people were not aware of it.
- Important to keep it fully updated at all times.

Sailing Organisation



What were your thoughts on the on-water organisation? Consider launching, racing and recovery.

Comments received:

- “Launching and recovery good. Seeing as we only had one day to race it would have been better if the Firefly course was shorter so we could get in more races rather than four long ones”
- “Racing - to throw in a 4th race following a briefing of max 3 races was a surprise, maybe would have taken more snacks with me”
- “Everything perfect apart from the initial wait for marks to be set”
- “All ran smoothly”
- “Very good but the course could’ve changed earlier when the tide lines set in”

KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Very varied comments received here, eg “good” but also “bad”. Perhaps it differed according to fleets.
- I have included the most useful above.
- This question was too open-ended so didn’t produce particularly useful results.

Any Further Comments



- “Thank you to everyone involved”
- “Plymouth Uni SC did a good job”
- “Enjoyable and probably suitably aimed at the market.”
- “Host the event in a more central location or help those that need to travel further!!!”
- “I think sticking with Draycote or a similar midlands location would encourage many more sailors and better racing”
- “Plymouth did very well to host the event. Management on the water was awful. Please involve more of the sailors for communications rather than captains”
- “Change the location of it so it is more central in the country “
- “Again: Not in Plymouth!!!!!! It's criminal”

Conclusions



- Response rate was **low** and it is important to consider that **only competitors** (predominately from Western and South Central universities) completed this survey.
- Mixed comments were received as to the **race management** and **organisation of sailing**.
- The **biggest issue identified was the location** of the event being inaccessible for many teams, and this showed in considerably **fewer entries** than 2018. Steps should be taken to improve this for future years.
- The official online notice board could be **publicised better** and general **media coverage improved**.
- The **entry fees** were suggested to be on the high side.
- Despite this, **many positive comments were received** suggesting that plenty of competitors enjoyed the event.

Considerations for Future Research



- Collecting some **demographic information** would have been useful. For example University Sailing Club, gender, whether it was their first fleets or they were a returning competitor, and which fleet they raced in would have helped put answers in context.
- Response rate could have been improved by **preparing the survey in advance** and **sharing it at the event**.
- Many of the questions were **too open-ended** which made analysis difficult and meant not all respondents bothered writing something for all of the questions.
- Collecting competitor feedback **should not stop here**. It is important to consider running surveys following each of the major events to help us improve for the following year.

KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- What are we going to do with this information? Some form of results summary and information on the action we will consequently take could be shared with USCs and sailors.