



British Universities' Sailing Association

Press Release
29 September, 2012

British Universities set sail for a packed 2012-13 season

The new academic year is underway, with University Sailing Clubs, having welcomed fresher sailors, now busy organising sail and team racing training on the water, together with the essential social events! In October, the annual programme of inter-university events held across the regions from October to April gets underway – see further below. All University SCs are listed on the BUSA website - www.busa.co.uk - and most have their own websites and Facebook pages.

Meanwhile, here is the call to the annual Fleet Racing Championships that kicks off the British Universities' Sailing Association (BUSA) national events.



BUCS Fleet Championships 2011, Plymouth © Credit Kristian Brunt-Seymour, University of Plymouth

BUCS Fleet Racing Championships 2012: Will Bristol make it a double?

Entries are now open for the **British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Fleet Racing Championships 2012**. The first university sailing championship of the season will be held on the 3rd/4th November 2012 on Plymouth Sound at the Mount Batten Centre and hosted by Plymouth University, with active support from the Sports Union and Plymouth Youth Sailing.

This is a great opportunity for student sailors, whether seasoned fleet racers or newcomers to sailing at university, using university boats or their own, travelling with a team or operating as independent sailors, to get involved in student sailing at a national level.

The event is not only about individual performances, but also the overall team performance. Vital BUCS Sport 'points' (that help fund individual Universities' sport) are awarded to the top 4 boats in each fleet and to the top 8 teams overall! The event comprises four fleets, Laser, Firefly, Fast Handicap and Slow Handicap. The top three boats from each university are added together. The team with the lowest points, wins the Team Trophy and 20 BUCS points!



BUCS Fleet Championships 2011, Plymouth © Credit Kristian Brunt-Seymour, University of Plymouth

With 180 student sailors competing at last year's Championship, Bristol University were the eventual overall winners of the Team Trophy, closely followed by local hosts Plymouth University and by Exeter (Bristol, Plymouth, Exeter, Southampton, Southampton Solent, Surrey, the University of the West of England and Brunel all gained BUCS team points, along with podium points earned for Newcastle). Will Plymouth set the record straight, Bristol make the double, or one of the previous winning universities make a come-back this year?

Anyone at University can enter. The only requirement is that double-handers are sailed by sailors from the same university. So, if your university does not have a sailing club, but you have a boat and would like to enter, please get in touch with the BUSA Secretary (see below) to arrange Individual membership of BUSA (free for RYA Members).

Full details may be found at <http://www.busa.co.uk/events/event/2012-13-bucs-fleet-racing-championships>.

Student Sailing across the UK from October to April

While University Sailing Clubs throughout the United Kingdom are getting their sailors out team race training, organising learn to sail and social events, the RYAs round of Youth Match Racing and Eric Twinname Team Racing Championships will be attracting student participation, while teams from Exeter and Glasgow will be competing in the World Student Yachting Championships at La Rochelle in October. Scottish Student Sailing (SSS) holds their Match Racing Championships & Ceilidh (MR) Cup at Royal Northern & Clyde YC on 13 & 14 October.

For most student sailors the inter-university competitive team racing season gets into gear in October with Leeds' Halloween Howler, the Foot Trophy (hosted by Imperial), and Wessex (Southampton) SCs Twisted Tube & Firefly Open at Spinnaker.



Welsh Dragon 2011 Credit: Alice Meaden, University of St Andrews

In Scotland, the six universities that form Scottish Student Sailing hold league competitions, together with team racing training, on Bardowie Loch on 3 – 4 (hosted by Glasgow) and 10 – 11 November (hosted by Strathclyde), followed on 2 – 3 February by League 3 – the BUCS Qualifier for the top eight teams and a Development Weekend for the others - hosted by Aberdeen University SC. See further at <http://www.ryascotland.org.uk/programmes/ScottishStudentSailing>.

In November, the round of events south of the border continues with the Angel of the North (at Derwent Water, with Durham & Newcastle, collaborating this year to replace the previous Dambuster and Geordie Shore events), the Sheffield Shuffle at Pennine SC, Birmingham's 10th anniversary, Brummy Bender, the Oxford Magnum and Cardiff's Welsh Dragon, closely followed, in December, by the Bristol Brew and Loughborough's Lemming.

The New Year opens with the Warwick Turtle, followed by Reading's Wet Dream, Oxford's Invitational Trophy, the Wessex Winter Warmer, Nottingham's Snakebite, the Brunel Badger, Cambridge University's Cam Cup, Exeter's Excalibur, Liverpool & Manchester's Big Lash and the London Duck.



Welsh Dragon 2011 Credit: Alice Meaden, University of St Andrews

Full details of all these events are available on the BUSA Calendar:
<http://www.busa.co.uk/events>

.....and then the other National Student Championships for 2012-13

In addition to the BUCS Fleet Racing Championships, BUSA organise three other National Championships – Team Racing (with qualifying series and playoffs), Match Racing and Yachting.



BUCS/BUSA Team Racing Championships 2012 Credit: Tom Churchill

Team Racing

BUSA & RYA **Ladies' Team Racing Championships** at Spinnaker SC, in conjunction with Wessex (Southampton University) SC, on 23 & 24 February, 2013

BUCS/BUSA Team Racing Qualifiers – a weekend of team racing at four venues in– Scotland (Aberdeen USC/Stonehaven SC), Northern (venue TBA), Midlands (Warwick USC/Draycote SC), Western (UWE SC/Chew Valley SC), South Central (Southampton – Wessex SC/Spinnaker SC).

Teams not selected at the Qualifiers can have a second opportunity for selection for the Finals at the **BUCS/BUSA Team Racing Playoffs** on 2 – 3 March, hosted by Birmingham USC at Bartley SC.



BUCS/BUSA Team Racing Championships 2012 Credit: Tom Churchill

The **BUCS/BUSA Team Racing Championships** are to be held at Chew Valley SC, hosted by Bath University SC, on 3 – 5 April. The winners in 2011 were Southampton Turquoise, but - to encourage those who don't quite make the Qualifiers - Oxford White achieved 2nd – with Claire Lasko commenting, “we had had to go to the Playoffs to qualify for the Championship, so this was very unexpected. We had not sailed together more than two weeks!”



BUCS/BUSA Team Racing Championships 2012 Southampton Magenta, Southampton Turquoise, Oxford White

If you wonder, ‘what is Team Racing?’ – see link: http://www.sailing.org/newtosailing/team_racing.php.

Match Racing

The **Scottish Student Sailing Match Racing Championship 2012**, in conjunction with the & Ceilidh Cup, will be held at the Royal Northern & Clyde YC on 13 & 14 October.

The RYA are organizing a **Winter MR Series**, aimed at youth, women's and university teams, from December to April, culminating in a Series' Final. See more at <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/jm2matchteam/matchracing/Pages/WinterMatchRacing.aspx>

Celebrating the 15th University MR Champs, the **BUCS/BUSA Match Racing Championships** will be bigger and better! This is changing this year. It will be a four-day Championship, from 25 to 28 March. 2013, with up to sixteen teams competing. It will be held in the RYAs Elliott 6Ms in Weymouth. Teams will need to consist of 3 to 4 sailors weighing no more than 250kgs in total. Initially only one team per university will be accepted; however, second teams can enter, but will be placed on a holding list until the end of the deadline for entries. This event is for British Universities Sailing Association members only. The 2011 champions were Bristol, with Southampton 2nd, Portsmouth 3rd and Durham 4th.

If you wonder, 'what is Match Racing'? – see link: http://www.sailing.org/newtosailing/match_racing.php

Yacht Racing



BUCS/BUSA Yachting Nationals 2012

Organised by SSS, the **Scottish Student Sailing Yachting Championships** will be held in the 707's at Port Edgar on the weekend of March 16 -17. Racing will be a mixture of fleet and match racing.



BUCS/BUSA Yachting Nationals 2012

The **BUCS/BUSA Yachting Championships**, from 8 – 11 April, 2012 will be sailed in F40s in the Solent from Port Solent/Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth. Teams will consist of eight crew, including at least two women.



BUCS/BUSA Yachting Nationals 2012 – Teams Portsmouth Plum, Exeter and Plymouth Pink

For **further information** and links to all student sailing, contacts for BUSA Committee and regional Representatives, see www.busa.co.uk. Follow events on BUSA Sailing on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/busasailing.

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