

ICSA take the first win

The Thomas Lipton Trophy was won by the ICSA team of Chris Barnard, Chris Segerblom, Ben Spector, Mac Mace, Josh Greenslade, Mayumi Roller and Judge Ryan.

The sailors were greeted by blazing sunshine and a pleasant though somewhat shifty breeze at Farmoor Reservoir this morning, 11th July.

From the first start, the match was a close-fought affair, with the British team coming off the line well and settling into a 1,4,5 winning combination. However, with a long course and shifty conditions, it was all to play for. The Brits held well against a well-drilled American team, who pushed hard from their losing 2,3,6 combination, aiming for 2,3,4. On the final beat, the BUSA team looked strong, but a confident final beat conversion saw the ICSA team sneak through on the final part of the beat to take the first race.

Unfortunately this story was repeated in the second race, with a tight 1,4,5 for BUSA being broken down by the American team, to take ICSA to a 2-0 lead. Strong starting in the 3rd race from the Americans saw them take an early 1,3,4 combination, which was converted into a winning 1,2,6. In the 4th race the BUSA team carved out a commanding 2,3,4 combination with some very strong work on the run from a 2,3,6. A win looked secure, until some poor beat management in the shifting breeze saw the leftmost American boat in 5 get back into contention, unbalancing the combination and in the carnage gave a penalty turn to a BUSA boat, squeezing into third place to give a 1,3,5 winning combination.

At 4-0 down, the BUSA team redoubled their efforts, dominating the 5th start, leaving one ICSA boat spinning and another in irons on the start line. Unfortunately a small wind-shift allowed the remaining ICSA boat to win out on the left and take 1st place; BUSA were left with a solid 2,3,4 combination. They defended well around the course, but with extra breeze on the left of the course BUSA stole 1st place, while the trailing ICSA boats managed to get back in the mix. After some frantic manoeuvres, the dust settled with a 2,3,4 winning combination for the American team, completing a strong series. However, the score-line was didn't reflect the close racing.

The ICSA sailors move on to the Isle of Wight tomorrow for a taste of the Solent, before we move on to Weymouth next week for the next Tour match.