



**British Universities and
Colleges Sport**

**Fleet Championships
2013**



Press Release

9 November, 2013



Plymouth University wins the Student Fleets on the Cattewater

Set to be a wild and stormy event, with strong winds and heavy rain forecast, racing on Saturday had to be cancelled at Plymouth last weekend. But the 188 sailors from 17 universities, including three represented for the first time from as far afield as Sunderland, Falmouth and Chichester, had a great weekend in the city renowned for its student socials as well as its sailing. To everyone's relief and with the ingenuity of the Race Committee and the special permission of the Harbour Master, the series was completed in a weather window before the forecast resumption of heavy wind and rain on Sunday afternoon.

106 boats competed in four fleets for the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Fleet Racing Championships 2013. Organised by British Universities Sailing Association (BUSA) at the Mount Batten Sailing Centre, in conjunction with a partnership of Plymouth University and its Sports Union, Plymouth Youth Sailing, Plymouth Marine Institute and the University's Sailing Club, this event drew in very many volunteers.

With heavy rain on Saturday and very strong winds, racing was abandoned for the day at the first briefing. Teams headed off to the Students' Union for the highly anticipated safari social.

Early on Sunday, after reviewing the current wind speed and the forecast, the decision to race was made. Sailing took place, two fleets at a time, in the Cattewater. The Firefly and Laser Fleets went first. Racing in the Firefly fleet was close with only seven minutes separating the first and last to finish. Many capsized as squalls ripped through the fleets, but the safety boats kept everyone safe, allowing two races to be completed.

Racing was close in the Laser Fleet, with the top four sailors finishing on equal points after two races. 2012 champion Lorenzo Brando Chiavarini of Plymouth University successfully defended his Laser title, having won the last race. Martin Evans of Exeter was 2nd, Matt Reid, Southampton Solent, 3rd and Hannah Tilley of Southampton, in a Radial, was fourth and the leading woman in the Laser Fleet.

The Firefly Fleet, by far the largest with 45 boats, reflecting the ownership of boats of this Class by university sailing clubs for team racing, also raced first. Connor Miller & Katie Barr of Loughborough University won, with a 3 point lead over the two Portsmouth teams, Christopher Rust & Nick Sutton and Tim Carter & Amy Mercer, who tied on points.

Then it was 'all change' as the Fast and Slow handicap fleets launched, and the Fireflies and Lasers came ashore. Both Fleets completed the requisite two races before the weather came in as predicted (leading to a very wet return home for all, but the locals, who, no doubt, battered down the hatches!).

Chiavarini's fellow RYA Podium Potential Squad sailor, Pete McCoy, who took silver in last year's Slow Fleet, but had to tackle the Fast Handicap Fleet this year, following the review of the Portsmouth Yardstick, won the Fast Handicap in his Finn. He achieved this decisively, with two bullets (and his usual big grin!). The next eight places were hard fought, but Annabel Vose & Jamie Diamond in an RS200 and Nick Copsey & Jonty Cook in a National 12, both of the University of Southampton, took the remaining podium places, with just a point dividing them. Andrew Wishart & Joe Stansfield in a Laser II, leading the University of Surrey team that grows each year, were just a point away from the medals.

The Slow Fleet, without McCoy's Finn to divide them this year, was dominated by the 420s, which had difficulty separating themselves! The three podium places were taken on the same, 4, points, with only count-back to decide the placings. Nia Jones & Ed Riley of Exeter took the Championship, with Craig Dibb & Georgie Mothersele of Plymouth 2nd and the all-women Bristol team, Jessica Lavery & Emma Spruce, in 3rd. James Parker-Mowbray & Anna Masters and Alex Shaw & Erica Knapp, both of Plymouth and in Laser 2000s, were also on equal points, 9, in 4th & 5th respectively, a full 5 points ahead of the then closely placed followers.



The BUCS Fleet Championships are about both individual and team champions. The prize giving saw Lorenzo Chiavarini, Connor Miller & Katie Barr, Pete McCoy and Nia Jones & Ed Riley crowned Champions 2013 in their respective fleets. But this Championship is also about the Team Trophies and all-important university overall placings to earn BUCS points for their Athletics Unions. These are scored on the basis of the top three boats from each university.

The team standings were announced (see detail below). The University of Plymouth took the Team Trophy for a second year, with Exeter 2nd and Southampton 3rd, these qualifying sailors being awarded BUCS medals. The top eight teams were awarded BUCS points.



And for the first time this year, BUCS also awarded a trophy to the leading all-women team and – most significantly – BUCS points, to the top eight all-women teams (i.e. the three top placed all-women boats from each university).

The University of Plymouth was also awarded the Women's Team Trophy, and medals were awarded to its leading sailors, together with those of the universities of Bristol and Exeter. We await to see whether other university sailing clubs will pick up on the BUCS points potential of this innovation; it would seem that there are sufficient female helms and crews to increase the standing back home of more USCs next year.

The final award was the “Marine Institute 150 years with Plymouth University Trophy”, which was presented to the winners of the second race in the Firefly Fleet, Nicholas Wilkinson & James Duncalfe of Bristol University, by Paul Wright, Associate Director of the Marine Institute.

The proceedings and the Championship was drawn to a close by BUSA Committee Member and Men's Captain, Nick Wilkinson. He thanked the Race Committee, Jury and all the collaborating organisations which together had run the event once again so smoothly, including the Mount Batten Sailing Centre, Plymouth University and its Sports Union, Plymouth Youth Sailing and the University's Sailing Club. He paid particular tribute to the many volunteers, associated with these organisations and BUSA, who made such a vital and 'professional' contribution to achieving a safe and enjoyable event, both on and off the water.

Team Trophy and Team BUCS points:

- 1 University of Plymouth - 20 BUCS points
[Lorenzo Brando Chiavarini (Laser), Pete McCoy (Fast), Craig Dibb & Georgie Mothersole (Slow)]
- 2 University of Exeter - 14 BUCS points
[Nia Jones & Ed Riley (Slow, 420), Martin Evans (Laser), Tarra Gill-Taylor & Tamsin Davies (Firefly)]
- 3 University of Southampton - 10 BUCS points
[Annabel Vose & Jamie Diamond (Fast, RS200), Nick Copsey & Jonty Cook (Fast, National 12), Hannah Tilley (Laser Radial)]
- 4 University of Portsmouth - 7 BUCS points
- 5 University of Bristol - 5 BUCS points
- 6 University of Surrey - 3 BUCS points
- 7 Loughborough University - 2 BUCS points
- 8 Cardiff University - 1 BUCS point

Women's Team Trophy and Team BUCS points:

- 1 University of Plymouth - 20 BUCS points
[Ellen Clancy (Slow Handicap, Europe), Alice Woodings (Laser), Beth Wyatt & Emily Mulligan (Slow, Laser Bahira)]
- 2 University of Bristol - 14 BUCS points

[Jessica Lavery & Emma Spruce (Slow, 420), Alice Burford (Laser), Charly Capon & Frances Anderson (Firefly)]

3 University of Exeter - 10 BUCS points

[Louise Latham & Ellie Gadd, Ella Whitley & Alice Butler, Pippa White & Emily Bland (Firefly)]

Top ten placings in each Fleet:

Fast Handicap Fleet

- 1 Pete McCoy - Finn (University of Plymouth) 2 points
- 2 Annabel Vose & Jamie Diamond - RS 200 (University of Southampton) 6
- 3 Nick Copsey & Jonty Cook - National 12 (University of Southampton) 7
- 4 Andrew Wishart & Joe Stansfield - Laser II (University of Surrey) 8
- 5 Hugh Brayshaw & Emma Pearson - RS 200 (Falmouth University) 11
- 6 Christopher Matthew & Dominic Silman – Scorpion (University of Plymouth) 13
- 7 Jamie Barker & Elizabeth Rabett - RS 200 (University of Southampton) 16
- 8 Joe Simmons & Guido Di Marzo - Laser II (University of Surrey) 17
- 9 Thomas Brophy & Sophie Ward - RS 200 (University of Exeter) 18
- 10 Robert Baddeley & Harry Wilson - 29ER (University of Plymouth) 26 points

Firefly Fleet:

- 1 Connor Miller & Katie Barr (Loughborough University) 8 points
- 2 Christopher Rust & Nick Sutton (University of Portsmouth) 11 points
- 3 Tim Carter & Amy Mercer (University of Portsmouth) 11 points
- 4 Tarra Gill-Taylor & Tamsin Davies (University of Exeter) 12 points
- 5 Louise Latham & Ellie Gadd (University of Exeter) 14 points
- 6 Callum McCullough & Evie Clemance (University of Plymouth) 14 points
- 7 Harry Derbyshire & Charlie Cox (Cardiff University) 16 points
- 8 Oliver Porter & Hannah Lennox (University of Bristol) 17 points
- 9 Matthew Wallis & Sarah Alton (Cardiff University) 18 points
- 10 Alexander Alcock & Jess Slater (University of Plymouth) 21 points

Laser Fleet:

- 1 Lorenzo Brando Chiavarini – Laser (University of Plymouth) 5 points
- 2 Martin Evans - Laser (University of Exeter) 5
- 3 Matt Reid – Laser (Southampton Solent University) 5
- 4 Hannah Tilley - Laser Radial (University of Southampton) 5
- 5 Peter Newbery - Laser Radial (University of Portsmouth) 13
- 6 Andrew Bridgman – Laser (Durham University) 14.5
- 7 Greg Carey - Laser (University of Exeter) 16
- 8 Rheanna Pavey - Laser Radial (Reading University) 18.5
- 9 Alice Woodings - Laser Radial (University of Plymouth) 20
- 10 Thomas Scott - Laser (University of Chichester) 22 points

Slow Handicap:

- 1 Nia Jones & Ed Riley – 420 (University of Exeter) 4
- 2 Craig Dibb & Georgie Mothersele – 420 (University of Plymouth) 4
- 3 Jessica Lavery & Emma Spruce – 420 (University of Bristol) 4
- 4 James Parker-Mowbray & Anna Masters - Laser 2000 (University of Plymouth) 9
- 5 Alex Shaw & Erica Knapp - Laser 2000 (University of Plymouth) 9
- 6 Will Waddington & Cara Fawcett - Laser 2000 (University of Plymouth) 14
- 7 Ellen Clancy – Europe (University of Plymouth) 14
- 8 Meia Harnett & Jonathon Chandler – 420 (University of Exeter) 15
- 9 Rohinton Vachha & Lucy Dalton - Laser Bahira (University of Plymouth) 19
- 10 Rich Long & Beth Whitehead - Laser 2000 (University of Plymouth) 20 points

Full results may be found at <http://www.busa.co.uk/events/results>.