



British Universities' Sailing Association Bi-annual US Inter-Collegiate and BUSA Tour

Press Release

25th May 2015



Finalists in action at the BUCS-BUSA Team Racing Championship 2015 © Andreas Billman

British University Sailing Team to tour USA

Alternating every two years, since its inception in 1957, teams of university students tour the USA and the UK to compete with their counterparts. In 2015 it is the turn of the **British University Sailing Association** to tour the USA and challenge their **US Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association** counterparts to a series of events, ranging over fleet, match and team racing. The tour will take place between 6 September and 4 October 2015.

In its 58 years, the BUSA vs. ICSA Tour has seen some of the best sailors from the UK and USA compete against each other, and, as such, it represents the pinnacle of university sailing and something all student sailors may aspire towards.

Applications from student sailors across all UK universities were sought and a great many received. The resulting selection process was highly competitive. The BUSA Tour Selection Panel, consisting of Peter Johnson, BUSA President and International Judge/Umpire, Phil Derry, retiring BUSA Chair and previous Tour Captain, and Jack Fenwick, BUSA Honorary Member and NJ/NU, together with Emily Nagel, BUSA Ladies' Captain and Connor Miller, BUSA Men's Captain, deliberated at length!

BUSA are pleased to announce that, following the selection process, the following sailors have been appointed to this year's team:

- Emily Nagel, BUSA Ladies' Captain (University of Southampton)
- Connor Miller, BUSA Men's Captain (Loughborough University)
- Cam Douglas (University of Bristol)
- Ben Gratton (University of Oxford)
- Tim Gratton (University of Cambridge)
- Arthur Henderson (University of Cambridge)
- Charlie Makepeace (University of Bristol)
- Mike Matthews (Loughborough University)
- Matt Reid (Southampton Solent University)
- Emily Wiltshire (Cardiff University)

Profiles are appended.



BUCS-BUSA Match Racing Finals 2015, Weymouth & Portland Sailing Academy © Richard Kingsnorth

Peter Johnson said, “the BUSA Tour to the USA is an incredible opportunity to experience top-level and highly competitive sail racing in a variety of different formats and in new surroundings. I know - my daughter was a member of the victorious 1999 Tour team!”

The outline programme for the Tour includes:

Sept 12-13 Weekend 2:	Harry Anderson Regatta	College Fleet Race	Yale
Sept 14-18 Week 3:	Performance Sail Craft Trophy	3 v 3 Laser Team Race	Kings Point*
Sept 19-20 Weekend 3:	Nevins Trophy	College Fleet Race	Kings Point

Sept 21-25 Week 4:	Lord John King	Match Race	Naval Academy
Sept 26-27 Weekend 4:	St. Mary's CoEd Regatta	College Fleet Race	Saint Mary's Co-ed
Sept 28-Oct 2 Week 5:	British American Trophy	2v2 Keelboat Team	Coast Guard Academy, Connecticut
	Thomas Lipton Trophy	3 v 3 Team Race	Saint Mary's Co-ed
Oct 3-4 Weekend 5:	Danmark Regatta	College Fleet Race	Coast Guard Academy, Connecticut

*Possibility for the non-Laser team to visit Tufts University, Boston University and MIT during this time-frame.

**Option of staying for weekend 6 for the Larchmont Regatta.



BUCS-BUSA Match Racing Finals 2015, Weymouth & Portland Sailing Academy © Richard Kingsnorth

Connor Miller commented: “After announcing the team the level of excitement grew and the realisation of what we collectively have set out to achieve has truly kicked in. I'm not sure of the standard of previous Tour teams, but I know for a fact that this team consists of by far the best British University sailors out there. There were over 25 applicants for the Tour this year, not an astounding amount but enough to represent the fact that all those applying and those not, understand how competitive it is to make the team.

“One of the biggest things Emily and I stressed to the Selection Panel was the level of diversity required in the team. In the States we'll be racing all types of boats from FJ's, 420's, Sonars, J's and up to, potentially, Navy 44's, so the experience required to sail all of those boats well needs to stem from a team contribution.

“We're currently in the process of setting up our training schedule where we will be doing plenty of travel around the UK. We're also in the process of setting up a fitness schedule with

some tests because I can guarantee a month long in the States sailing and visiting all the fine social establishments will take its toll both physically and mentally! BUSA met the Yale Corinthian team at this year's Wilson Trophy where plenty of cheeky comments and pre-emptive build-up was exchanged as we will be sure to meet each other on the Tour. The Yank's don't know what's about to hit them".



Connor Miller of Loughborough in highly competitive semi-final at the BUCS-BUSA Team Racing Championship 2015 © David Eberlin




The Team are seeking sponsorship to help meet the Tour expenses, primarily the air fares and to provide a travelling coach and support manager. Any individual or organisation interested in providing help or commercial sponsorship for this high profile Tour is asked to contact **Connor Miller** - c.miller2-12@student.lboro.ac.uk.




----- Ends -----



Enquiries: Tony Mapplebeck, BUSA Editor: BUSAd@gmail.com Mob: 07831 128 747

Team profiles

Emily Nagel	Connor Miller
	
Bermuda	Aberdeen, Scotland
University of Southampton MEng Engineering (Yacht and Small Craft) 3 rd Year (grad. 2016)	Loughborough University M.Eng Systems Engineering 2012-2017
First sailed:	
Optimist, aged 10	GP 14, aged 10
Main Class:	
Firefly	Firefly
Best Result:	
2014 FISU Women's Match Racing World Champion	2 nd at ISAF Youth Team Racing Worlds
Love most about the sport:	
Getting to travel around the world and meet like-minded people while competing.	The Complexity
Favourite Quote:	
'Whoever said, "it's not whether you win or lose that counts," probably lost' – Martina Navratilova	"The theory of evolution claims only the strong shall survive, maybe so. But the theory of competition says, just because they're the strong, doesn't mean they can't get their asses kicked."
Career plan:	
Spending this summer doing an internship as a Naval Architect for BAE Systems at their Nuclear Submarine site. I would quite like to go into America's Cup yacht design, but I need to get through this year first!	Sail some more
Hobbies:	
Swimming, Cycling and Running (I have just started doing triathlons with Uni). When at home I'm at the beach 24/7, not really warm enough for that in the UK though.	Drinking
Sporting Injuries:	
I broke my arm skateboarding when I was 12. I also broke it on the trampoline and just by falling over my own two feet. I am a little accident prone. No major injuries sailing though!	Rum & Coke
Most Admired Person:	
My Parents	My father
What are you most looking forward to on the tour:	
Ben and Jerry's! It is so much better in the US! I can't wait to race against some of the guys I grew up with who sail at US colleges!	Flying the trophies home.

Cam Douglas	Ben Gratton	Arthur Henderson
		
Gayton	Emsworth, Hampshire	Emsworth, Hampshire
University of Bristol Civil Engineering 3 rd year	University of Oxford Mathematics, 4 th year	University of Cambridge Physics, 4 th year
First sailed:		
Blue Peter, aged 4	Optimist, aged 10	Cadets, aged 7
Main Class:		
Laser	Firefly	Team racing in Fireflies & RS200 fleet racing
Best Result:		
	1 st ISAF Youth Worlds.	1 st at BUSA Team Racing Finals 2014 & 2015
Love most about the sport:		
The wind in my long blonde locks	The combination of both mental and physical aspects.	You travel the country and race against the same people in the same locations each year, yet every race is still different and throws up a new challenge.
Favourite Quote:		
YOLO	"Phrasing!"	"I've got another set of spins!!" (JF 2015)
Career plan:		
No career	Tbd	Very good question...
Hobbies:		
Surfing	Sailing	Currently teaching myself to windsurf – so far, not so good: one sail and one mast broken and counting. And I can still hardly do it.
Sporting Injuries:		
Shoulder, ankle, wrist all knackered	Wounded pride, mostly. Plus a couple of broken legs when I was younger.	When I was younger an unfortunate sequence of events left me holding onto the uncleated spinnaker halyard of a yacht. I didn't have much skin left on my hands afterwards, lesson learnt and I won't be doing that again in a while.
Most Admired Person		
Tennyson	Phil Derry	Ian Walker. For achieving so much in sailing and in life. Watching the VOR videos when the boats are close gives you an insight into how much consistent concentration goes into skippering one of those boats and maintaining competitive spirit under immense pressure and sleep deprivation.
What are you most looking forward to on the tour:		
Taking down the yanks	What are you most looking forward to on the tour: All things 'murican.	Having never been to the US, I'm looking forward to getting to know what life and sailing are like there. Also very much looking forward to winning some sailing with a quality group of talented sailors.

Tim Gratton	Charlie Makepeace	Mike Matthews
		
Emsworth, Hampshire	Oxford	Sunderland
University of Cambridge Engineering, 2 nd year	University of Bristol Veterinary Medicine 5 th yr	Loughborough University Mechanical engineering 3 rd yr
First sailed:		
Optimist, aged 7	Optimist, aged 9	4 or 5 maybe, I don't really remember being that young
Main Class:		
I420	Optimist / I420	Well there's been quite a few: Toppers, musto skiffs, 29ers, J70's, melges 24, dragons, good old fireflies and a load of others.
Best Result:		
Winning BUSA Team Racing Finals	17 th I420 Europeans	1 st
Love most about the sport:		
No two days are ever the same	I love the sea, its super calming and lovely to escape the mad rush of uni. But also the people tend to be quite fun.	It is the perfect excuse to travel all over the world.
Favourite Quote:		
"I have not failed, I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." - Thomas Edison		"The earth has music for those who listen"
Career plan:		
Graduate and see where the world takes me!	Farm Animal Vet with the view of becoming an Epidemiologist for the World Health Organisation	The plan is still a bit hazy but the gist is to go into prosthetics.
Hobbies:		
Cycling	Skiing, Cycling, Hockey, Tennis, Rugby - anything that involves a competitive increase in heartrate essentially.	Erm sailing... Also a bit of rugby and surfing, on occasionally I like to pretend I know how to play golf. But really after sailing I'd say after sailing I spend most of my time working or searching for a good bar in whatever city we end up sailing in.
Sporting Injuries:		
None so far	Depressed Fracture of the Skull, Broken Scaphoid, Tibial Fracture, ACL/LCL/MCL tear, Miniscal tear, Lateral Femur fracture. Had a Jaw reconstruction, and I don't have any real teeth.	Only my pride
Most Admired Person		
Ian Walker	Shane McConkey	Magnus Olsson
Most looking forward to on the tour:		
Hard to pick any one point	Sailing in Sunshine	Have you seen American pie.....?

Matt Reid	Emily Wiltshire
	
Bournemouth	Balcombe, West Sussex
Southampton Solent University Maritime Business, Year 2	Cardiff University Medical Engineering, 4 th Year
First sailed:	
Pico, aged 13	Optimist, aged 5
Main Class:	
Laser	Firefly and Etchells
Best Result:	
62 nd Laser Worlds	2 nd Ladies boat at BUSA Fleets 2014
Love most about the sport:	
Sailing when its ridiculously windy	Racing, the people
Favourite Quote:	
"Wear Sunscreen"	"Where there's a Wiltch, there's a way"
Career plan:	
Progress through the shipping industry to become a broker.	Unemployment by the looks of things! Aiming for Management Consultancy
Hobbies:	
Cycling, kitesurfing	Swimming, cycling, sailing (obviously?), skiing, running, playing musical instruments and cuddling / walking my dogs (naaawwww)
Sporting Injuries:	
The one thing I'm good at!	Bruises from boats, cutting my leg whilst running (in spikes), bouncing off a downhill bike whilst stationary.
Most Admired Person:	
Cam Douglass	Miranda Hart
Most looking forward to on the Tour:	
I'm really looking forward to the Tour as a whole, especially the vibe from travelling and competing with a good group of people.	Sunnnnn