

Scottish Student Sailing Ladies' Championship 2015



SSS Ladies' racing on Bardowie Loch © Moritz Troll

“Well-organised Mess” are first Scottish Ladies' Champs

This year **Scottish Student Sailing** initiated the first ever **SSS Ladies' Team Racing Champs** at Bardowie Loch. **Strathclyde University Sailing Club** hosted the event with 54 female sailors taking part across the nine teams. Teams were entered from five different Scottish universities and comprised of existing team racers, alumni and team racing beginners.



Rachel Mawer, Glasgow 1st year, making the most of the momentary breeze with her crew Jana Gehn © Moritz Troll

With Storm Abigail promising a very windy forecast, we were pleasantly surprised (or in some cases upset) to find a nice light breeze awaiting for us on the Saturday morning, although it was a little chilly with the first snowfall of the winter happening the night before.

With the PRO googling 'how to run a team racing event' while 50 or so ladies fawned over brand new 'SSS Ladies' sweaters - artfully designed by Miss Hannah Robertson - Saturday morning got off to a precarious and exciting start. Nevertheless, racing got underway promptly, some say even more promptly than the Scottish League the weekend before, with all ladies present and correct at the first gun. The light and shifty conditions made setting the course a difficult task but, fear not, the 125 male strong umpire team had plenty of spare hands to get the job done.



Edinburgh's Helen Gallagher with crew Mabel Ellerker getting fancy in their firefly © Moritz Troll

An unexpected enhancement to the weekend was the 6 men strong finish boat who finished the first and last races with a pop of a cork and finished every other with a smile and a cheer. I don't know about the other sailors, but crossing the line to a pop of champagne definitely made it better.



This particular finish boat crew consisted of Andrew Crocket, Hamish Murray, Roland Carter, James Campbell, Jacob Sim and Doros Voulgaridis © Moritz Troll

The decision was made in the run up to the event to sail the nine teams in one league with three flights of boats. 'But that's never been done!' I hear you say? 'That's preposterous!' 'How did you manage?!' With a lunch break, that's how! For the first time anyone can remember in SSS (or even SUSA) history, every sailor was on the water all day except for one lunch hour for everyone to thaw their toes and discuss the antics from the night before. This made for great racing, and a lot of it too! The wind gave us enough to fit in 16 counting races per team, with 75 races run overall.



The Strathclyde Mermaids - Sophie Taylor, Beth Fieldsend, Meg Ferguson, Mirjam Timmerman, Eilidh Bruce and Ruby Marshall © Moritz Troll

Strath's infamous team kit enforcement was not forgotten, with the Strathclyde Mermaids running away with the (non-existent) prize for 'Best Dressed on the Water'! They were just warming up for the Saturday night social, however, where hair styling ranged from sky high towers to straws for bobbles, and even 'My Little Pony' made a most impressive appearance.



Well-organised Mess - Winners of the 2015 SSS Ladies Team Racing Championship - Amy Forbes, Paula Kellett, Lilly Trapp, Laura Bray, Emily Robertson and Alison Morrish © Moritz Troll

With a mixture of abilities across the teams, as well as many crews switching to the position of helm for the weekend, racing was especially interesting and more importantly, fun! For some it was a great way to learn the ropes (literally) while for others, it was good practice for nailing the pin. It was great to see the range of ability and experience involved in the event, and we hope that all those new faces will stick around.

Thank you to the army of men to made the weekend happen and to everyone else who contributed as well. We plan for this event to continue years into the future and hope that everyone who came this year had as good a time as we did!



© Moritz Troll

The final results of the weekend were:

1st	Well-organised Mess	15 wins
2nd	Edinburgh DD	12 wins
3rd	Glasgow Indigobirds	12 wins
4th	Strathclyde Mermaids	9 wins
5th	Glasgow Great Tassels	9 wins
6th	Strathclyde Princesses	6 wins
7th	Glasgow Glossy Black	5 wins
8th	Edinburgh B	2 wins
9th	Dundee Delights	2 wins

We are all looking forward to next year's event already!

Laura Bray & Emily Robertson