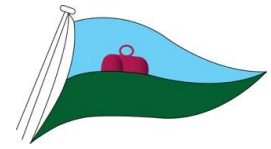


# Burnham Sailing Club



The RYA holds an annual National Match Racing Series and it is one of the first steps towards events such as the ISAF World Match Racing Tour and the America's Cup. Some of the World's leading British match racers such as Ian Williams, Ben Ainslie, Paul Campbell-James, David Carr, Nick Hutton, Annabel Vose and Lucy MacGregor, began their sailing careers by competing in this series.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Burnham Sailing Club, Ben Harden, Dylan Collingbourne, Caitlin Morley, Charlie Mathews and Chay Taylor got the chance to race against some experienced match racing sailors when the first qualifier for the British Match Racing Tour took place at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club on the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July.



The Burnham Sailing Club Team was put together on very short notice by Ben Harden who selected a few of the clubs well know dinghy sailors. Mainly to ensure they got down to the 350Kg weight limit. Amongst the team was Dylan and Caitlin whom have little keelboat experience but between them more than made up for it with technical and rule knowledge.

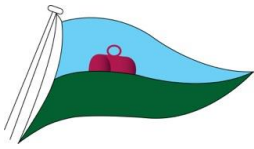


The BSC team rocked up on Saturday morning hungry and dehydrated to ensure they made the 350kg weight limit! At 0830 the weigh in began and it wasn't long before the team where told they where a total weight of 350.4 kg... too heavy! After a quick dash home to change his jeans for lightweight shorts, Dylan managed to lose exactly 0.4kg and Team BSC where in!

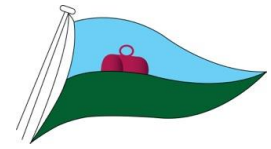
Saturday racing was a round robin style tournament with a seeded layout designed to make it easier for the better teams to progress through to the knockout rounds. Being ungraded Team BSC's first match was against World ranked 381st place Robbie King. After a right royal whooping, Team BSC learnt a few hard lessons in the fickle and shifty breeze.

Next up was Team BSC vs 68<sup>th</sup> World Ranked James Pinder, who again, served up a closer but easy win for himself.

Into the 3<sup>rd</sup> match and Team BSC where determined not to make it 3 losses in a row. The wind was now up to a much steadier 8-10knts, which suited the team being on the heavier side compared to other teams. Matched up this time against Jack Fenwick, the RYA



# Burnham Sailing Club



Keelboat Development Manager, Team BSC managed to control the start and get away well. After a very close dual up the first leg, Team BSC managed to use their speed and creep away throughout the rest of the match and cross the line with their first Win.



After a short lunch break Team BSC where then back out onto the RCYC provided 707's for match 4 against local sailor Phil Aspinall. After forcing a penalty from Phil in the pre-start and then sailing off into a comfortable lead, Team BSC crossed the line for their 2<sup>nd</sup> win of the day.

Next up for Team BSC was a match against an all girls team headed by 564<sup>th</sup> ranked Abby West. With great boat speed, now the wind was up slightly, Team BSC just had to get a clean start without any penalties. After a fierce dual of cat and mouse Team BSC managed to get control at the start and sailed away to another win.

Next up for Team BSC was a match against an all girls team headed by 564<sup>th</sup> ranked Abby West. With great

Final race of the day was against another local, James Mears. James took control from the start and had Team BSC right where he wanted up the first beat. However, after a tacking duel upwind, James just slightly overlaid the windward mark enough to let Team BSC tack into the mark and just round ahead. Team BSC then took control and managed to just keep James to windward as they held a high line back to the finish with a late gybe into the pin end to take their 4<sup>th</sup> and final win of the day.

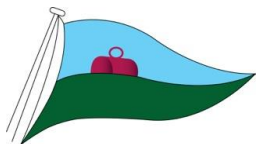
Finishing the day with 4 from 6 put Team BSC into 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and into the final playoffs for Sunday. Time for a well-deserved beer and curry in the RCYC.

## Saturdays Standings

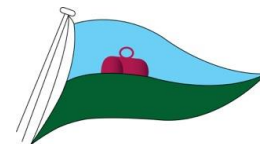
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Robbie King
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – James Pinder
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Team BSC
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Jack Fenwick
- 5<sup>th</sup> – James Mears
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Phil Aspinall
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Abby West



Sunday's promised forecast of a nice 10-15knts certainly didn't deliver in the morning. As the boats rigged up and slowly drifted down to the mouth of the roach for the racecourse it was looking like racing may not even take place. Luckily, Team BSC having made the top 4



# Burnham Sailing Club



knockout rounds didn't need to worry about wind until a bit later in the day when their turn would finally come to race the top guys again.

As 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers Team BSC would be matched up against 2<sup>nd</sup> place James Pinder for a best of 3 play off. Whilst Jack Fenwick battled 1<sup>st</sup> place Robbie King. Winners go onto the final, losers play off for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.



In the first match the wind was still very, very light and shifty with the tide streaming out. The prestart sequence was filled with James trying to gain control over Team BSC. After a brilliant dual James just managed to get the edge at the start and controlled the first few legs.

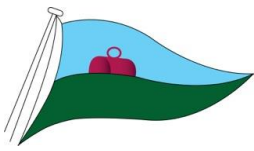
The final leg to the finish was a close one with the wind dropping off to less than 5knts for some of the race.

James however managed to keep control and took the first win. The pressure was on for Team BSC.

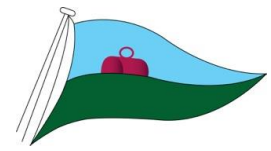
2<sup>nd</sup> match was a must win for Team BSC if they wanted to progress into the final. After another furious prestart sequence and several penalty attempts called from both teams, the umpires declared no breach of the rules and James just managed to win the start. What proceeded was a ferocious tacking dual up the first beat as Team BSC battled for clear air and James tried to stay in control. As both Teams neared the windward mark, Team BSC made a bold call and went for an early lay onto the windward mark. Having not taken the tide into consideration James sailed slightly further resulting in an overlay with Team BSC just sneaking inside at the windward mark.

With the wind still at less than 8knts and very shifty, both teams came together extremely quickly after rounding the windward mark. James just managed to sneak onto the leeward side of Team BSC and gained luffing rights. Some serious luffing with spinnakers flapping entailed, both boats neared head to wind when James had the upper hand and bore away with a small lead into the finish. Unfortunately, a very close but 2<sup>nd</sup> loss for Team BSC meant they wouldn't proceed into the final.





# Burnham Sailing Club



The best of 3 match was won by Robbie King. Robbie vs James in the Final.



Team BSC faced Jack Fenwick in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place play off sudden death match. Another very close race with Jack leading up the first beat. After a series of gybing and luffing games Team BSC managed to get underneath Jack. With a quick gybe onto starboard Team BSC then proceeded to luff Jack head to wind. Unfortunately, the umpires deemed the manoeuvre illegal, as not enough time to respond had been given, Team BSC was awarded a

penalty. However, Team BSC stayed in the lead (penalties can be taken at any point in the match before crossing the finish line) opting to leave the penalty for as late as possible in the chance they might be able to pull ahead enough. On the final leg into the finish, Team BSC had a 6-8 boat length lead. It was now or never. Dropping the spinnaker and spinning just before the line in the hope of completing the penalty before the others could overtake. Team BSC and Jack Fenwick crossed the line almost simultaneously. Not knowing who had won, both boats looked to the committee boat. Jack took the win and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Team BSC finished 4<sup>th</sup>.



It was a fantastic weekends racing, which has gained us all some extremely useful sailing knowledge and experience. Thanks again to BSC for supporting our entry and to Dan on Traigh for being our support vessel and all the supporters who came along to watch.

Ben, Dylan, Caitlin, Charlie and Chay.

## Final Results

- 1<sup>st</sup> - James Pinder
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Robbie King
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Jack fenwick
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Team BSC
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Abby West
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Phil Aspinall
- 7<sup>th</sup> - James Mears

