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UK J24 Class Secretary

Third Boat at worlds - gets short straw

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J24 World Championships

Riva Del Garda - Italy - August 2018

When the announcement was made that the 2018 J24 World Championships were to be held at Lake Garda- Italy, there was a tangible air of excitement throughout the class. The reputation of the location focussed the teams onto the qualification events in 2017 and even with additional places for past champions, youth and all female crews, the UK entry was oversubscribed and several boats were disappointed to not be able to attend.

With 89 crews representing Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Estonia, France, UK, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Holland, Sweden and the United States this was a truly international fleet. Fraglia Vela Riva ran an excellent event, with the weather offering the whole range from champagne sailing to torrential downpours.

Sailing tactics at Garda are well documented, start aggressively and head for the wall on the right hand side, first there is first to the mark. Everyone knew this was the case when they arrived and there was much discussion and confirmation from different fleets who have had their championships here. Unfortunately the practice race offered gains on the left of the course and this provided options for the fleet which took a few days to realise it was a one off. One of the local sailors said the classic - “never seen it do that before” but not before a few plans for finishing at the top of the fleet had been lost using the “looks good over on the left” line. To top that - the last day which was scheduled as a wash out - turned out to provide some of the best sailing of the week, with the strong wind blowing from the North - all day, rather than switching to the south at midday as is usual. The challenging tactical conditions provided the opportunity for the USA teams to all filter to the top of this highly competitive fleet.

With the largest and most competitive fleets in the world, the USA are always strong contenders and Will Welles in Kaster dominated the 2018 World Championship with the

Japanese team of Siesta with Imai Nobuyuki helming in second and Keith Whittemore from the USA in third.

A win and third place put Duncan McCarthy in contention after three races, but a genoa failure and OCS ended his regatta hopes, but he still finished top British boat. The UK Youth team entry of Giles Kuzyk finished the most impressively of all the UK entries, just one place behind Duncan, to be second place UK, with Nick McDonald third UK boat closely followed by James Torr.

Lessons were learnt at the championships, especially the delivery and return of the boats to Italy, with several stories of satnav nightmares as routes were followed without question, causing a few narrow road nightmares and an expensive trip via the Mont Blanc Tunnel.

Consistency on the water was the name of the game with every boat getting a big score at sometime during the week in this highly competitive fleet. Siesta in second place carried a 25th and discarded a 32nd but otherwise was consistently in the top ten. The J24 is a tricky beast to sail well and time on the water showed with the well practiced teams managing to climb back from poor starts and move forward through the fleet.

With the 2020 worlds to be held at Parkstone YC in the UK, there is once again considerable interest in the qualifying events. UK Qualifying for 2020 starts in April 2019 and there will be four UK events in 2019 along with the 2019 Europeans in Greece and 2019 World Championships in Miami. Planning for the 2020 Worlds is well underway and there will be strong competition for each available place.

Results

1st USA 5208 KASTER Welles Will 2 5 2 9 (25) 2 2 1 8 16 72 Total 47
2nd JPN 5185 SIESTA Imai Nobuyuki 25 10 5 5 1 1 7 (32) 7 7 100 Total 68
3rd USA 5399 FURIO Whittemore Keith 31 19 3 2 9 3 1 (46) 3 4 121 Total 75
26th GBR 4265 MADELEINE McCarthy Duncan 30 3 1 (90 RET) OCS 21 6 52 16 39 348 Total 258
27th GBR 4236 TEAM IMPACT Kuzyk Giles (69) 22 9 11 15 19 64 54 40 35 338 Total 269
28th GBR 4260 MOJOSI McDonald Nick 45 70 38 38 (90 OCS) 7 5 27 41 10 371 Total 281
34th GBR 4248 MAJIC Torr James (59) 11 41 56 49 51 11 33 24 29 364 Total 305
40th GBR 4266 FLYING COLOURS Pollock William 21 51 51 30 52 29 15 (74) 58 32 413 Total 339
46th GBR 4270 JOLLY ROGER Morris Roger 54 59 69 33 65 (78) 43 13 17 17 448 Total 370
51st GBR 4206 JAM TOO Davies Austen 11 41 60 66 47 71 23 34 (73) 67 493 Total 420
52nd GBR 4271 JAWBREAKER Cooper David 65 57 48 47 24 (86) 51.7 43 39 56 516.7 Total 430.7
55th GBR 4245 UNITY LETS Conyers Matthew 73 63 21 48 (76) 63 44 23 52 59 522 Total 446
57th IRL 4215 STOUCHE McCormack Darragh 58 (75) 73 55 63 39 47 26 75 21 532 Total 457
60th GBR 4254 SON OF RABBIT Hall Quinton 76 46 35 65 45 48 51 (78) 55 63 562 Total 484
66th IRL 3060 JUMPIN' JIVE Usher Mark 66 68 19 81 83 79 (90 DNS) 62 45 9 602 Total 512
70th GBR 7207 DOGS JORROCKS Wassell Steve 68 61 64 62 66 67 70 (75) 57 47 637 Total 562
73rd GBR 4153 JAM Maddaford Ben 40 85 63 (87) 54 54 61 64 76 78 662 Total 575
81st IRL 4532 JELIGNITE Ryan Finbarr (83) 54 72 76 57 72 59 80 79 77 709 Total 626