

2019 Spring Cup - Dartmouth - April 2019

3rd Place Boat - Roger Morris - GBR 4270 Jolly Roger

Report by Nina

We'd managed a handful of outings ahead of the first regatta of the season and as Dartmouth drew closer, we were looking forward to two days of racing with 2020 Worlds clearly in our sights.

In preparation for the weekend, like many crews, I'm sure, we'd referred back to the crew weights at the end of last season. We were all fine, obviously..... but some crews reported dusting off gym passes and increased cycling, running and diet plans.

In fact, Jam 2, won a prize from the Weigh-in Team for best reported weight loss! Welcome back also to Damien, great to see you back in the fleet.

The forecast showed Storm Hannah making a guest appearance on Saturday, I quietly dug out seasickness tablets alongside every piece of wet weather gear I could find, planning for survival at best.

The only boat looking confident was Madeleine, apparently this isn't their first outing with Storm Hannah.....!

The Race Team kept us well informed via email and on Saturday morning at the Skippers Meeting made the welcome decision not to take us out into the storm.

This gave us an opportunity to take in beautiful Dartmouth Town and venture up to the headland to see that, yes, it really was the best decision!

Credit must be given to Mark Lewers and the 'DanJerous When Wet' Team, who on offer of a beer race up the estuary, as a solitary J24, made their way up to Dittisham Lake, displaying some pretty impressive moves!

Thanks to the race team for awarding them with not only the beer but a feather duster, which might be an easier way to get rid of cobwebs in future.

We were promised a much more appropriate Sunday morning sail and we were pleased to see a flat sea and some great sailing conditions.

Credit again goes to the Race Team, who despite the challenging conditions, set us three fantastic races.

Those teams who showed skilful observation of the pressure rolling off the hills consistently picked their way through the fleet, enabling them to pop out on top at the windward mark!

Race 1 saw Madeleine command an impressive lead and Jolly Roger displayed consistent speed on the course alongside Jiggy to take the top three spots.

Race 2 saw Duncan OCS and despite returning to the start, he picked his way through the fleet to pop out in front. Dinghy Shack showed some impressive moves to take 2nd, with Jolly Roger, closely following behind.

Race 3 gave Majic a 1st with Jambalaya with special guest, Dinger, in 2nd and Flying Colours in 3rd, Jooler had an impressive 5th, rounding up a fantastic day's racing.

Thanks to Dart Yacht Club for hosting and Noss Marina for sponsoring the event, it really was a lovely weekend for all, especially the most efficient catering at Dart YC which must be congratulated! Sailors enjoyed the dinners and packed lunch, thanks for making us feel so welcome.

It was great to see some new faces in the fleet and also some old friends returning. Rob Libby on Jooler (4219) from Looe in Cornwall, is a returning "old hand" - this was the boat's first time on the water for 10 years.

The fabulous J24 fleet keeps crews coming back for more!

Welcome back to the J24 fleet, Dinger, on Jambalaya and congratulations to you and Carole on your beautiful new arrival, Harper, she's a stunner.

Ben Maddaford and crew on, Mayben Jam, won a well deserved special mention for the most intrepid arrival, having sailed around from Plymouth!

Our congratulations to all who raced and especially 'Madeleine', for a fantastic win. A great result for Jambalaya in 2nd with Jolly Roger closely following in 3rd place.

Duncan said of the weekend, 'It was great sailing in challenging conditions, keeping the competitive J24 fleet, as usual, very close. Good warm up for the beginning of the season and a show of the hot competition you can expect to see ahead of 2020 in Poole'.

Our next event in Poole, Summer Regatta 25th, 26th and 27th May, gives teams a chance to sample the excellent Race Area and facilities that will be on offer at Parkstone Yacht Club for 2020.



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