

WEYMOUTH REGATTA 12-13 SEPT 2020

The Yacht Clubs of Weymouth welcomed the J24 fleet to their Covid-compliant regatta for a weekend of glorious weather and close racing in Weymouth Bay. Four boats made the journey to compete (there should have been more, but unfortunately some who said they were coming were unable to and the sole local J24 chose to sail in IRC 4 instead of with the OD fleet!). However, these four very determined teams enjoyed excellent competition and champagne sailing conditions (but sadly without the champagne).

Saturday's first race saw a close battle between Flying Colours, Cacoon, Jive and NJO2 until a disappointed Dave Hale had to retire after failing to cross the finishing line on each lap. Tim Octon fell into the same trap, leaving William Pollock and Dave Cooper to cruise home in first and second.

Cacoon made no mistake for the second race, winning narrowly from Jive, Flying Colours and NJO2. More tight racing followed in Race 3, with Cacoon first again and Flying Colours, Jive and NJO2 in hot pursuit.

These were long courses of 3 laps, with the wind shifting in strength and direction throughout but the racing remained tight with frequent place changes on each round.

Sunday brought lighter breezes and bright sunshine for two races of shorter duration. Flying Colours' shiftometer was not working as well today and their overnight lead evaporated as Cacoon took Race 4 from Jive, Flying Colours and NJO2. Meanwhile Dave Cooper had found new speed having patched up the hole in his genoa with very fetching orange gaffer tape, going on to win Race 5 from Cacoon, Flying Colours and NJO2.

Overall results were: 1. Cacoon (5) 2. Jive (7) 3. Flying Colours (9) 4. NJO2 (16)

Our thanks go to the Race Officer, Michael Gill, and his team, who skilfully managed several different courses for this large multi class regatta from a single line. Thanks also to ex-J24 sailor Andy Gaunt who secured sponsorship for the prizes which he presented after haul-out at Portland.

Finally, special thanks to Lorna Graham, our Class Secretary, for working so hard to make the event happen and encouraging the class to get off their lockdown backsides and have a great weekend's racing.

William Pollock, Flying Colours

