

J24 Autumn Cup – Saltash SC
17 and 18 October 2020



Although a lengthy tradition in the J24 Class, it was a surprise to us as “newbies” of the fleet that the second placed loser was bestowed the task of writing the event report. Being so new to the fleet, I wasn’t sure if we were qualified enough for such a thing and some of the salty old sea dogs out there must do some fact checking after reading this and correct me on my wrongs. (Note to self – be better or worse, just not the same 😊)

For us on team “Hustle” it was our first sail in 2020 having taken on a bit of a winter, (then spring.....then summer) refit. As traditional with all things boats, one job turns into 50 and that couple of months window you have, evaporates like cold beers after a long days sailing. In hindsight, thank god it was all postponed, as there is no way we would have had the old girl ready!

I would hazard a guess at saying we were not the only ones on their first outing this year looking at some of the moss undergrowth that was forming on a few decks, but nonetheless it was great to see everyone beavering away on the Friday in prep for the big days ahead.

When I bought the boat last year, everyone was telling me the fleet is dying and the enthusiasm had gone, but we’ve seen none of that since joining the class and I hope that can continue in abundance, particularly with some bigger events close enough to home in the future, to make it all rather exciting. For us and a number of other teams it’s all been about building up to the worlds next year and so to get any training time on the race track was useful. What is also great to see in this fleet is the large number of people out there for the love of it. Too often we

forget that this is all about fun and I think this class is a good ambassador of just getting out there, getting stuck in and giving it a go. As and when we are allowed to have a social scene, as well as good sailing – it will be an enviable mix.

Anyway, heading out of the marina on day one, with what felt like a huge build up to this event, with so much time away from the race track, there was certainly a level of nerves involved. Couple that with a man down on crew numbers, a gutsy 20 knot'er coming off the cliffs and a danger that at any moment those freshly re-bolted deck fittings could part ways, there was certainly plenty to think about!

Although it was mighty tempting to go Genoa and with the full crew compliment, I think you probably would have, it was heavy jibs all round. Race 1 was off to a clean start and truth being told a bit of a line shy fleet. It was close racing at the front as it always is, with Hustle leading to the first mark, closely followed by team Phoenix and Cacoon. A mini match race then ensued with Phoenix and Hustle trading tacks, which allowed Cacoon back into the mix. Although ambitious, the PRO set a 3-lap course, which actually made for fantastic racing, with lots of corners and overtaking opportunities.

Team Phoenix showed their experience and pace to overhaul Hustle and Cacoon came with a late charge to record a photo finish on race one and the Poole YC based team took it leaving Phoenix, Cacoon then Hustle taking the podiums. Tight racing and plenty of place trading down the fleet, made it an exciting opener.

Race 2 was the same format, with again some nervousness off the start line. Positions for the first lap were the same as race 1, but with one of those aforementioned salty sea dogs, David Cooper on Jive in the mix as well. Yet again team Phoenix showed their downwind speed to overhaul Hustle and take 2 from 2, with Jive second and Hustle third. An impressive showing from Sam Marshall and his team on Piglet ended up 4th and you will have to ask Sam if that one is his A, B or maybe even C boat?? I hear he's an avid collector!

Two more races with a consistent breeze, was certainly just what the doctor ordered and team Hustle managed to up the game and take the two remaining races, with Phoenix, Cacoon, Jive and Matt Conyers on Unity Lets making up the podium places. Also, consistently in the mix was Tim Octon and his team on NJ02, who rattled off a third in race 4. Unfortunately, some admin issues from us on Hustle meant an RTD in race 3 and although we felt a bit hard done by, it was lessons learnt for next time.

After the 4th race it was back to base for debrief and cocktails and a night on the tiles in Plymouth ensued, although the enforced bed by 10pm was not the worst thing to happen after a pretty big day on the water. Saltash SC were again doing their level best to play hosts and a tip of the hat to them for even trying given what's been going on recentlyKeep that spirit up for future years please!

Day two was a different affair, although a similar direction. A light 6-7 knot breeze was again coming off the cliffs bearing due East. With a busy day for shipping the PRO was forced to tuck us up under the cliffs, which meant for even more testing sailing and Phoenix showed their skills by adapting best to the change in conditions.

Another notable rocket from Piglet again saw them on the podium, just following Phoenix and Cacoon. Although everyone was gagging for a 6th and final race, the local racing fleets, as well as busy shipping movements meant we would have had to up sticks to find a different race track and time was unfortunately against us by that point, so AP/A was up and it was back home to ponder what went before.

Sailed: 5, Discards: 1, To count: 4, Entries: 15, Scoring system: Appendix A

Class	Boat	SailNo	Club	HelmName	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total	Nett	Rank
J24	PHOENIX	GBR 4222		IZZY SAVAGE	1.0	1.0	1.0	(2.0)	1.0	6.0	4.0	1st
J24	CACOON	GBR4269		DAVID COWARD	2.0	(8.0)	2.0	4.0	2.0	18.0	10.0	2nd
J24	HUSTLE	GBR 4225	PARKSTONE YC	SAM PEARSON	3.0	3.0	(16.0 RET)	1.0	6.0	29.0	13.0	3rd
J24	JIVE	GBR4261	SALTASH SC	DAVE COOPER	5.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	(10.0)	26.0	16.0	4th
J24	NJ02	GBR4067	JOG	TIM OCTON	(7.0)	5.0	6.0	3.0	5.0	26.0	19.0	5th
J24	DOGS JORROCKS	GBR 7207	TORPOINT MOSQUITO	STEVE WASSELL	4.0	(7.0)	5.0	6.0	4.0	26.0	19.0	6th
J24	PIGLET	GBR 4239	PLYM YC	SAM MARSHALL	(10.0)	4.0	8.0	7.0	3.0	32.0	22.0	7th
J24	UNITY LETS	GBR 4245	ROYAL WESTERN YC	MATT CONYERS	6.0	6.0	3.0	(9.0)	9.0	33.0	24.0	8th
J24	DANJEROUS	GBR 5238	ROYAL WESTERN YC	MARK LEWERS	9.0	10.0	7.0	8.0	(13.0)	47.0	34.0	9th
J24	HITCH HIKER	GBR4026	SALTASH SC	CHRIS RANDALL	(11.0)	11.0	9.0	10.0	8.0	49.0	38.0	10th
J24	MAJIC	GBR 4248	SALTASH SC	JAMES TORR	8.0	9.0	(16.0 RET)	16.0 RET	7.0	56.0	40.0	11th
J24	RED ALERT	GBR 4124	ROYAL LYMINGTON YC	RHIANNON MASSEY	(12.0)	12.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	56.0	44.0	12th
J24	SHERE-KHAN	4265	SALTASH SC	ADRIAN BENNETT	13.0	13.0	(16.0 RET)	12.0	12.0	66.0	50.0	13th
J24	MOJOSI	GBR 4260	BRISTOL CYC	JOHN ALLEN	(16.0 DNC)	16.0 DNC	16.0 DNC	16.0 DNC	16.0 DNC	80.0	64.0	14th
J24	JAMIN	0000	SALTASH SC	NEIL TRATHEN	(16.0 DNC)	16.0 DNC	16.0 DNC	16.0 DNC	16.0 DNC	80.0	64.0	14th

As the evenings are drawing in, there is nothing better than an efficient pack up and yard staff to help with loading and I would say the team at Plymouth Yacht Haven have it down to a tee, so a great effort by all those behind the scenes. I know I do and I imagine some others also, but its so easy to underestimate the level of prep that goes into these events and volunteers are simply brilliant, so a big thanks all round.

Finally I am sure we would all agree that its been a disappointing year for obvious reasons, but if we get lucky, hopefully that might mean 2021 is bigger and better than ever.

Team Hustle – signing out.
GBR 4225

