

# The Autumn Cup 2018

Hosted by Saltash Sailing Club

A gently northerly breeze in Plymouth Sound greeted a good turnout of J24s for the last regatta of the 2018 season.

Our Race Officer Neil Dunkley got race 1 started on time. With the breeze coming off the land there was great divide in which way was best to go up the beat, a problem that would not change all day. Dave Hale in Cacoon won the pin, tacked and headed right in close company with Nick McDonald on Mojosi. Meanwhile, William Pollack on Flying Colours decided to go left, with the rest of the fleet trying to make the best of the shifts up the middle. At the windward mark, it was Flying Colours first to round, followed closely by Sam Marshall in Piglet and Mojosi. Flying Colours extended their lead and held it to the finish.

After a short AP, race 2 got underway. James Tor on Magic made the best of the shifts followed by Mat Conyers on Unity Lets, however, the breeze went lighter for the run and the fleet scattered. Any one spectating the fleets arrival at the leeward mark would surely have muttered "now, this is going to hurt". 6 boats arrived at the mark together with inevitable contact between boats. Magic won with Unity Lets second. The rest would get sorted out in the protest room later. By comparison, race 3 was a much calmer affair. Sam Marshall on Piglet shined through after another fickle beat closely followed by Cacoon and Magic. At the leeward mark, Cacoon hit the mark which after a penalty let Magic through for 2nd and Cacoon 3<sup>rd</sup>. That was it for the wind and racing for Saturday. Sadly, someone had to lose the race 2 protest and it was Piglet. A great evening was had at the Saltash Sailing Club thanks to Abbey and Chris from Dave Coopers "Red Alert" for organising a great takeaway for over 40 people.

Sunday morning dawned and instead of Plymouth sound, we would be racing in the Tamar and all was still to play for, however, there was no wind, with everyone milling around, slowly the breeze filled in and race 4 was started. Mojosi, Cacoon and Piglet fought it out for the pin, trying to get to the shore to escape the strong Ebb tide. Even after being forced onto port tack in the middle of the river, it was Magic again that showed the pace rounding the windward mark first, the top six places changed constantly, however Dave Cooper on Red Alert showed that even an older Westerly can still cut the mustard helped undoubtedly by a little local knowledge.

Congratulations to James Tor on Magic for another win and the overall title in the regatta. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was tied between Sam Marshall on Piglet and Dave Hale on Cacoon with Piglet taking 2<sup>nd</sup> on count back leaving Cacoon in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. With the World Championships being held in Poole in 2020, surely 2019 will prove to be a great year for the UK J24 fleet.