

Wi-Manx Isle of Man Dinghy Championship

WITH a run of consistent results, Mike Pridham beat a strong field to win the Wi-Manx Isle of Man Dinghy Championship in a breezy Ramsey bay at the weekend.

The series was hosted by the Manx Sailing and Cruising Club and attracted a superb turnout of 24 boats from around the island, despite some notable absentees including 2011 champions Russell and June Collister who were unavailable to defend their title.

The hotly contested event saw a different winner in five of the six races, with wins going to Rob Cowell and Phil Hardisty in their RS 400 and the father and daughter team of Dave and Emily Batchelor sailing an RS 200, while brothers James and Greg Kelly each claimed a race in an RS 200 and RS Tera respectively.

But with two race wins and every result in the top five, Pridham's consistency proved unbeatable as he became the first single-handed sailor since 1999 to win the championship. In race three he smoked the competition on the start line to lead the fleet, including the larger and faster asymmetric dinghies, around the first lap of the course, and won race six on Sunday to secure the Manx Yachting Association Cup.

This is the first time that Pridham, who has represented the Isle of Man at the island games and regularly competes in international laser regattas, has been crowned Isle of Man dinghy champion.

The runners-up had to be separated on countback, with the Batchelors beating Cowell and Hardisty to second place after each finished just two points behind Pridham. James and Greg were also tied with 39 points each in the final standings, with Greg gaining the advantage on countback to take eighth overall and finish as top junior.

MS&CC thanked race officers Keith Poole and David Edwards, the RNLI crew who manned the safety boats and all the volunteers who helped behind the bar and with the regatta tea.

Results: 1, M. Pridham (Laser) 13; 2, D. Batchelor (RS 200) 15; 3, R. Cowell (RS400) 15; 4, S. Pressley (Laser) 20; 5, A. Dean (RS 200) 22; 6, R. Kee (Laser) 28; 7, B. Swindlehurst (Laser Radial) 28; 8, G. Kelly (RS Tera Pro) 39; 9, J. Kelly (RS 200) 39; 10, P. Barlow (National 18) 43; 11, B. Batchelor (RS Tera Sport); 12, A. Shute (RS Tera Pro) 54; 13, K. Holden (Finn) 59; 14, B. Quayle (Kestrel) 61; 15, F. Wright (RS Tera Pro) 72; 16, P. Cope (RS Tera Sport) 79; 17, T. Pitt (RS Tera Pro) 83; 18, I. Fenna (RS 200) 87; 19, O. Williams (RS Tera Sport) 93; 20, J. Colman (505) 99; 21, J. Penn (Laser) 100; 22, A. Williams (Laser 2000) 104; 23, H. Bevan (GP 14) 106; R. Cave (Laser Stratos) 108.