

IOM Copiers Round the Island Race 2017

Jerry Colman won the Ramsey Town Cup for a seventh time on Sunday in the 63rd IOM Copiers Round The Island Race, run by the Manx Sailing & Cruising Club.

Colman in his Sigma 33, Sea Pie of Cultra narrowly fended off the challenge of the Sydney 36, Tan-it, skippered by James Walker, by a mere two minutes on adjusted time. Tan-it crossed the line first on elapsed time at 3.15pm, with Sea Pie coming in an hour later.

Colman also picked up the Golden Jubilee Trophy for best overall Monohull.

The event was started at 5.30am in the morning with a shotgun and blanks by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Richard Gozney.

Conditions were good with a consistent force four south westerly, gusting to 20 knots, with occasional stronger gusts on the East Coast downwind leg.

‘It was a nice beat down the West Coast with nine tacks, we put the kite up half way through the Chickens, and then made three gybes up the East Coast. The final gybe at Maughold was a bit tricky as we went in to it on a lull, then the wind suddenly picked up to 27 knots,’ said Colman. ‘There were some challenging moments, but I was assisted by a strong crew.’

Tan-it was skippered by James Walker, filling in for owner Robert Floate, who had injured his leg in an accident a few weeks before. ‘It was an easier rounding than the last few years. I’ve done a lot of laps of the Island, but this was one of the better ones,’ said Walker.

‘It was a bit cold, wet and miserable going down the West Coast, but surfing the waves from Douglas to Maughold Head was really nice. The crew worked really well.’

Third in on elapsed time was Jeanneau Sun-Odyssey 45, AJ Wanderlust, skippered by Charlene Howard with an all female crew. She had been up since 5am on the previous Friday morning, having sailed from the Island to Holyhead, then on to Dun Loaghaire where she picked up a crew member, then back to the Island to pick up other crew members in Douglas, then on to the start line at Ramsey. All this in order to gain qualifying hours for this year’s Fastnet Race in August.

There were eight starters on the day, an improvement on the previous year. This was the first time the MS&CC RTI has been run in July, later than the usual May Bank Holiday date.

The Coronation Cup, for the best non-IRC handicapped boat, was won by the Contessa 32, Milly Brown, of Maryport Yachting Association, skippered by Mark Hillmann, which finished just after 8pm.

Of the other boats, the Arpege 30, Cadenza, skippered by Jim Edge of the Castletown and Derbyhaven Club, arrived back in Ramsey at 9pm. Master Frank, the 122 year old Morecambe Bay Prawner skippered by Joe Pennington of Ramsey and sailing under the Old Gaffer’s Association burgee, finished at 4am, and the Mirage 28, Compass Rose, skippered by Andre Midwood, finished at 8am on Monday morning – after 27 hours at sea – winning the Quayle Tankard, Briggs Trophy and Copland Trophy for Endeavour. Nichola Jane retired at Peel after missing the tidal gate.

Thanks to Mark Corrin of IOM Copiers for sponsoring the event, and to Race Officer Keith Poole. Also to Neil Boyes for assisting at the start and then doing the finishing of all yachts, and Niamh Poole for arranging the pre-sail barbecue on Saturday night, and a Regatta tea on the Sunday.

Next year's event will be on Sunday 8th July 2018 with a similar start time.