

Billed as the 'scenic route' to Laxey the Atom Services coastal dinghy race from Ramsey to Laxey was held on Saturday

A fleet of twelve boats assembled on the beach in front of the Manx Sailing & Cruising Club, no doubt boosted by the forecast, north-westerly wind allowing a downhill sleigh ride as opposed to the more usual uphill (windward) slog.

During the rigging of the dinghies it became clear that the wind was becoming stronger in Ramsey Bay and by the time of the 'Le Mans' type start, one foot on the beach and hop in on the gun, three crews had thought better of it and stayed on the beach.

On the start gun the fleet was relaxed and carnage ensued. All of the single-handed fleet found it impossible to go downwind in the conditions, your correspondent, a veteran of this event was a particularly early victim.

However, there are always a few survivors, James and Len Arnold (Laser 2000) and Roger and Helen Cave in the Laser Stratos quickly headed off for Maughold Head. Also out in the bay having a bit of a problem was Mike Wilson and Donald Edwards (505), they returned to the shore to sort their spinnaker and then returned to the race thirty minutes later. First they headed for Whitehaven, then gybing and setting their large kite they set off after the other pair of dinghies at a fair rate.

Beyond the turmoil of Ramsey Bay and round Maughold Head the wind eased considerably, ironically with the odd calm patch, amazingly all three competitors finished in Laxey Bay within nineteen seconds of each other. The well deserved win went to Roger and Helen Cave, second were James and Len Arnold with Mike and Donald in third unable to make up the late start.

MS&CC would like to thank our sponsor Yogi Quayle of Atom Services, Laxey Sailing Club for the use of their clubhouse and bar. Also the support boats, so important in an event such as this crewed by Kev Christian, Dr May Shiu Chan, Graham Wilson, Peter Hoosen-Owen, Mike Shute and son and Emily and Helen Kee. Please visit our Facebook page for photos.