

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club hosted the Moneything.com Laser Regatta at the weekend, the final regatta of the 2017 season in Ramsey Bay. The one design regatta was for the Laser single-handed dinghy with either the larger Standard or smaller Radial sails as raced in the Olympic Games.

On the very autumnal Saturday with the wind blowing 15 to 20 knots, more in gusts, saw the smaller Radial rigs dominate. Donald Edwards (Standard) finished race one first on the water but he was relegated to fourth on correction behind the Radials of juniors Ben Batchelor and Matthew Perry with Mike Pridham in third.

The next two races were won on the water and on handicap by Mike Pridham and Matthew Perry respectively leaving Ben, Mike and Matt on equals at the end of the first day.

Having a good day in the conditions was Jerry Colman with his brand new sail, first Standard in race two, having a bad day (one to forget) was your correspondent struggling to stay at the back of the fleet with an ancient sail.

The wind on Sunday was 5 to 9 knots and much more suited to the larger Standard rigs. In race four Edwards lead the fleet home closely followed by Ralph Kee who had found a slightly less blown-out sail to finish second with Pridham third.

Over a 'P' course for race five, unusually, Kee managed to hold the lead for a lap before being inched into third on the water behind Edwards and Dave Batchelor, ten seconds between all three, however it was not quite enough with Pridham taking the win on handicap. Very close racing with only eighteen seconds separating the first five finishers on correction.

For race six Edwards again took an impressive lead on the water, nearly two minutes ahead of Dave Batchelor and Kee and yet again there was a Radial, this time Ben Batchelor slipping into second on correction.

At the MS&CC Clubhouse prizes were awarded, after another excellent Regatta Tea, for Radial Fleet, first Mike Pridham, second Ben Batchelor and third Matthew Perry. Standard Fleet, first Donald Edwards, second Dave Batchelor and third a delighted Jerry Colman. Best junior went to Ben Batchelor and the overall winner, retaining his title was Mike Pridham with Ben second and Donald third with only 1 point separating each of the first three.

Many thanks to Ed Pearce of Moneything.com for sponsoring the event, Race Officer Keith Poole assisted by Neil Rawlinson, the patrol boat crews, all the competitors and the ladies who provided Regatta Tea.

Have a look on our Facebook page for pictures and the club website to see just how close the results were, seconds in it.