

The Moneything.com Laser Open was hosted by Manx Sailing & Cruising Club over the weekend in Ramsey Bay. This Regatta is for the Laser class of dinghy using either the full Standard sail or the slightly smaller Radial sails, because of tight specifications each dinghy is exactly the same as those sailed in the Olympic Games.

Despite the poor forecast racing was only delayed for an hour on Saturday due to a lack of wind but once the breeze picked up the fleet was led home by Phil Hardisty (Standard Laser) followed by Ralph Kee (Standard Laser) and Donald Edwards (Standard Laser). However, it was Simon Pressley sailing the smaller Radial rig that came in joint first with Phil after correction.

Race two started off with about 10 knots of breeze (ideal) but as the leaders were finishing lap one it was considerably more (35 knots +) by the end of the second one it was survival! However, four dinghies were credited with a finish, first place after correction going to Simon Pressley, but only by eight seconds!

Further racing was cancelled, with Jerry Colman commenting the average wind force must have been about 4 - 0 in the morning, - 8 in the afternoon!

On Sunday the weather could not have been more different, the forecast being for no wind at all, but as it turned out about perfect for a gentle sail between 5 and 8 knots plus lots of sun.

Overnight leader Simon Pressley with the smaller Radial rig was always going to struggle in the lighter breeze against the full rigs. In race three Phil came in first, Donald second and Ralph third. Race four was run over a 'P' course, again Phil was first, Donald second and after a particularly good start Jerry Colman in third.

For the final race over the usual windward/leeward course Phil made an uncharacteristic error and let Donald and Ralph through but after correction they were split by Simon in second.

Overall winner with three wins was Phil Hardisty, who finally gets his hands on a MS&CC 'first place' mug, second Donald Edwards and third Simon Pressley who was also winner of the Radial class.

Many thanks to Race Officer Keith Poole ably assisted by Dave Edwards, patrol crews Helen, May, Elsie and Luke and the ladies for a fantastic Regatta tea.

See Facebook and the MS&CC Website for photos and full results.