

Last weekend it was the turn of Manx Sailing & Cruising Club to host the MYA IOM Dinghy Championships sailed in Ramsey Bay.

Raced over six races, three per day, with a mixed handicap fleet featuring dinghies from the tiny RS Tera Sport to the mighty National 18 (Ultra) and crews ranging from '½ fare to bus pass'.

As this was the championships, it is only right that the racing should 'test' the competitors, this was certainly the case on day one with especially testing conditions during race one.

With 35 dinghies entered, 31 took to the water in the offshore, strong breeze of high teens with gusts of over 20 knots (force 5 - 6). Over the windward/leeward course, with the wind at its strongest there were eleven retirements together with many capsizes (most crews). Although the National 18 of Hardisty, Hill and Richardson was first on the water and would be for all six races, followed by Ben Batchelor with crew dad, Dave (RS 400) and Greg Kelly and Erin Murphy (RS200) in third. After correction the win went to junior Cameron Blamey in his first season sailing a Laser 4.7, second Kelly and Murphy with junior Teddy Dunn (RS Aero 5) in third.

Race two over the same course and possibly with slightly less breeze, certainly fewer capsizes which allowed the N18 to pull far enough ahead of the 'Batch's' to claim their first win of the Regatta by 1 ½ minutes even after correction. The Batch's taking second with Ffinlo Wright (RS Aero7) filling the final podium spot.

The final race of the day saw the N18 chased by the RS 400's of the Batch's and Russell and June Collister but not quite quickly enough allowing Ffinlo into second and Cameron into third after correction.

Sunday's forecast was fortunately way off the light breeze of 3 to 5 knots and was replaced by a good stiff breeze of 10 to 15 knots and bright sunshine, 'champagne sailing' they call it, encouraging a fleet of 31 starters.

For Race four, race officer Keith Poole set a 'P' course, this would include a pair of reaches and a short run which would suit dinghies equipped with spinnakers and especially the asymmetric type.

The N18, out in front was again chased by the RS 400's crossing the line only 2 seconds apart but pipped by the RS 200 of Greg and Erin with Mike Wilson and crew bringing the IOM Yacht Club 2000 home in third after correction.

Race five saw a return to the windward/leeward course which was again a procession of N18, RS 400, RS 400 but interrupted after correction by Cameron Blamey claiming second and Mike Wilson third. In fourth place your correspondent in his ex 2001 Island Games Laser, by far the oldest boat in the top 20.

The final race of the weekend was again over the 'P' course, always a crowd pleaser, especially in the sparkling conditions in Ramsey Bay. In this race the near domination of the N18 took a dent, pushed into second by Mike Wilson with Greg and Erin in third after some particularly close racing. There was only 10 seconds splitting second to fifth after correction.

Overall after the discard of their worst result the National 18 of Phil Hardisty, Chris Hill and Peter Richardson became the IOM Dinghy Champions for 2020. Second place went to the very consistent Greg Kelly and Erin Murphy and third, by only one point, was Cameron Blamey who also claimed best junior.

MS&CC would like to thank Race Officer Keith Poole, assisted by Esther Bailey, Dave Edwards and Luke Crowe. Also many thanks to the IOM Yacht Club for providing an extra patrol boat and crew plus the MS&CC patrol boat crews of Peter Hoosen-Owen, Graham Wilson, May Shiu Chan, Emily and Helen Kee.

Many thanks also to Niamh Poole and helpers for arranging the half time pasties and the excellent Regatta Tea on Sunday

For full results please visit the MS&CC website and for the many excellent photo's taken by David Craine go to the Club Facebook page.