

## Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

### IoM Copiers Easter Dinghy Regatta 2026

David Batchelor and Jimmy Cope take the honours.

What a fantastic day at the MS&CC Easter Regatta! It's traditionally scheduled for Easter Saturday (April 4<sup>th</sup> this year) and also traditionally delayed due to weather as occurred this year due to the appearance of Storm Dave. The postponed event took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April in gorgeous sunshine and a light to moderate (but shifty) North Westerly breeze so with Ramsey Bay looking at its best. The Regatta consisted of three races held in succession with no discards so every position counted and any slip-ups could be costly.

19 teams took part in the event with a strong squad from the Isle of Man Yacht Club presenting a powerful challenge. Your correspondent duly entered the Finn dinghy but was disappointed to find that the mice in the garage had been living in his best sail and seemed to have found the reinforced mylar to their taste so I had to swap it for an old one thereby obtaining an early excuse for a rather lacklustre performance.

Others did much better. Dave Batchelor started race 1 very strongly in the Supernova from the pin end of the line and was soon a good way ahead of the rest of the fleet. He has been practicing with the new boat all winter at Injebreck and now seems to have a good grasp of how to make it go fast. Also showing the way for the fleet of 4 RS Teras was Jimmy Cope in the Tera Pro who while unable to match the raw speed of the Supernova, the RS Aeros and the Finn, had the advantage of a handicap set so that a well sailed Tera could compete on equal terms to the others. So after 2 laps for the Teras and three for the rest of the fleet, Jimmy came in first on handicap 18 seconds ahead of Batchelor with Simon Cain (RS Aero 7) in third. The RS Aeros can pick up a bit of extra pace by roll gybing which they may have been practicing at a recent training session by expert sailor Teddy Dunn. However both Tom and Lettie Hyett (RS Aero 5, UK under 17 champion) managed to capsize during the process to general amusement although Tom said it was just so that he could cool off in the scorching heat. They both beat your correspondent anyway.

Race 2, sailed in similar conditions, saw Batchelor take an early lead on the water again and although he mentioned afterwards that reading the shifts was difficult, he generally managed to tack at the right times in the right places on the beats and thereby extended the lead to finish first on corrected time with Ralph Kee (Laser standard) a strong second. Watterson and Cope were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> with all 4 finishing within a minute on corrected time.

It was still anyone's game in race 3 (well almost anyone) with Batchelor leading on 3 points (lowest score wins), Cope on 5, Kee on 7, Watterson on 9 and Joe and Eric Whitelegg (Enterprise) on 10. Batchelor had a 'discussion' with a Laser on the start line and as result found himself mid-fleet up the first beat when he needed to be out in front. Could he be displaced from the overall lead? A poor position could knock him out of the reckoning but it was not to be. The Supernova kept out of trouble, tacked at the right times and dug its way out of the fleet to take an unchallengeable second in the last race behind Watterson.

So at the prizegiving it was Batchelor first with just 5 points followed by Watterson (10), Cope (12), the Whiteleggs (14) and Kee (15). In the Juniors class, Jimmy Cope took the win from Jake Walker (RS Tera) and Lettie Hyett (RS Aero 5) on equal points (27) but Jake taking the best result.

A great day's sailing was had by all wherever they came I was told and it was good to see such a wide range of ages, some newer faces to racing and also some sailors of the fairer sex doing well. Thanks also to the safety boat crews (May Shiu, Chris Love, Martin Jackson and Ed Pearce) the Race Officer team of Keith Poole and Yogi Quayle and the Ladies (Niamh, May and Collette) for the delicious and extensive Regatta Tea.

Coming up, the MS&CC has now started RYA Dinghy Training on Monday and Wednesday evenings, Sunday morning races start on April 26th, Thursday evenings on 7 May and the Ramsey Shipping Services Round the Island Race for yachts is on 24<sup>th</sup> May this year. Get your entry in! Details on the club website together with dinghy results and some great photos.