

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Ramsey Shipping Services Round the Island Race 2026

Huge Calm Patch Frustrates the Fleet.

The MS&CC Round the Island Yacht Race, sponsored by Ramsey Shipping Services, who operate Ramsey Shipyard, took place on Sunday 24th May with a prospect of variable mostly Southerly winds and some mist or fog. After a pleasant evening BBQ at the club on Saturday, with sausages kindly donated by Teare's the butchers, 5 yachts made the start at 0600 hrs including visitors Talada (Horizon 30, George Nevin) returning from Kirkcudbright, Skyfall (Beneteau 27.5, Ben Mitchell) from Peel and club boats, Dragonfly 28C trimaran Triple Distilled (Richard Lombard-Chibnall), E-Boat Eliza Bee (Ralph Kee) and last year's winner Seapie of Cultra (Jerry Colman, Sigma 33).

The first leg was a light downwind reach to the Point of Ayre in the early morning sunshine. Despite the following tidal current it still took the fleet around 2 hours to cover the 7 miles from the start line off Ramsey's South Stone Pier. Some more drifting about to the west of the Point wasted another hour or so before first the trimaran then one by one the local boats caught a moderate south Westerly of 10 to 14 knots which while bang on the nose gave us hope of reaching the Chickens and even Langness before the tide turned against us. Talada had by this time decided to head back towards Kirkcudbright, not such a bad decision as it turned out.

Triple Distilled pulled away down the West coast while Seapie soon put the others a good distance astern as the fleet passed Peel then Niarbyl in the cool breeze. Ahead, the forecast fog was forming a bank covering the Calf of Man and the Chickens (including the Chicken Rock Lighthouse) beyond. Fortunately for most of us, the fog lifted just as Seapie entered the tide race between the Rock and the Calf which was running at full throttle at the time. Seapie was able to carry the tidal current past Langness while Eliza Bee made it into Port St Mary Bay while Skyfall decided to slip back into her home port of Peel.

Round about 7 pm the tide turned against us and with that the wind gave up. GPS told the boats that we were going backwards so kedge anchors were deployed and crews were able to observe their boats doing up to 2 knots through the water while staying stationary over the land. Checking the on-line forecasts showed a large area of almost no wind between Langness and Maughold Head overnight and into the morning so with a time limit for the race coming in at 0900 hrs on Monday calculations of possible progress even once the tide turned again for us were not in our favour.

So it was that the remaining warriors reverted to the iron headsails and set off towards home, with Seapie dropping most of the crew in Douglas – they deserved a comfortable night!

Seapie and Eliza Bee spent some of the night on the mooring buoys in Ramsey and were welcomed back into their berths in Ramsey inner harbour with a bridge swing at 0800 hrs on Monday morning.

So no finishers this year but thanks to the sponsors for their support and let's have better luck with the weather next year. Details on the club website together with some great photos.

Jerry Colman