

Write up by Keith Poole

The weather forecast for the IOM Copiers Easter Regatta looked promising, 12 to 15 knots with occasional sunshine, this certainly encouraged plenty of people to turn up to the Manx Sailing & Cruising Club in Ramsey. In reality the 14 to 17 knots from the Southeast that was generating some quite large waves made some opt to change their plans for the day.

The competitors were initially held back on the beach for the Committee Boat to arrive on station and allow the Race Officer to assess whether the conditions were favourable enough for racing. Decision made the remaining 18 Dinghies made their way to the start line.

This is a mixed handicap event, and the mix was certainly varied. Peter Cope brought out his Foiling Waszp, Keiron Blamey, Nathan Bradley and Nigel Collins arrived with the huge 3 man National 18 with many other Classes down to the little Tera Sport of Jimmy Cope.

Race one was a windward/leeward course and it started with the wind increasing by a further 2 or 3 Knots. The conditions proved a test for all with many taking a dip, keeping the Patrol Boats busy darting from one capsized boat to another to see if assistance was necessary. This led to one retirement on the first lap and a further two before the end of the second lap, to add to the issues of the day the large waves were causing the Committee Boat to drag its anchor. In the end Simon Pressly (Radial), who enjoys this kind of weather, secured 1st place with Angus Jolly (Aero 7) 2nd and Bob Love 3rd.

After a hasty repositioning of the Committee Boat race two got under way on a similar course in very slightly less wind, with less people falling over this produced a much tighter race. After the handicaps were applied with only a second or two separating many of the boats Simon once again shone to take 1st with Andrew Dean (Radial) rising through the ranks for 2nd and the National 18 of Keiron, Nathan and Nigel 3rd.

For the final race the course was shortened to take into account the now very tired competitors and the wind had by now thankfully eased to the 10/12 Knots range. However, this didn't slow Simon down any as he once again took the top slot, he was joined again on the podium by Angus. There was a very impressive performance from Junior sailor Tom Watterson in his Tera Pro to secure 3rd.

Overall, obviously with three wins Simon Pressly took home the John Dean Trophy, in 2nd place was Angus Jolly with Peter Cope in the impressive Waszp 3rd. In the Junior Class, a consistent performance by Tom Watterson gave him 1st with Elsie Hyett (Radial) 2nd just beating her sisters Roo and Lettie Hyett (Feva XL) who came in 3rd.

Many thanks to all involved in the event, Emily Kee, Jade Leach, Ebo Lomas and Peter Hoosen-Owen in the patrol boats, Keith Poole and Neil Rawlinson on the Committee boat, Niamh Poole and her crew for the much-needed sustenance post-race and of course our event sponsor Mark Corrin from IOM Copiers.

Full result available here <https://www.halsail.com/Result/Public/70947>