

## Manx Sailing and Cruising Club Summer Regatta

Supported by HAÜS

22 boats from all round the Island gathered over the glorious weekend of 22 & 23 June to compete for the MS&CC's Daily Mirror Trophy which is presented to the winning boat over a series of 6 races. Old salts may recall that the Daily Mirror supported the design and marketing of the ubiquitous Mirror Dinghy designed by Barry Bucknell and Jack Holt in 1963. We're proud to have been presented with a trophy by such an august organisation.

The forecast was for light to moderate Westerlies or North Westerlies on the Saturday then very light North Westerlies turning to South Easterlies at around noon on Sunday. Sunshine was predicted and the sea state would be slight or calm.

The forecourt was busy on Saturday morning with Nathan Bradley's enormous National 18 and it's skyscraping rig contrasting with the diminutive Teras of Charlie Watterson, Tullie Hyett and George Pearce. Also we were fascinated to see Peter Cope unloading his foiling Waszp and we wondered if there would be enough wind to let it show it's paces.

The fleet assembled around the Committee Boat Ballure, ably manned by Keith Poole and Yogi Quayle, about half a mile off the Mooragh in a pleasant but quite shifty and gusty Westerly. As well as the above, the fleet included 7 Lasers of various hues, 4 RS Aeros and scattering of other classes including the Whitelegg's Enterprise and your correspondent J Colman's Finn.

The first start line was set slightly biased to the pin end (meaning that boats starting at that end had a small advantage and so there was less chance of boats clobbering the Committee Boat at the other end). However the wind shifted a little more during the starting sequence making the pin end highly favoured so those of us who had clocked this started with a good advantage.

The breeze continued to shift back and forth and up and down in strength giving those who can read the signs a big help and proving very difficult for the Waszp who was often seen going rather slowly in displacement mode rather than literally flying along on his hydrofoils.

Mark roundings saw some close quarters situations with a few taking penalties but nothing too serious although your correspondent was subsequently surprised to find how much doing 2 turns set you back – quite a fight to recover from that.

Over this and the next 2 races, the Aeros of Angus Jolly and Andrew Dean seemed to be nearer the front than most as the finishes approached with the Lasers of Simon Pressly (defending champion), Ralph Kee and junior Ivan Nicholls not far behind.

The Finn also showed some moments of good speed but a few poor tacks and ultimately a capsize at the last mark rounding of the day on Saturday scuppered any chances of a podium result or anything near it. At least we finished in the top half of the fleet (just).

Sunday's light forecast turned out to be a bit pessimistic from our point of view but accurate in the timing of the big shift around noon. Dave Batchelor's Hadron revelled in the moderate conditions and he did always seem to be in the right place to take advantage of the shifts and gusts. He only sailed on Sunday but certainly put down a marker with 3 wins mostly by big margins.

Other results were often down to a few seconds between several boats so even slight mistakes or lapses of effort or concentration can cost you places. An added distraction came in the form of a dolphin who kept the competitors company during the racing, even jumping out of the water in front of everyone at the start of Race 2.

Overall Angus Jolly in the Aero 7 got just far enough in front to take the Trophy from Ralph Kee and Simon Pressly in Lasers. Ivan also in his Laser wasn't far behind in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall, winning the junior prize. (Andrew Dean intervening in 4<sup>th</sup>). Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to the OOD crew and the patrol boat crews.

We should also mention Bella Edwards crewing for her Dad, Donald, on a club Quest being the youngest competitor aged only 9 years old and completing all six races and also flying the spinnaker. It was great to see the high involvement of the youth side with 25% of the overall fleet being 18 years old or younger.

Finally a big thanks to Dr Chan who produced the 'Sausage Sizzle' one-armed on Saturday, Niamh Poole who organised the superb Regatta Tea on Sunday and of course Moira behind the bar. Also, many thanks to Bob Love of HAÜS for his continued support. Great photos and full results are available on the club's FB feed.

Jerry Colman (Commodore)