

Four Peaks

It was great, jolly good fun, said an exhausted competitor. The event was held over the Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 2 February. Out of the 17 scheduled starters only 11 boats finished which goes to show it was not a race for the weak of arm, or the weak of leg for that matter.

First over the line and overall winner was Cuchlain who completed the course in 23 hours and 34 minutes. A Carter 33 design, it was Keith Jacob's original Bimblegumbie. Second over the line, 12 minutes behind, was the works entry from Beneteau who carried the handicap of starting the race 49 minutes after everyone else.

Third over the line was Bugis, Just a Quickie fourth, and fifth was Lone Star.

On corrected time Cuchlain again the winner with the Beneteau First 345 second followed by Rolling Home, Lone Star and Just a Quickie.

The whole event was exceptionally well run with the help of a Gurkha Regiment who manned some of the Peaks and provided the radio link.

The course started at Shek-O Rock, from there to Sai Kung, up Ma On Sham and back down again, from there to Lantau, Lantau Peak, from there to Mount Stenhouse on Lamma (this one was favoured by the less fit) and the final assault was on Violet Hill which is behind Repulse Bay.

The guys on Cuchlain did Ma On Sham in 1 hour and 35, the guys on the Beneteau did it in 1 hour and 23. Just goes to show what a close run thing it was.

Class A boats were sent through the Lamma Channel and around Datum Rock. Class B went direct from Sai Kung to Lantau. What that meant was that it closed the whole race up as the leaders of the Class A fleet ran out of wind and were actually overtaken by some of the back markers. This basically meant the whole fleet bunched up and the race virtually started again off Lantau.

This event is modelled on the Three Peaks race in the UK – Mount Snowden in Wales, Scafell in the Lake District and Ben Nevis in Scotland. It's held in August but it must be remembered there is often snow on Ben Nevis at that time of year.

The UK event is a pretty strenuous affair and although the local equivalent was nowhere near as tough it did bring out the best in some of our local boys.



*, this thing's heavy