

FOURTH OF THE SERIES

The Isle of Man Races Described : G. R. de Havilland (T.K.2) Wins the London-Ronaldsway Event, A. Henshaw Sen. (Vega Gull) the Manx Air Derby, and Sqn. Ldr. H. R. A. Edwards (Avian) the Tynwald Race

Illustrated with "Flight" photographs.



With perfect weather, the size of the crowd at Ronaldsway, both for the Saturday and Monday events, should have made the organisers feel that these are well worthwhile. This photograph was taken on Monday.

BY way of a change, the weather was very nearly ideal for the three Isle of Man races last weekend. Two years ago the competitors in the long-distance race arrived at the Island to find fog over most of it (and at the Maughold Head turning point in particular), and last year the circuit races had to be postponed from Whit Monday to the much less suitable Tuesday because of low cloud and a very strong wind. The result—especially important from the organisers' point of view—was that the general public, as well as the entrants and sundry enthusiasts, this year arrived in force at Ronaldsway.

Actually, the organisers were lucky as far as Saturday's event was concerned. Until mid-day, a front over the North of England caused a good deal of trouble, with clouds at 300ft. or so, but it had moved on or largely disintegrated before the start at about 12.30 p.m. and all was comparatively well. Even on Monday there was mist about the Island in the morning, but this had almost cleared before the first Tynwald pilot left at 2.15 p.m.

This race, incidentally, was the only one to be described as a partial failure. Of seven entrants, only four finished the course, though there was a considerable and exciting battle between the two widely dissimilar leaders during the whole of the ninety minutes it took them to cover the three laps. With less than a minute's start on Sqn. Ldr. H. R. A. Edwards' ancient but fast Sports Avian, R. L. Porteous managed to hold his own with the Ford-engined Chilton until the very last lap, when his machine dropped a couple of miles an hour and was defeated by a mere 26 sec. The Avian had averaged 106½ m.p.h. and the Chilton about 105 m.p.h.

Real Handicapping

Of the three races, the Manx Air Derby was the nearest approach to the handicappers' dream. Messrs. Dancy and Rowarth nearly had a line-abreast finish. Over a 156-mile course all nine competitors arrived within six minutes, and the first seven inside two minutes. There was actually a gap of 33 sec. between the winner and the runner-up, 46 sec. between the first and third,

and a little over one minute between the first and fifth. Which looks a little dull in black and white, but is the story, in fact, of a remarkably exciting finish.

Popularly enough, the winner was none other than Albert Henshaw, Sen., with his Vega Gull, and assisted unobtrusively by Alex Henshaw. A very happy ending to a somewhat difficult period on the starting line, during which Henshaw, sen., was quite determined to fly his own machine in a race for once in a way and Alex was equally determined that he should be chaperoned. Eventually the Mew Gull, which had been second in the London-Ronaldsway race, was taxied away, while Alex went as co-pilot in the Vega.

In the London-Isle of Man race a more or less continuous head wind, which was somewhat stronger than the Met. people had forecast, automatically caused the fastest machines to take all the top places. For once in a way this was a good thing; everybody, somewhat naturally, likes to see the back-markers come up through the field, and it is always slightly depressing when a vintage type, however enthusiastically

LONDON TO ISLE OF MAN RACE

Order	Pilot	Machine	Starting Time		Finishing Time		Speed		
			hr. min. sec.	hr. min. sec.	hr. min. sec.				
1	G. R. de Havilland ...	T.K.2 ...	13	36	34	15	07	47	168½
2	Alex. Henshaw ...	Percival Mew Gull ...	13	57	23	15	08	12	217
3	E. W. Percival ...	Percival Mew Gull ...	13	59	26	15	09	17	220
4	L. Fontes ...	Miles Hawk Six ...	13	38	34	15	09	48	168½
5	R. A. Winter ...	Gipsy Swift ...	13	20	52	15	10	01	140½
*6	J. Rush ...	Miles Sparrowhawk ...	13	30	32	15	13	27	149½
7	Lord Londonderry ...	D.H. Hornet ...	12	48	12	15	14	43	105
8	T. W. Brooke-Smith ...	Miles Falcon ...	13	28	45	15	15	42	143½
9	P. Avery ...	V.E.F. J.12 ...	13	10	43	15	16	01	122½
10	H. R. A. Edwards ...	Avro Avian ...	12	28	37	15	17	00	91½
11	G. E. Bowes-Stoney ...	B.A. Double Eagle ...	13	37	04	15	19	07	150½
*12	S. Cummings ...	Blackburn Bluebird ...	12	39	04	15	19	32	95½
13	W. H. Moss ...	Mosscraft ...	12	57	21	15	19	39	108
14	J. M. Barwick ...	Percival Vega Gull ...	13	26	53	15	20	55	134½
15	T. Rose ...	B.A. Eagle ...	13	09	52	15	26	27	112½
16	Misses M. and S. Glass ...	B.A. Eagle ...	12	54	04	15	33	06	96½
17	W. Humble ...	B.A. Eagle ...	13	01	29	15	39	07	97½

* Disqualified



The winner of the Manx Air Derby, Mr. Albert Henshaw, Sen., who flew with Mr. Alex Henshaw as co-pilot. His Vega Gull averaged 167½ m.p.h.