

Bourne Plaice Winter Series

On 23 December the Bourne Plaice Winter Series was a reminder of just how different the strength and direction of the wind can be in the Baldwin Valley, running north /south when the the wind is blowing very hard in the rest if the Island, the 'all Island forecast' does not include the valley, you have to be there to see if racing will be possible.

A small fleet of 5 started the first race, other regulars, no doubt keeping their kit dry for the Frost Bite on Boxing Day. The fleet was rather chaotic when a gust hit immediately and capsized Ralph Kee (Laser) not once but twice on the line, taking with him Andrew Dean and crew Lucy Connors (RS 200). The Lasers of Mike Pridham and Dave Batchelor getting clean away, but not for long as Ralph closed in to take the lead whilst Mike and Dave took it in turns to take a dip, eventually falling behind in a calm of all things!

In a classic Tortoise and Hare story it was junior Ben Batchelor (Tera Sport) who by just sailing and not swimming took first place after handicapping, his first win on Baldwin.

The wind settled slightly for race 2 and whilst only a few yards ahead at the first mark Mike caught a gust that not only planed to the next mark but the one after building a lead nearly the length of the lake, finishing 2 mins ahead to win on handicap. After corrections Ben was second, beating his dad Dave twice in one day!

Many thanks to OOD Keith Poole, Donald and Jerry for the safety boat and Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice.

Race 1

Ben Batchelor, Tera

Mike Pridham, Laser

Dave Batchelor, Laser

Ralph Kee, Laser

Andrew Dean, Lucy Connors, RS 200

Race 2

Mike Pridham

Ben Batchelor

Ralph Kee

Andrew Dean

Dave Batchelor