

Bourne Plaice Winter Series - 24 February 2013

A fleet of 5 dinghies sailed at Injebreck in a North-Easterly breeze of variable strength but reasonably consistent direction. Pools of water on the boats and their covers had frozen solid overnight inducing some numb fingers but ice breakers were not required to launch, although the temperature hovered around zero until well after the first start.

The NE wind dictated a clockwise course around the lake starting to windward, towards the high end. The breeze fell very light with experience coming to the fore in the assessment of where the cats paws might be found and thus Jim Whiteleg's Gull class dinghy was able to keep up with the faster Lasers of Mike Pridham and Simon Pressley and the RS 200 sailed by Andrew Dean and Lucy Connors. Jim managed to get well ahead of Len and James Arnold's Laser 2000 who found one of Injebreck's delightful perfectly calm spots half way up the first beat.

All boats managed 2 laps in gently building conditions and although the faster boats slipped away from the Gull during the second lap it was not enough to negate that early good work and so Jim took a well deserved victory by 18 seconds from Andrew Dean with the Laser of Mike Pridham a further 10 seconds behind – very close racing in such challenging conditions.

The second race started with a blast of sun to the hills which raised the ambient temperature to nearly 2 degrees. Slightly more breeze favoured the faster dinghies and the wind angle on the downwind legs called for careful control of boat speed and direction to achieve the best effect which in Dean's case was a win by 15 seconds from Ralph Kee now sailing Pridham's Laser who was a further 15 seconds in front of Pressley. Jim and Len lost out upwind and downwind respectively but a finish in full sunshine and a sub-tropical 3 degrees centigrade pleased all comers.

Thanks to Jerry Colman for Officer of the Day, Jenny Lantry, Mike Pridham and Ralph Kee in the safety boat and Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice.

