

The latest round of the Bourne Plaice Winter Series was held in possibly the windiest conditions so far this series on Sunday, but West Baldwin reservoir was slightly sheltered from the full gale blowing over the rest of the island. This week it was the ferocity of the gusts rather than the lulls that made it difficult for crews to commit to sitting out.

In the first race it was Dave Batchelor (RS Aero), in another early Christmas present, who led the small fleet of nine boats (any 'wise men' staying on the bank or in bed) to the first mark before 'christening' his pressie with a not often seen pitchpole as the front of his Aero dug in on a gust.

With the conditions as they were, the officer of the day (OOD) thankfully kept the race short and Batchelor crossed the line first on the water followed by Ralph Kee (Laser) who probably fell in slightly less than third-placed Angus Jolly (Laser). As usual these days, you have to wait until the results are corrected to find out that the winner was Ben Batchelor (Tera Pro) with his dad second and Kee third. With only 25 seconds between the first four boats, one capsize less could have won the race.

For the second race over a similar course, there were only seven starters and was again won by Ben Batchelor who was clearly revelling in the windy conditions. The results were generally reversed with the 'could do betters' of the first race doing just that, with Jolly second, Andrew Dean (Laser Radial) third and Ffinlo Wright up to fourth in his new RS Aero. All still very close with just 25 seconds between second and fifth.

Thanks go to the sponsor Rob Cowell who took over OOD duties with his brother John and Jerry Colman and Emily Kee for the safety boat.

The next racing Manx Sailing and Cruising Club will be holding is the Frostbite Regatta on Boxing Day at West Baldwin reservoir, with a pursuit race starting at 11am for the S. Quayle Cup.

Results: Race one 1, Ben Batchelor (Tera Pro); 2, Dave Batchelor (RS Aero); 3, Ralph Kee (Laser); 4, Angus Jolly (Laser); 5, Andrew Dean (Laser Radial); 6, Phil Hardisty/Ciara Kaneen (RS 200); 7, Ffinlo Wright (RS Aero)

Race two 1, B. Batchelor; 2, Jolly; 3, Dean; 4, Wright; 5, D. Batchelor; 6, Hardisty/Kaneen; 7, Kee.