

Write-up by Mike Pridham

Following the storm damage and big winds over the previous two days, the Island's dinghy sailors were a bit concerned about their boats up at the Injebreck reservoir on Sunday morning. Although there was a lot of debris on the roads, there was no damage in the boat park and eleven crews assembled to sail in almost ideal conditions (for December on Injebreck) to contend the latest round of the Bourne Plaice Winter Series.

Race Officer Keith Poole set a course using only the southern half of the water as there was a complete lack of wind over the north. A premature start by the Arnold twins' Feva didn't put off the rest of the 11-strong fleet who all survived the occasional gusts and lulls. There proved to be an invisible line across the lake almost at its mid-point (the Equator?). Anyone going North ended up in the Doldrums with the occasional wind coming from all directions. This seemed to catch out the slower boats but even the experienced Ralph Kee's Laser Standard, when he had caught up the (theoretically) faster D-Zero of Mike Pridham was tempted to cross the Equator and lost out massively. Pridham managed to stay ahead of the fleet on the water for the five laps of the course and was just good enough to beat Andrew Dean and James Arnold (both Laser Radial's) on corrected time. Kee was fourth and Matthew Perry and Ben Batchelor in a Feva were 5th.

By the start of the second race the forecast reduced wind arrived with sunshine. This meant that there was even less wind across the lake and much larger "dead" spots. At the halfway stage, Pridham had a massive lead, but Dean and Kee both passed him when he strayed too far North. Almost all of the fleet met at the final mark, as the slower boats were being lapped. James Arnold read the conditions brilliantly and though Kee took line honours James had an easy win on handicap-corrected time, with Andrew Dean second (again the bridesmaid?) and the Feva helmed this time by Ben Batchelor third. Kee was fourth again and Jerry Colman in his Rooster 8.1 Laser was fifth.

No damage, no capsizes during races and a bit of sun - count ourselves lucky when so many other sports on the Island have been so much less fortunate.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice, Keith Poole for Officer of the Day assisted by Neil Rawlinson and May Shui Chan and Jenny Dean for the safety boat. For full results and photos please visit our website and Facebook page.