

Write-up by Jerry Colman

A bit chilly but a bright and sunny morning with a moderate Nor'easter greeted all on their way to Injebreck on Sunday for the latest round of the Bourne Plaiice February Series. As we climbed towards Brandywell temperatures dropped away falling below zero on the Beinn-y-Phott road. At the top of Druidale it reached -0.5 making us wonder if we would be able to ride the ice rinks over the top to Injebreck and then, after mastering that, break the ice on the reservoir and melt it off the sheets by one or other of the time-honoured methods.

At Injebreck the cold wind was falling down the hill at us in a sequence of stiff squalls in the 5 to 6 zone which put one or two off but still a sturdy fleet of 6 Lasers of various ilks, Keith Holden's Finn, Matt and Len's Laser 2000, Mike Swales' D-Zero and, with new safety feature buoyancy aid stitched into the head of the sail, John Dowling's Gull. This was not tested today.

As soon as the fleet was afloat, the wind piped up another notch. The man with the Musto Skiff - jaw dropping looks (the boat that is) with big main, big kite and trapeze - chose wisely to stay ashore while your correspondent chose poorly to venture out in the Rooster Laser with the big rig. Upwind was not too bad as the spilling wind was quite easy even if it slowed you up a bit but downwind in the bigger squalls was either satisfyingly rapid or in the Rooster's case unstintingly horrifying. We had a vertical rotation under the lightly peated and well cooled waters of the lake after which we could observe the rest of the fleet progressing from our vantage point at the back.

Once through the start for Race one Ralph Kee (Laser Standard) established a lead by threading effectively through the gusts and shifts upwind to the top of the lake despite close challenges from Don Edwards (Laser Standard) and James Arnold (Laser Radial), although the latter missed a mark and was disqualified from the first race - you are being watched.

The second race saw slightly lighter conditions and more sun so generally went down very well with everyone in a boat. The race officer cleverly stopped the race just before it piped right up again so all could enjoy a good moan about not having time to catch up with Kee while explaining to all the rest that they must have had a very pleasant sail even though they didn't catch him either.

The February series is still tight especially with discards to come in so the finale next Sunday will see some pretty smart sailing I expect.

Many thanks to our sponsor Rob Cowell, Jenny Dean and Adam Beighton in the safety boat and Keith Poole and his team on the shore. Full results and some great pictures on the club Website and Facebook page.