

After last weeks cancellation due to snow and ice the December Bourne Plaice Winter Series resumed on Sunday morning at the Baldwin Reservoir. Although the forecast was for lots of wind and rain, the rain stopped at the start of the first race and in the shelter of the Baldwin valley the wind was more than manageable for the fleet of seven Lasers, one De-Voti and of course the 'mighty' Gull of Jim Whitelegg.

Making his first appearance of the season was Junior, Ben Batchelor (Laser Radial) who after playing cat and mouse with the larger Laser of Ralph Kee ahead of the main fleet eventually pulled out a lead of nearly two feet at the finish line. A comfortable win on correction for Ben with fellow junior Matthew Perry (Radial) second just ahead of Kee in third.

Race two was a different matter, for the first time this season the race officer changed the course, not all starters noticed this and many of the front runners were in catch-up mode for the whole race.

'On the ball' Anthony Ellis (Laser) noticed the change and after an excellent start sailed the right course to take a huge lead on the water and managed to keep it. Even after correction he had an unassailable lead of over a minute. Mike Pridham (Radial) took second and Ben Batchelor third. Although second on the water after taking the wrong turn, Kee slipped to sixth, swallowed up by the Radial fleet.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice for his continued sponsorship, Keith Poole for OOD and Neil Rawlinson for his assistance and photos. Also Peter Hoosen-Owen and Helen Kee for the patrol boat.

Racing continues on Christmas Eve at the usual start time of 10am. The Frostbite Regatta on Boxing Day will be a pursuit race commencing at 11am with a staggered start depending on handicap.