

The Frostbite Regatta is the final sailing regatta of the 2017 season, held on a bright, sunny Boxing Day on the West Baldwin reservoir. This event is hosted by Manx Sailing & Cruising Club for the S E Quayle Cup.

Instead of having a mass start and then correcting the times using the PY Handicap system each class of boat was allotted an individual start time, slowest off first, fastest last. In theory after the allotted race time all of the boats should be in a neat bunch, this never happens so whoever is first on the water is the winner.

The wind direction forecast was from the west, on the light side and because the Baldwin Valley runs north/south a bit flukey, mostly up the lake at the bottom, mostly down the lake at the top and most frustratingly round in circles in the middle!

First off at 11am, on a course that would take in the whole length of the reservoir was Jim Whitelegg in his 'mighty' Gull (a previous winner) with the Laser Radials some 10 minutes later, Standard Lasers 2 minutes back and the last to start Devoti D-Zeros, the fastest rated dinghies.

The four Standard Lasers soon caught the two Radial Lasers and sailed as a fleet mostly led by Ralph Kee (Standard) and Ben Batchelor (Radial). Kee dropped right to the back of the bunch rounding one mark but in true 'Injebreck' style managed to sail past the becalmed fleet on a lucky gust and set off in hot pursuit of Jim.

When the final hooter went at noon Jim Whitelegg was still ahead to take the win, maybe it was his 'lucky Santa' hat that gave him the edge! Kee was second, only three boat lengths behind with junior, Ben Batchelor third by two boat lengths, the next half dozen competitors were separated by inches!

The racing was followed by Yogi Quayle presenting the SE Quayle Cup to a delighted Jim.

Many thanks to Keith Poole for OOD and Helen and Emily Kee for the patrol boat.

Full results can be found on the MS&CC website and there are more pictures on the Facebook page.

The last racing of 2017 takes place at 10am on New Years Eve, when the December series will be decided, a number of sailors are in with a shout so it's all still to sail for!