

The first races of the latest round of the Bourne Plaice Winter Series, also the first dinghy racing of the 2018 series took place on West Baldwin reservoir on Sunday morning.

A lovely crisp and sunny morning greeted the good turnout of 14 crews. Unfortunately the reservoir lying north/south was largely sheltered from the chilly easterly wind.

However, as soon as the race was started the breeze (too strong a word for it!), which had been blowing down the lake faded to the odd waft from all directions. Racing in these conditions requires skill, patience, but mostly good luck or a good handicap!

A group of four Lasers, smaller Radial rigs of Mike Pridham and Ben Batchelor and larger Standard rigs Anthony Ellis and Ralph Kee rounded the first mark together. It was Kee working his way up the nearside bank with the help of a lucky gust that pulled away to finish well ahead of Batchelor to win both on the water and on correction. Pridham came in third in what wasn't a very action packed one lap race! Finishing well up in the fleet was Frostbite Regatta winner Jim Whitelegg who came up into fourth place.

With no improvement to the wind likely racing was cancelled.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice, Keith Poole for OOD assisted by Neil Rawlinson and May Shiu Chan and Jack for the patrol boat.