

Despite the weather warnings Manx Sailing & Cruising Club held the latest round of the Bourne Plaice Winter Series on Baldwin reservoir on Sunday morning. In the shelter of the Baldwin valley the very strong winds experienced all over the Island were if anything generally a bit on the light side with only the odd spicy gust. Fortunately the sun was shining which took the edge of the near 0°C temperature!

A hardcore of six started Race 1 which used the full length of the lake and right away there was a drama, last week's winner of the driftathon, Jerry Colman, caught by a unlucky gust took a tumble and quickly retreated to the relative warmth of the bank!

Quickly a group of three, Mike Pridham (Laser Radial), Andrew Dean (D Zero) and Keith Holden (Finn), broke away each taking a turn to lead the race. With the westerly wind the breeze on the lake was at each end with a doldrum type area around the middle and it was here on the final lap that Dean was able, by sailing around the far edge of the lake, to take the lead on the water ahead of Pridham who in the much smaller rigged Radial Laser took the win ahead of Dean on correction with Holden third.

For the second race the OOD did the 'decent thing' and only used the windy end of the lake and yet again Dean was first on the water but Pridham took the win on correction with junior Peter Cope in third trading places with Holden in fourth.

Many thanks to our sponsor Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice, OOD Keith Poole with help and photo's from Neil Rawlinson and patrol boat crew Graham Wilson ably assisted by your correspondent Ralph Kee.