

Conditions on Baldwin reservoir on Sunday morning for the latest round of the Bourne Plaice Winter Series were just about as good as they get. A gentle southerly breeze blew up the valley was almost gust free with, for a change, no vicious calms. This was forecast and no doubt led to a pleasing turn out of 13 crews.

For Race one the race officer set a simple windward/leeward course using the entire length of the lake and after an individual recall the fleet set off, except for Yogi Quayle (OK) who returned to re-start, assumed guilt!

Meanwhile the front of the fleet was dominated by dinghies with larger rigs, Andrew Dean (D-Zero), Jerry Colman (Rooster 8.1) and largest of them all Keith Holden (Finn), each taking turns to lead. By the final lap Dean was well ahead of Holden only to find on crossing the finish line that he didn't get a hoot from the race officer, it turned out that he was the 'over the line' miscreant at the start. This left Holden to finish first on the water (it's been a while Keith!) though sadly after correction he dropped to fifth.

Further back in the fleet junior, Peter Cope, sailed very tidily to bring his RS Tera Pro into first place on correction, one second ahead of the ever consistent Mike Pridham in the Radial Laser.

Race two was held over the same course and this time after a clean start the fleet was again led on the water by Andrew Dean until the last lap when, almost inexplicably he capsized and after receiving 'outside assistance' retired. This must be a 'boat issue' as Mike Swales in a similar dinghy also managed to do the same in race one, no-one else even came close!

This time the fleet was led home by Anthony Ellis (Laser) after creeping past Jerry Colman at the final mark rounding, to take the win after correction. Yet again further back in the fleet junior, Peter Cope, worked his magic claiming second with Pridham in third.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice, OOD Keith Poole assisted by Neil Rawlinson and patrol boat crew of Chris Perry and Ralph Kee.