

Report by Andrew Dean

Eight dinghies contested Races Six and Seven of the February Bourne Plaice Winter Series organised by the Manx Sailing and Cruising Club of Ramsey. The all-important wind conditions were quite terrible, being a brisk easterly which produced gusts in all directions, at times switching instantly. Air temperature was 1 degree but the sun was shining so the races were on!

The gusts produced two notable capsizes, Jason Corlett and Nathan Bradley taking a tumble at the start of the second race in the wonderfully over-powered RS400, and – my favourite – Ralph suffering total immersion while leading the second race. Your correspondent was just behind and was able to tack off to avoid a similar fate.

In the first race MS&CC Commodore Keith Poole set the best possible course and the fleet worked its way towards mark 1, led by your correspondent in his D Zero, but of course Ralph was close as was the RS400. Next mark was 3 across the lake, then to 5 at the north end. Somehow these three worked a gap to fourth finisher Jerry Colman in his Rooster-rigged Laser. The RS400 was first over the line with Dinghy Captain Ralph second and the D-Zero third, but on corrected time Ralph won with evergreen Jim Whitelegg second in the sprinting Gul with the D-Zero completing the podium.

In the second race, with the same course set, the two capsizes meant that the D-Zero finished first but was relegated to another 3rd on corrected time, victory this time going to young Matthew Perry in the Laser Radial followed by a damp Ralph, who reported that the water was pretty cold.

That concluded February sailing and the final series results were: 1st Mike Pridham, 2nd Andrew Dean and 3rd Jerry Colmsn all from the host Club, then Keith Holden in the Finn from Laxey and young Peter Cope (RS Tera Pro) IoMYC. 6th was Ralph but he had selflessly manned the patrol boat earlier in the month.

Full results can be found on the MS&CC Facebook page, with photos taken by Neil Rawlinson who assisted Keith with the officer of the day duties. The patrol boat was manned by Vice Commodore Dr May Shiu Chan and Chris Perry, to whom enormous thanks are due.