

The 'Beast from the East' didn't stop the intrepid dinghy sailors taking part in the racing on West Baldwin reservoir on Sunday morning. This was the start of the final month of the Bourne Plaice Winter Series.

The easterly wind was reduced to gusts in every direction interspersed with vicious calms and the rain that was forecast did not happen, it snowed instead! From the start of the first race to the finish there was horizontal snow with a few fluttering flakes during the calms. Those who came 'over the mountain' had to return via Laxey.

The first race was mostly dominated by junior, Matthew Perry (Radial Laser), who shot off the start line to take what should have been a commanding lead only to sail into a calm patch and be overtaken by Ralph Kee (Standard Laser) and Mike Pridham (Radial Laser). Kee just held on to cross the line first but Pridham took the win on correction with Kee second and Perry third.

With none of the competitors heading for the bank after race one, OOD Keith Poole started a second race, but fortunately kept it short.

This time the fleet circulated, or more correctly bounced between gusts/calms and changes of wind direction almost as a single pack complete with junior, Peter Cope in his tiny Tera. After correction there was no doubt about it, Peter had won by a good margin with Pridham second and Perry third.

Hats off (literally) to Stu Brew (D Zero) who although follically challenged chose to sail both races without a hat!

Many thanks to our long suffering OOD Keith Poole and patrol boat crew of Helen Kee and Chris Perry, it will be warmer next week! Thanks also to our sponsor Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice. Check out the MS&CC Facebook page for full results and a few snowy pictures.