

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Watling Streetworks Injebreck 2018 November Series Races 5 and 6, 25th Nov.

Report by Andrew Dean

All we asked for was a change of wind conditions from last week, when moderate easterly winds gave very awkward sailing conditions. For a while, when we were rigging the boats for the 10 o'clock start, it looked promising, since there was clearly a northerly tilt resulting in a good solid spread of wind over the whole reservoir. But the weather can be oh-so-cruel, and the wind veered to the east and we were left with calm and some light patches of breeze from all directions.

So the first race looked very like the races last week, but with less wind in the gusts, and therefore an even more frustrating time for those who failed to pick the best course. Indeed your correspondent (D-Zero Blue) had one of his worst ever races, running last on the water for much of the race. Overtaken by many smaller boats he had to settle for last place on corrected time. By contrast Ralph Kee (Laser) seems to be becoming a specialist in this stuff and pulled away dramatically to finish 3½ minutes ahead of the next boat, Jerry Colman's Finn. On corrected time Ralph was just over a minute ahead of young Teddy Dunn (Tera Sport), even younger Peter Cope (Tera Pro) 3rd. To show that sailing has an impressive age range, Jim Whitelegg (Gull) 4th, Mike Pridham (Laser Radial), making a welcome return to the fray, was 5th.

The wind seemed to improve a little for the second race; indeed the reduced elapsed times for the 3 laps bear this out. Ralph had another good race but had to settle for second behind Mike, back on top form as winner. Your correspondent put the misery of the first race behind him, finishing 39 seconds back in 3rd, Peter and Teddy reversed their first race results in the youthful battle of the Teras.

Jerry Colman didn't have the best sailing day but was no doubt buoyed by emerging 5th overall in the November series, and the deserved winner of the MS&CC Yachtsman of the Year Trophy at the Club's Dinner and Prize-giving the previous evening.

Congratulations to Simon who won the November Series from Ralph in 2nd. Your correspondent was 3rd, ahead of Peter Cope, mainly by dint of attending every race. If only we all could make every Sunday!

The December Series, again generously sponsored by Watling Streetworks, starts next Sunday, and, if the forecast proves correct, we can look forward to winds **other than easterlies!**

Thanks to Keith Poole for officiating and the patrol boat crew (Graham Wilson and Emily Kee) for their highly appreciated assistance. Full results and photos will be found on MS&CC's Facebook page.