

The first rounds of the December dinghy racing for the Watling Streetworks Winter Series was held on Sunday morning on West Baldwin Reservoir.

Weather conditions were, apart from non-stop rain or drizzle, much better than the forecast of westerly force 5 to 6, surrounding hills taking the sting out of the wind which even in the gusts rarely peaked above force 3.

The Race Officer set a course using the full length of the lake, the wind flowing from the dam wall up the valley and after a neat start the fleet of eight all arrived at the first mark together. A re-shuffle of the fleet in the wind shadow caused by the dam wall allowed a leading pack of Ralph Kee, Keith Holden, Andrew Dean and Stu Brew to get ahead.

After nudging the next mark Kee was dropped from the leading pack and after another lap the Finn of Keith Holden held a comfortable lead over the chasing D-Zero's. Although the Finn finished first on the water, nearly two minutes ahead of the Laser Radial of junior (just) Matthew Perry it was the latter who took the win by five seconds after correction. Simon Pressly came in third, fifteen seconds behind, the close racing saw all crews finishing within sixty seconds.

For Race two, over the same course Ralph Kee squeezed into first place at the first mark and held the lead on the water for the rest of the race followed at some distance by Andrew Dean and Keith Holden. As in the first race the well sailed Laser Radial (smaller rig) again triumphed after correction, this time Simon Pressly first, three seconds ahead of Matthew and Ralph in third a further fifteen seconds back.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank our sponsor Doug Watling, Race Officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew of Jenny Dean and Emily Kee.

For some pictures and full results visit the MS&CC Facebook page and Website.