

Unusually the wind blew down Baldwin valley for the latest round of the Watling Streetworks Winter Dinghy Series held on Sunday in bright sunny conditions. There was potentially a fleet of thirteen for the first race, but soon after launching Jim Whitelegg in the Gull dinghy changed his mind because of the quite strong gusts and associated vicious calms.

For Race one a course was set to use most of the lake and was lead out by Keith Holden (Finn), until the second mark where he lost time by rejoining the race after heading to the wrong mark, closely followed by the chasing pack including Ralph Kee (Laser), Andrew Dean (D-Zero) and Mike Pridham (Radial). At the same time as rounding the mark the pack were first hit by a fairly strong gust and whilst sitting out hard Kee and Dean were hit by the following vicious calm, Dean capsizing backwards and Kee 'hopping out' to steady the ship before climbing back in and leading the fleet home on the water.

However, the win after correction was taken by junior Teddy Dunn fresh from GBR Squad training last weekend, by seven seconds from fellow junior Peter Cope with Mike Pridham a further one and a half minutes back, leader on the water, Kee secured fifth place.

Over a similar course Race two was lead out from the start by Kee chased by Dean, both staying out of the water and building a healthy lead, until the second to last mark where they sailed into a bald patch which followed the pair to the finish line where Dean managed to creep ahead to finish first on the water.

Yet again it was a junior this time Peter Cope's turn to win after correction by a healthy twenty seconds from Mike Pridham and only three seconds back in third junior Matthew Perry. First on the water Dean could only manage sixth after correction.

Many thanks to sponsor Doug Watling, Race Officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew Emily Kee and Dr May Shiu Chan.

For full results and pictures please visit the Manx Sailing & Cruising Club Facebook page and Website.

The racing will continue next Sunday starting at 10am, a date for your diary will be the Frostbite Regatta to be held on Boxing Day at Baldwin reservoir. The format for this event will be a Pursuit Race and the start time will be slightly later at 11am.