

The first dinghy racing of 2019 took place on West Baldwin reservoir on Sunday morning, Round 1 of the Watling Streetworks Winter Series.

The forecast was of westerly and variable breeze and was spot on, it was very variable. Early birds reported that there was no wind but whilst the masses rigged their dinghies it became a bit gusty only for it to drop off to just variable, in strength and direction too.

Race Officer, Keith Poole, had a difficult time selecting a course and as it turned out the start was to windward, but after that there was a little bit of every point of sail in each leg of the course.

A fleet of fifteen, biggest of the series and of the year so far, set off and reached the first mark almost as a single block after much, all in slow motion, pushing, shoving, bumping and penalty turns. Phil Hardisty (Laser) and Dave Batchelor (Aero) broke clear to finish well ahead to finish first and second with juniors, Teddy Dunn and Peter Cope third and fourth.

With the already variable wind easing, Race Officer shortened the course for Race two. Junior Ben Batchelor (GB Squad) borrowed his Dad's RS Aero and scorched around the one lap race in some sixteen odd minutes only to be pushed into third by fellow juniors Peter Cope in first and Teddy Dunn in second. Such was their pace they overtook a good number of seniors (good work lads!)

Dave Batchelor in Ben's Radial Laser stayed just ahead of the juniors in ninth overall.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank our sponsor Doug Watling, Race Officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew Lorraine and Graham Wilson.