

The final dinghy races of the Watling Streetworks February Series took place on Sunday morning on Baldwin Reservoir. The fine forecast brought an excellent fleet which included no fewer than five junior crews. The light wind, and the odd bank of mist, blew steadily up the valley and allowed the race officer to set a course using most of the length of the reservoir.

From the start of Race 1 Mike Pridham (Radial) led the fleet out to the first mark closely followed by the Finns of Keith Holden and Jerry Colman, he never quite managed to shake them off for the entire race. Then just before the finish line he was overtaken by Ralph Kee (Laser) staging a remarkable comeback after being probably the last to round the first mark. However, on correction the win went to Mike, second Simon Pressly (Radial) with Ralph in third.

For the final race in the series the mist lifted a little, this time there was no catching the large sails of the Finns which finished one and two on the water by some margin with Ralph (just) catching Mike on the line again. This race was a classic, large sails 1,2, 3 on the water but high handicaps meant first place went to, junior Teddy Dunn, second to Jim Whitelegg (not a junior!) and third to another junior, Peter Cope on correction.

A brief presentation was made to Mike Pridham to celebrate his (possibly) last racing on the reservoir, Mike is leaving the Island to be closer to his family who live on the Island 'next door'.

However, he doesn't leave empty handed, winning the 'Shipyard Trophy' for his last Injebreck Series win.

I would like to personally thank Mike for his part as a trustee of the 'Laser Academy' (I still have mine) which has produced some excellent sailors especially when they get together in a First Class 8!

Many thanks to Keith Poole for Officer of the Day, our sponsor Doug Watling and patrol boat crew of Dr May Shiu Chan, Dr Glenn and Andy Dunn.