

Dinghy racing for the final series of the Watling Streetworks Winter Series took place on West Baldwin reservoir on Sunday morning. The weather forecast was for a window between Saturday's rain and strong winds and similar conditions on Sunday afternoon and was spot on allowing those competing to have an excellent morning's racing, even if it was at times a little on the slow side.

With the wind blowing gently up the valley the race officer was good enough to set a course that did not include the race marks directly in the lee of the dam wall, it did leave the windward, and first mark in the next most windless zone though!

The fleet started the race, would it make a difference to those starting in the middle of the lake, more wind and more distance to the first mark, or lakeside, less distance? Answer, not really, Dave Batchelor (Aero), lake-side was led by Ralph Kee (Laser), mid-lake, by nearly half a boat length. The lead chopped and changed between the pair a few times and after three laps Batch managed to finish twenty seconds ahead on the water with Ralph second and Jerry Colman (Finn) third. On correction though it was Ralph first, Dave second and junior, Peter Cope third.

For Race two, over the same course, Dave Batchelor pulled ahead of the 'log jam' at the first mark, and in the slightly steadier wind pulled ahead of second on the water, Ralph. Indeed such was his lead that at the finish, he already had his boat on the trailer by the time the second on the water, Ralph Kee had finished with Jerry Colman a further minute behind.

Although the win on correction went to Dave Batch, second place went to junior, Peter Cope (still snapping on his heels) by only five seconds and third to Jim Whitelegg (Gull).

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