

Write-up by Jerry Colman

A 10 boat fleet turned out on Sunday morning for the latest round of the Watling Streetworks Dinghy Series on West Baldwin reservoir. The fabulous sunshine was complemented with a gentle northerly breeze interspersed with the odd shift blowing down the valley, about as good as it gets. Anticipating a very pleasant sail for mid-November, regulars were especially pleased to welcome Iain and Robert Fenna sailing the RS 200 and showing that a two man dinghy can be just as much fun at Injebreck, even if it's your Dad doing the driving.

The rest of the fleet were a selection of single-handers of varying seniority including international athletes Donald Edwards (Laser) and Simon Pressly (Aero 9) who represented the Island in this year's island Games. Dave Batchelor back after injury in his Aero 7, Keith Holden and Jerry Colman in the sparring Finns, Mike Swales in the Devoti with the big rig, James Penn in the Laser Radial, Jim Whitelegg in the dangerous Gull and last but not least junior Peter Cope in the Aero 5. With the predominantly light conditions you might expect the Aero with the smallest sail area to be handicapped out but this was not to be the case. Whippet like, Peter Cope, was first 'on the plane' and together with superb boat handling was never far from the front of the fleet.

Going into the day's racing, Andrew Dean led the series with 13 points followed by Peter with 15 then Simon on 19, all with a shout for the series, or so they might have thought. However, Andrew missing the day and a brace of bullets for Peter has changed all that. Peter is now on 17 points and everyone else is at least 11 points adrift. Teens rule it would seem.

The races were not without incident despite the gentle breezes. The start of the first race saw a big pile up at the pin end of the start line, allowing Keith Holden to get clean away at the other end of the line. Despite this, in the first clash of the Olympic class Finns, he was reeled in by Jerry Colman. First on the water Simon Pressly (Aero 9) dropped to fourth on correction, junior Peter Cope taking the win.

In the second race, clash of the Finns was reversed with Keith in his immaculate 40 odd year old boat squeezing ahead of the 'young pretender'. In slightly more breeze the lighter flyers were up on the plane and even the Finns got going once or twice – a magnificent sight. Again Simon Pressly, slowed by 'gear failure' was first home on the water, was overtaken on correction by junior, Peter Cope.

It will be the final day for the November Series next Sunday 23rd when the races will start on the morning after the Manx Sailing & Cruising Club Prizegiving Dinner at the Park Hotel in Ramsey. Watch out for the sore heads, not sure if they will help anyone catch Peter Cope.

Many thanks to Doug Watling for sponsoring the series, Race Officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew. For full results and pictures see MS&CC Facebook page.