

New Month, new dinghy series sponsored by Watling Streetworks on West Baldwin reservoir and a guaranteed new name on the 'Shipyard Trophy' because it was won in 2018 & 2019 by Mike Pridham who moved to Brexitland just after this series last year.

Light winds and drizzle greeted us on arrival but everyone was keen so off we went. The wind toned itself down a little further for the start to make for a very light race. Ralph Kee was first out of the blocks at the start to give himself a healthy lead on the water which he never relinquished. Simon Pressly who buried himself at the start somehow became the leader of the chasing pack after mark one, but it was David Batchelor becalmed at the first mark who produced the flyer of the day sailing up the west shore to overtake everyone except Kee by the second mark. That's where all the excitement ended with the race finishing after only two laps in virtually zero wind, Ralph Kee 1st, David Batchelor 2nd, Bob Love 3rd and Mister Consistent, Peter Cope 4th.

A second race was looking highly unlikely, a short course was set just in case and with a few ripples on the water the start sequence began. Then the wind picked up a little and as the bunched fleet reached the first mark the wind suddenly increased. First out of the gusty mess was Ralph Kee, with the increasing wind strength the Aero's of Peter, Batch and Simon, able to get on the 'plane' pulled ahead. Towards the end of the rapid five lap race holes began to show in the wind, especially where Simon, who was leading, chose to do his penalty turn for clipping the last mark. He was 'called' by second on the water, junior Peter. who went on to finish first on the water and after correction. Second on the water by four seconds was Dave Batch who dropped to fourth place after correction. Second place after correction went to Bob Love by two seconds ahead of third place Ralph Kee who currently leads the February series by one point.

Big thank you from MS&CC to Race Officer Keith Poole, Doug Watling as sponsor and to May Shiu Chan for manning the patrol boat and taking some pics.