

Report by Andrew Dean

Gales were still blowing at sea but the south-west direction allows safe sailing at Injebreck. Almost. Gusts of Force 7 strength tested those brave enough to take on the wild conditions for the final month of the Watling Streetworks dinghy series. Not only did the strength of the wind vary from zero to 7, the direction swung entertainingly. 8 boats launched, including 5 RS Aeroes, three with 5 square metre rigs and two with the larger 7 sq metre rigs, a standard rig Laser was joined by a Radial, and an RS Tera completed the fleet. There were a number of capsizes with no reported serious injuries, and the Patrol boat was busy.

The course for each of two races was 1, 4 and 6 giving a beat, run and reach, with all boats planing hard off-wind in the strong wind. Starts were somewhat spread out as the helms tried hard to master the wild conditions. Both races were 3 laps for the top 5, two completed fewer due to spending some time in the water, and one retired with gear failure.

Star sailor this week was junior Peter Cope (Aero 5) who won both races by some margin from Ralph Kee (Laser) and Dave Batchelor (Aero 7), the podia for both races. Places changed a little further down the order with Simon Pressley (Aero 7) getting the better of young Teddy Dunn (Aero 5) to reverse 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, with your correspondent (Aero 5) struggling to get the better of the extremely youthful Roo Hyatt (Tera Pro). Too much unintended swimming.

Thanks to Keith Poole for race officer duty, and the Patrol boat crew of Tim Cope, Andy Dunn and Peter Hoosen-Owen. Photos will be found on MS&CC's Facebook page. Thanks also to sponsors Watling Streetworks, supporting sailing.