

Within the shelter of the Baldwin valley dinghy racing took place on Sunday morning as part of the final month of the Watling Streetworks winter series.

It's usual, when the wind has some westerly in it, conditions were variable in direction, variable in strength and, not forgetting, variable calms!

New to this winter treat was a young junior, Cameron Blamey, sailing a tiny Optimist class dinghy (a huge class in Europe) who quickly showed the fleet that he is not just a beginner!

The race officer, because there was plenty of wind, set a course using most of the lake. Quick off the start, taking the bank end of the line was Ralph Kee (Laser) who was then ahead at the first mark before being overtaken by the next mark by Dave Batchelor (Aero 7). At the finish Ralph had also been overtaken by series leader, junior Peter Cope (Aero 5) to finish third on the water.

In previous weeks competition the winner on correction would have come from these three, but in this race it was newcomer, junior Cameron who only needed to complete three laps to take the win by some two minutes from fellow junior Peter, Dave Batch third and Ralph five seconds back in fourth.

For race two, over the same course, the wind was possibly more variable, especially the calms!

Proving that what works in one race may not necessarily work in the next, Ralph, becalmed, was last off the start line... eventually overtaking the Optimist just before the first mark.

Chasing the leading pack which included everyone else, Ralph made it up to third on the water, mostly through others misfortune, calms or insistence for checking for 'weed on the centreboard'.

However, it was Dave Batchelor, more than two minutes ahead on the water who took the win on correction from Peter with Ralph taking third by the skin of his teeth, five seconds ahead of the Optimist.

MS&CC would like to thank Dave Watling for his continued sponsorship, Race Officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew of Peter Hoosen-Owen and Tim Cope. For full results and pictures check out ms&cc website and facebook page.

At the moment racing is still scheduled for next Sunday, it's outdoors, a small fleet and clearly looking at the results, competitors are still more than six foot apart!