

## Report by Andrew Dean

A gale means 34 knots of wind and is dangerous for racing dinghies. On Sunday there was still a gale warning at sea, and indeed there were many beefy gusts accompanied by rain to greet sailors on Sunday morning at West Baldwin reservoir. But the direction of south means that the winds temper on their way up the Baldwin valley, and the gusts were becoming less severe, so we launched. Not before a couple of sailors decided that discretion was the better part of valour. Therefore 9 boats entered each race, 4 RS Aero 7's and one each of Aero 5, Finn, Laser Standard, Laser Radial and Devoti D-Zero.

The course for the first race was 1, 4 and 6 giving a beat, run and reach, with all boats planing hard off-wind in the stronger gusts. There were no premature starters but at the north of the reservoir (mark 6) there was just light, fickle wind which always causes frustration. Junior Peter Cope (A7) took line honours from Dave Batchelor (A7) but both were beaten on handicap by Junior Teddy Dunn (A5), the margin being 12 seconds. Completing the top 6 were Ralph Kee (LaserS), Jerry Colman (Finn) and Andrew Dean (DZero).

The second race featured a tight start which caught out Andrew (on port) who collided with Tim Cope (A7) on starboard, requiring Andrew to perform a 720-degree penalty, which damaged his chances of a good result. The course omitted the troublesome mark 6 and line honours and the win went to Peter, top sailor this week. Simon Pressley (Radial) was second by 7 seconds from Teddy. Jerry pipped Dave by one second with Ralph 11 seconds back. There were at least two capsize including Ralph, close to the finishing ramp, but he alleges his sail needed a clean.

After 5 races Dave leads the series, closely followed by Teddy, Jerry and Ralph, but Peter is close behind having missed two races and discards may well come into play later in the month.

MS&CC would like to thank Watling Streetworks for their continued support, Keith Poole for race officer duty, and the Patrol boat crew of Commodore Dr May Shiu Chan, Andy Dunn and Peter Hoosen-Owen. For full results and a few pictures please visit the MS&CC website and Facebook page.