

The clocks have gone back, there's a definite nip in the air so it must be time to stop sailing in the relative warmth of the sea and head for the hills, West Baldwin reservoir that is!

Watling Streetworks have been very kind to continue their sponsorship of this popular dinghy racing series that runs from November through to March.

The first racing of the new 2020/2021 series was held on Sunday 1st November and being the first of the series only one race was held. This was to allow time for competitors to clean and set up their boats.

With the wind blowing up the Baldwin Valley a fleet of ten took to the water to race around a course that pretty much took in the whole length of the lake. Within the shelter of the Baldwin Valley the wind was much less than on the coast but giving gusty conditions. Racing in such conditions it's not the strength of the gusts but more the rudeness of these stopping that can cause more of an issue. Your correspondent would like, after a head first dip, report that the water is only cool, it will get much colder yet!

Jerry Colman (Finn) made much of the running to finish ahead of the slowly disintegrating Fireball of Phil Hardisty and Chris Hill (a boat much older than either of them) with Dave Batchelor (Aero 7) third on the water. After correction though, it was junior, Teddy Dunn (Aero 5) who took the win by over 1 ½ minutes from Dave Batchelor second, only 7 seconds ahead of junior Peter Cope (Aero 7) in third.

This Sunday the usual two races were held, for Race one the race officer, given the cloudy, rainy but ideal wind blowing up the valley, set a course using the full length of the lake, giving some exceptionally close racing. Jerry Colman made the running, challenged by Ralph Kee (Laser) until the last lap when Colman really pulled ahead, but not quite enough. After correction the win going to Kee by 10 seconds ahead of Colman who was only 2 seconds ahead of third place Whitelegg brothers (Enterprise).

A slight alteration of the course to avoid some of the holes that had opened up (no wind) in these lighter conditions, it was the larger sails of the Finn, Aero 7 and standard Laser that made the running in what turned out to be deceptively close racing. After correction the win went to Dave Batchelor, 3 seconds ahead of Teddy Dunn in second, third place went to Jerry by 7 seconds and fourth place to Ralph 2 seconds behind.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank sponsor Watling Streetworks and Manx Utilities for allowing the club to use West Baldwin reservoir. Also Race Office Keith Poole and patrol boat crew.

For full results and pictures please go to the club website and Facebook page.