

A rare northerly breeze blowing down the West Baldwin valley definitely put the 'Winter' into the Watling Streetworks Winter Dinghy Series at the reservoir on Sunday morning. Whilst clearing ice off boats and rigging, the light breeze steadily built as the sunshine came over the hills to give conditions that are about as good as it gets. Gust free and steady breeze with no holes and bright sunshine.

The good forecast, no doubt, brought a fine fleet of 15 dinghies to the start line, including full turnouts for both Laxey and Peel clubs, two a piece!

The race officer was able to set an almost perfect windward/leeward course using the whole length of the lake, this was used for both races.

In race one, junior Peter Cope (Aero 7) broke clear of the pack by the first mark, never needing to look back and finished a full minute ahead of second on the water, Jerry Colman (Finn). Dave Batchelor (Aero 7) was third on the water and a further minute back. After this, not so close racing at the front of the fleet, Peter was far enough ahead to take the win on correction by some 50 seconds from fourth place on the water, fellow junior Teddy Dunn (Aero 5) with Jerry Colman only 15 seconds back in third.

For race two the fleet was led off the line by Jerry Colman but a bit too soon, having to dip back to re-cross the start line behind the entire fleet put him well clear of a podium in this race. Yet again the star starter, Peter Cope, was first round the first mark followed this time by your 'a bit more on the ball' correspondent (Laser) who was eventually overtaken by Dave Batch but managed to hold onto third place on the water. With the racing being much closer it was sixth place on the water, Teddy Dunn, who took the win on correction by only 6 seconds from second place Peter Cope. Third place went to Simon Pressly (Radial), a further 16 seconds back and only 3 seconds ahead of your correspondent in fourth.

A similar but slightly further down the pack reversal of fortunes saw Jim Whitelegg sailing what now must be the 'venerable Gull' dinghy got ahead of Whitelegg junior and crew in the Enterprise.

MS&CC would once again like to thank our sponsor Watling Streetworks, Keith Poole for Race Officer and Peter Hoosen-Owen and crew for the patrol boat. For full results and pictures please visit our website and Facebook page.