

The Covid firebreak appears to have worked and has allowed the Watling Streetworks Dinghy Series to continue on West Baldwin reservoir. As Storm Darcey raged around the Island amid the shelter of the Baldwin valley racing took place on Sunday morning. No mistaking the easterly wind, just above freezing and after the wind had wrapped itself around our hills, what reached the reservoir could best be described as 'wind soup'. From all directions, all strengths, including up and down, not forgetting those vicious calms, more of those later.

Ten brave crews left the bank with eight starting, two crews retiring early after quick swims before the start.

The race officer set a course up and down the lake, normally this would be a windward/leeward course but in these wind conditions both laps had equal amounts of 'on the wind' (into) and 'off the wind' (with) and not forgetting calms!

Quickly mastering the conditions, junior Peter Cope (Aero 7) was soon a whole leg ahead of his nearest fellow junior Teddy Dunn (Aero 5) very closely followed by the radial Laser of Simon Pressly. Although 3 ½ minutes ahead on the water this was reduced to about 1 minute after correction with Simon in second and Teddy 10seconds down in third.

For race two, same course, same wind and same cold, young Peter was kept in check by veteran sailor Dave Batchelor (Aero 7), it was 5 seconds at the finish and 1 ½ minutes ahead of third on the water Teddy, the first of the chasing pack.

After correction the race two could not have been much closer with Peter and Simon joint winners, Teddy in second, 3 seconds down and Dave Batchelor a further 1 second back in third.

It could all have been different, James Allinson (Laser) let the red mist descend and hiked hard, into one of the vicious calms resulting in a messy capsize in what must have been inches from the line.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank our sponsor Doug Watling, race officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew of May Shiu Chan and Andy Dunn.