

The weather is getting stormy, there's a chill in the air and the nights are drawing in. Only one thing to do - run for the hills and don't forget to bring a dinghy with you!

This is exactly what the 14 competitors, which for most was the first round of the Watling Street Winter Dinghy Series did on Sunday morning.

All but five competitors missed a classic Sunday morning last week on Injebreck reservoir which lies in the west Baldwin Valley which runs north/south. The strong westerly for most of the Island was near gale force but in the shelter of the valley gave the Race Officer the opportunity to set a course with two windward marks, one at each end of the lake.

Out of this mush it was junior Teddy Dunn (Aero 5), fresh from winning the UK Inland Championships and Peter Cope (Aero 7) with one win a piece and first dad home Ralph Kee in his 20 year old Laser. Junior Ivan Nichols (Tera Sport) did well to pip Bob Love (Laser Radial), spending just far too long checking his centreboard in the second race.

This Sunday morning was a complete contrast weather-wise, though not results wise! What wind there was, wafting so gently up the valley it didn't stir the water, but steadily it increased during the morning to nearly hiking out territory.

Over a course basically up and down the lake the Aero 7's of Teddy Dunn and Jerry Colman (Finn) were first around the mark one, not so closely followed by Ralph Kee (Laser) and the rest of the fleet. On correction Teddy took the win with Peter Cope second, Jerry third and Andrew Dean (D-Zero) in fourth.

Race two was run over the same course with the same top three, then Ian Fenna and son (RS 200) in joint fourth with Simon Presley (Laser Radial) and the evergreen Jim Whitelegg (Gull) in seventh after correction.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Doug Watling of Watling Streetworks for sponsoring the 2021/2022 series, Keith Poole for Race Officer and Helen Kee and Andy Dunn for the patrol boat. Full results can be viewed on the MS&&CC website.