

Write-up by Jerry Colman

Teddy Dunn holds firm at the top

It was the MS&CC's annual dinner dance and prize-giving on Saturday night at the Park Hotel in Ramsey so making the start time of 1000 hrs at Injebreck next morning was a bit of a struggle for some especially with thoughts of Storm Arwen still very fresh in everyone's minds. However we were delighted to find the Race Officer Keith Poole on station to run the races.

On arrival at the reservoir we were confronted with a cold and shifty North Westerly with full and darkening cloud cover but not too windy. I left the sunglasses in the car. Jade and Andy set off in the Patrol Boat so the covid-reduced fleet of 6 boats could drift up to the starting area in the light conditions.

The 5-minute gun frightened the wind away completely but it was back and in the West by the start so we had a bit of a beat to no 1 mark, a run across to no 3 where we gybed for a reach up to no 4 and a beat back to the start / finish line. It took us just over 5 minutes a lap so a 4-lap race was around 20 minutes, the minimum for an RYA recognised race.

It was shifty, patchy and gusty with better pressure in the middle of the lake so a slightly circuitous route to no 1 via the central region paid off resulting in Teddy Dunn (now in an Aero 7), Jerry Colman (Finn) and Andrew Dean (D-Zero) breaking away from the other three competitors (Simon Pressly, Laser Radial, Keith Holden, Finn and Ralph in the Laser Standard). The run across to no 3 started to get a bit more interesting as the wind freshened and the gybe at no 3 induced a few 'moments' although no-one ultimately went in.

Most got up onto the plane on the reaches up to no 4 only to discover that the beat to the start finish/line was very shifty with big calm patches giving the trailing boats a chance to catch up which they duly took full advantage of. For some, the concentration required to get all the signs absorbed, analysed and acted on was disturbed by the onset of quite heavy rain followed by some nice hail with proper real gusts spinning into the fleet as sailors changed to the heavier weather sail settings and started to exercise the stomach muscles while sitting out to maintain the fast upright position. I apologised to Jade as we raced past but she is a tough yacht (Seapie) crew member so used to appalling conditions on the water from here up to at least the Isle of Mull from earlier this year.

Teddy sailed a canny first race through all these complications to take the win while the Lasers managed to overhaul the rest of the lead bunch on handicap.

The rain persisted strongly in the second race, on the same course, and the same three boats, as in the first race managed to open a bit of a gap but again it was not to be enough for some. Your correspondent in the Finn lying second on the water just behind Teddy Dunn mentioned that there was only 2 minutes to go to the 20 minute limit so could he go a bit slower so we could all go home and get out of the cold wet rain. Teddy duly crossed the line about 4 seconds over the 20 minutes but the RO (who had been hiding in his hut) was having none of it so we set off for another lap in the ghastly but now improving conditions. Unfortunately for some, the improvement was accompanied with a new distribution of calm patches just before the finish line which allowed the trailing fleet in the rear to catch and on handicap overhaul us in the van giving the final series win to Kee by 3 seconds from Dunn so Teddy takes the series, Peter Cope (absent due to covid) gets second and

Ralph Kee takes the final overall podium place by 2 points from yours truly. Full results and photos on the club website and FB.

MS&CC would like to thank our sponsor Doug Watling of Watling Streetworks, Keith Poole for Race Officer and Jade Leach and Andy Dunn for Patrol Boat.