

Write up by Keith Poole

Watling Streetworks Boxing Day Frostbite Regatta

The Frostbite Pursuit Race for the S.E. Quayle Cup took place on Boxing Day, with the weather forecast for 20 Knots plus and with rain it was not looking very promising.

West Baldwin Reservoir is a strange place weather-wise so it's always worth taking the trip, as it turned out the surrounding hills provided a great deal of shelter from the Southeast winds, too much, possibly, with very patchy conditions it was a shame the same could not be said about the rain.

Thirteen dinghies took to the water for the staggered starting times for this pursuit type of race based on each dinghy handicap. The first on the water at the finish time of midday, being the winner.

With the slower Tera's and Gull being absent the first dinghies away were the Laser Radials at 11:12, followed 2 minutes later by the full rig Lasers with quite the fleet of Aero 7's at 11:16 and so on until the fastest boat on Handicap the 505 of Michael Wilson and Phil Hardisty at 11:23.

Wilson's 505 along with the RS400 of Rob Cowell and Paul Carine struggled to show their true potential with the patchy conditions making it almost impossible to keep the Kite's full. Simon Pressly in his Radial pulled out an extensive lead early on but he was slowly reeled in by the Aero 7's of Teddy Dunn and Peter Cope in the final seconds. Teddy overhauling Simon to secure the win, Peter Cope came close behind in third, Jerry Colman (Finn) 4th, Ralph Kee (Laser) 5th, Nickolas Ellis (Radial) 6th and Bob Love (Radial) 7th.

The S. E. Quayle cup was presented to Teddy Dunn by Ian Quayle. The BT Challenge Trophy was also presented lakeside to Elsie Hyett, for outstanding achievements during 2021 connected with aspects of sailing.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Keith Poole for Race Officer ably assisted by Chris Swingler and for Patrol Boat duties provided by Commodore May Shiu Chan, Emily Kee and Andy Dunn. A special vote of thanks also to the Hyett family for the much needed post-race hot chocolate and cookies. Visit the MS&CC Facebook page for more pictures of a damp cold day at Baldwin reservoir!