

## Report by Andrew Dean

Despite there being force 5 or 6 winds gusting 7 in the Irish Sea, there were reasonable conditions at the West Baldwin reservoir when the fleet arrived to rig the dinghies on Sunday. The first of two races the wind was a moderate southerly with a few gusts from the southeast to test the unwary. Despite the forecast for a decrease, it was windier for the second. A fleet of 8 boats launched consisting of 2 RS Aero 7's, 2 Laser radials, and one each Enterprise, Finn, Devoti D-Zero and Laser standard rig. For the most part it rained heavily and the forecast may explain the fewer-than-normal numbers.

The course for race one was 2, 3, 4 to 6 giving a beat and run and a little in the way of reaching with the wind across the boats. There was some congestion at the first mark by the slipway with a collision or two, but all was sorted out amicably. The leading bunch slipped through leaving work to do for those caught in the melee. Andrew's D Zero worked through to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> over the line, corrected to 5<sup>th</sup> on handicap, trailing Dave Batchelor who led the fleet, sailed to his handicap in his Aero 7 to win. Only six seconds behind him on handicap was Dinghy Captain Ralph Kee having a good day in his Laser standard. Simon Pressly secured 3<sup>rd</sup> in his Laser radial ahead of Jerry Colman 4<sup>th</sup> in the Finn, and Joe and Eric Whitelegg completed the top 6th in the Enterprise.

The second race course was changed to 1, 4 and 6, again using most of the length of the lake. Again Batchelor took a commanding lead to win on handicap, second-placed finisher Jerry demoted to 6<sup>th</sup> on handicap. This time Ralph and Simon traded places with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions. Bob Love (Laser radial) had a good 4<sup>th</sup> with the Whitelegg Enterprise in 5<sup>th</sup>.

After 3 races Ralph leads the series from Batch with Simon Pressley (Laser radial) holding 4<sup>th</sup> with Bob 3<sup>rd</sup> on equal points. Bob had a good win in the only race last week, when most decided it was too windy, and is showing as best improver in the fleet so far.

Thanks to Keith Poole for race officer duty, and the Patrol boat crew of Peter Hooson-Owen and Commodore May Shiu Chan. Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would also like to thank our sponsor Watling Streetworks, supporting sailing in our lovely island. For the full results and some pictures please visit the MS&CC Facebook and Website.