

A better forecast than the whole of February brought out an enlarged fleet of eleven dinghies for the last month of the dinghy racing at West Baldwin reservoir on Sunday morning. The first racing of the meteorological spring for the Watling Streetworks March Series was sailed in bright sunshine with a light breeze, though being from the east crossed the valley creating the usual gusts, shifts and calms.

The race officer, mercifully, set a smaller than usual course, using what appeared to be the windier end of the reservoir.

After a crowded first mark rounding the fleet split roughly into two and was led by, in these light conditions, by the dinghies with the largest sails. The Finns of Keith Holden and Jerry Colman and the large rig of D-Zero of Andrew Dean. Tagged on behind were Dave Batchelor (Aero 7), Ralph Kee (Laser) and Simon Pressly (Radial).

First to the line after three laps was Laxey's sole representative, Keith Holden followed by Jerry Colman both sailing the Finn's. The first half of the fleet were closely enough bunched for sixth on the water Simon Pressly to take the win on correction with Ralph Kee second and Keith Holden third.

There were some encouraging puffs of wind before race two over the same course. The forecast was for the wind to drop from not much to less, and it did, the two lap (slow) race threw up some interesting results.

Somehow, finding his own wind Jerry Colman was way out in front followed, not so closely by Dave Batchelor and definitely finding the right groove Joe and Eric Whitelegg in their Enterprise.

On correction Jerry Colman, unsurprisingly, took first place, Joe and Eric took second, Dave in third and Jim Whitelegg (full turn out from PSC) in fourth which was an improvement on eleventh in the first race. Others were not so fortunate, for example second and third in the first race dropped to ninth and tenth respectively, better look next Sunday.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Doug Watling for his continued support, Keith Poole for race officer duties and Helen Kee and James Bishop for the patrol boat. For full results and pictures visit the MS&CC Facebook page or website.