

March is a cruel month, it gives hints of summer but can still take you back to winter! On Sunday at West Baldwin reservoir it gave us a lovely sunny, spring morning for the penultimate round of the Watling Streetworks Winter Series.

What it took was any sense of direction from the brisk easterly wind which swirled across the Baldwin Valley gusting in every direction and strength including many and frequent calms.

A strong fleet of nine, which included three juniors, Ivan Nicholls in a Tera, Teddy Dunn and Peter Cope taking a break from crewing 420's to sail their own Aero 7's. The race officer set a course using the full length of the lake, straight up, straight down, fully aware that it would be likely that each leg would contain all points of sailing and the odd random but vicious calm.

In race one, Teddy, after the first mark sailed clear of Peter, the final member of the Aero 7 trio, Dave Batchelor had a less good start, difficult to say whether it was too much or too little wind that caused a 'mishap'.

At the finish Teddy was ninety seconds clear of Peter with Ralph Kee (Laser) another 45 seconds behind. On correction the Aero 7's were split by Simon Pressly (Radial) and fellow junior Ivan Nicholls (Tera), Peter fourth and Ralph fifth

For race two, over the same course, different wind though, Teddy was again dominant though this time followed by Dave Batchelor. It was Peter's turn to have a poor start, straight into a calm, vicious by the look of it too!

At the finish it was an Aero 7 1,2,3, finishing far enough ahead of the rest of the fleet there was no change after correction, Teddy first, Dave second and Peter third.

Next Sunday is the final round of the Winter Series, don't forget that the clocks 'spring' forward.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Doug Watling for sponsoring the series, Keith Poole for race officer and Peter Hoosen-Owen and Yogi Quayle for patrol boat.