

Fortunately too much rain didn't make the course any wetter for the Watling Streetworks Dinghy Series up at West Baldwin Reservoir. Sadly the first two rounds of the November Series have already been lost, too little wind and too much wind!

As mentioned the weather was on the damp side and initially a bit on the light side wind wise too. Possibly, more out of optimism a fleet assembled (slowly) in and around the start line, with a couple of 'undecided' staying on the bank.

The race officer set a small course, in the hope that at least one lap could be completed. As the dinghies with the largest sails approached the first mark the wind increased to a 'light breeze' and the dinghies started to sail rather than drift. First to round the mark was Andrew Dean (D-Zero) who appeared to have no intention of leading, lost his way, allowing Dave Batchelor (Hadron) to take the lead on the water.

At the finish, Dave first, Andrew second and Jerry Colman (Finn) third. After correction Batch was far enough ahead to claim the win with junior Thomas Watterson (Aero 5) second and the ever consistent Simon Pressly (Laser Radial) in third.

In mid-fleet juniors Lettie Hyett and Esther Bailey, both sailing Laser Radials swapped places regularly with Esther edging ahead by fifteen seconds to claim tenth and eleventh respectively.

The wind continued to build, with the usual calms and gusts giving a more spirited second race for the now fifteen starters. Batchelor was first to the first mark this time being closely chased by junior Thomas, although dropping to seventh place after correction he is showing great promise in his new Aero 5.

Batchelor led from start to finish followed by Stu Brew (D-Zero), showing what a difference being on the water at the start makes. The pair were far enough ahead to claim first and second after correction with junior Robert Fenna (Tera Pro) in third.

Full results on msandcc.org and Facebook.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Doug Watling for sponsoring our Winter Dinghy Series again. Also thanks to our Race Officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew and competitors of which more than half of the fleet are juniors, well at least under 40!