

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Watling Streetworks Injebreck February Series 18th Feb 2024

Warm and sunny for mid-February racing in the hills

Another forecast of 8 to 10 knots maybe gusting 11 or 12 West with sunshine was not enough to deter some of our regulars from hopping off the Island to go sliding down mountains on planks but the fleet of 10 boats who stuck with it were rewarded with a pretty balmy morning (after the drizzle had stopped) with the temperature heading for 13 or 14° C in the sun. Not bad for mid-February.

The breeze couldn't decide which way to blow over the lake but set mainly from the South at the Southern end, West in the middle and North at the top, with areas of not much at all around the start line. This made course setting a bit of a challenge for our keen-eyed OOD Keith Poole who looks at the angles boats are sailing at before setting us off on a course with hopefully a beat, a run and some reaching and if at all possible a bit of wind to make it all happen.

The course for the first race had us heading up the lake, leaving the start mark to starboard then leaving mark 5 up North to port, mark 1 down South of the start line to port then back over the start line leaving that mark to starboard again. This course could have been sailed by simply sailing around the start mark but nobody tried that one although we had some doubts about where No 5 was (the marks sometimes seem to move about a bit) and which way to go round it.

Once all that had been settled and the wind patterns sorted the fleet split with the faster boats slipping away but when there's no wind no-one goes anywhere and the slower boats effectively catch up because of the time handicap system. So although Teddy Dunn in the RS Aero 7 finished in front of the fleet it was Jim Whitelegg in the Gull who was just that little bit too close to the leaders and so took the bullet by 16 seconds from Dunn who was a further few seconds ahead of Andrew Dean in the Laser Radial and Colman in the Finn.

The OOD went for the Southern option for the second race which still had a beat to mark 1, then there was a reach across the lake, a run down to mark 4 and then a beat back to the start, all marks to port. A big gust had the front boats planing up the lake for a minute or so but then it was back to shifts and cat's paws. Dunn made no mistakes here and took the honours but Jim Whitelegg held second on corrected time well in front of sons Joe and Eric in the Enterprise. Full results on the Club website and some great pics of the fleet taken by Andy Dunn (not all of son Teddy) from the patrol boat. Good to see the Ard Whallian Topper Omega out with Bob Love and Martin Jackson – we hope to see that one fully up and running this season and commiserations to George Pearce who fell into big wind holes in both races. Sometimes sailing is like that.

The series is wide open with Dean leading on 28 points, Tom Watterson 2nd in the RS Aero 5 on 30 and Simon Cain 3rd in the RS Aero 7 on 37. It could all depend on the last race next weekend.

Thanks to the patrol boat crew, Graham Wilson and Huw Bevan, the Race Officer Keith Poole and our sponsors Watling Streetworks. Full results and some great pics on the club website and FB.

Jerry Colman

