

## Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Watling Streetworks Injebreck February Series 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

### Dean takes the February Series in the Laser Radial

A drop in temperature, ice on the boat covers and a forecast of moderate Easterlies did not prevent a strong fleet of 13 boats from turning up to complete the February Series. Those with some experience at Injebreck knew that Carraghan and the other hills around the lake would split the wind, bounce it back where it came from and spin it in a continuing effort to prevent dinghies from sailing around any course the Officer Of the Day, Keith Poole, might choose. The spectacular view of the lake down from the Beinn-y-Phott road showed gusts wandering around the water in all directions and the initial sail from the dinghy park up to the start area confirmed that the Easterly effect was in full flow. An initial gust from the South quickly turning East then coming quite strongly from the West before completing the boxing of the compass with a firm Northerly on the start line. So Keith set a starboard course up to mark 6 at the top of the lake then round 5, 2 and back to the start so a clockwise circumnavigation for a change.

A few minutes testing the conditions around the line confirmed that they were less than stable here too so it was sensible not to get too far away. However with 13 boats jostling for position it was important to remember that the racing rules come into effect at the 4 minute gun so getting a good start needed a sharp lookout and suitable dodging around right of way, stand on boats. Pre-start manoeuvres were completed without protest and it was good to see Robert and Dad, Iain Fenna out in the RS 200 (Robert helming) and Lucy Fenna in the Tera giving George Pearce a run for his money. Also good to see three Hyett's (Lettie, Roo and Jason) in the Laser 4.7, RS Aero 5 and Laser Standard respectively back in the fray.

Your correspondent thought a port tack start at the flag mast end of the line might work (having arrived early at the other end of the start line going too fast) and this cleared most of the fleet but we had to dip behind Andrew Dean's Laser Radial and Tom Watterson in the RS Aero 5 crossing on starboard tack. This still put us a boat length or two in front of the rest with a clear run out on port ready to come back into the mark on starboard with rights before tacking round the mark onto port again and heading across the lake to mark 5. After rounding this with Dean and Watterson the Finn showed its downwind capabilities with a bit of added weight to carry momentum through the light patches and by mark 2 we were well ahead of the fleet. Although it can be helpful to have some boats in front of you to see what's going on up there, the previous experience while hanging round the start line helped and we held the lead for both laps and took the race from Dean and Keith Holden in the other Finn. (Aggregate podium age well over 200 here).

The second race went a bit better for Dean and although the Colman Finn took line honours we were not far enough ahead of the Laser Radial or indeed (by 1 second) Simon Cain's RS Aero 7 to hold them off on handicap.

That meant Dean took the February Series from Tom Watterson and your correspondent unexpectedly made third after discards. Great racing despite the conditions and the scenery is amazing too even if you're not at the front. March Series starts next Sunday then its back to the sea.

Thanks to the patrol boat crew, Peter Hoosen-Owen and Andy Dunn, the Race Officer Keith Poole and our sponsors Watling Streetworks. Full results and some great pics on the club website and FB.

In recognition of the 200th Anniversary of the RNLi on 4th March the patrol boat next Sunday will be manned by crew members from the Ramsey RNLi Station. If anyone is passing Injebreck and you have some spare change in your pocket please make a donation!

Jerry Colman