

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Watling Streetworks Injebreck 2024 March Series Races 1 and 2, Sunday 3rd March

Report by Andrew Dean

Batchelor takes the day's honours

A glassy lack of breeze greeted the 11 strong fleet at Injebreck reservoir, with a few absences of the young hot shots, away training and attending college. Therefore the fleet collectively decided to delay rigging, and patience was duly rewarded when a gentle southerly breeze filled in, and racing started only a few minutes late. The fleet consisted of one each Gull, Laser Standard rig, Enterprise, Laser 4.7, Hadron H2, Finn, 2 Laser Radials and no fewer than 3 Aero 5's.

The course for the first race was 1, 4, and the start mark, all to be left to port, to give a beat and run. There was some congestion at the start with one or two "minor and unavoidable" collisions; all was sorted out amicably. The leading bunch slipped through leaving work to do for those caught in the melee. A group consisting of Dave Batchelor (H2), James Penn (Laser R) and Jerry Colman (Finn) managed to creep away from the rest of the fleet, who were almost becalmed at the first mark. Fortunately the wind increased to a still gentle drift, and this allowed four laps to be completed by the H2 and the flying Finn, and three for the rest. Jerry managed to overtake Dave on the finishing few yards to take line honours and win on handicap. After the handicaps were worked out Dave was second by 12 seconds, followed by the evergreen Jim Whitelegg in the Gull. James was 4th followed by the Enterprise of Joe and Eric Whitelegg. Andrew Dean in the Laser Radial, victor of the February series, was an incredibly disappointing 6th. The Aero 5's struggled a bit in the light stuff.

In between races the wind increased markedly causing quite a jumble up of results. The course was changed to 1, 6 and S with marks to port (left), almost the whole length of the lake. This time the leading bunch was joined by Dean who had retrieved his sense of humour, the sun came out and the best conditions of the winter so far had arrived. Dave sprinted ahead to win by 15 seconds from Andrew in second, and this time Tom Watterson and Will Osbourne in the Aero 5's took 3^d and 4th. James, Jerry and the Whitelegg lads completed the top 7.

After the first weekend Batch leads by 4 points, the next 3 places filled by Jerry, Andrew and James being separated by 3 points.

Thanks to Keith Poole for race officer duty, and the Patrol boat crew of Kai and Connor from Ramsey RNLI, celebrating the 200th anniversary, the fleet felt extra safe! Donations totalling £115 were collected on the day so thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Thanks are also due to sponsors Watling Streetworks, supporting sailing in our lovely island.