

After a thinner turnout last Sunday morning (the 9<sup>th</sup>) for the Watling Streetworks Dinghy races 3 and 4 it was great to see a fleet of 18 dinghies on the start line for this Sunday's races 5 and 6. Conditions for each the 4 races could have had a book written about them. Race 3, wet and windy southerly with big gusts so survival stakes all round – race 4 started just after race 3 but in pleasantly warm sunshine with a moderate Southerly 3 to 4 then round to a chilly but brilliantly sunny North Easterly 3 to 4 but then hesitant and shifty for races 5 and then 6.

Your correspondent, shamed into hoisting sail in the rain by the enthusiasm of the junior sailors, managed to stay upright for race 3 despite most of the rest swimming at some stage and hence managed a 4<sup>th</sup> place. The next race was held in much nicer weather – it can change really fast up there – but relaxation, or was it exhaustion and brain fog saw the result slip to 6<sup>th</sup>. Still a good morning's racing at least when it was over. Strong results from the usual suspects, Dave Batchelor, Tom Watterson and Ralph Kee but also a win for Bob Love and a 4<sup>th</sup> for Junior George Pearce in their Laser Radials in race 4.

Back again on 16<sup>th</sup> November for races 5 and 6 with fabulous autumn light from the low sun and a North Easterly coming down off Carraghan with rather more force than elsewhere on the island. This prospect attracted a fleet of 18 dinghies now including Joe and Eric Whitelegg in their very smart blue sailed Enterprise and Simon Cain (RS Aero 7). Pete Corfield also completed his first races in the Laser Radial.

Once the fleet had spread out a bit, presenting a colourful spectacle for the crowds, the cream began to separate from the fleet and the benefit of keeping out of trouble became clear with Ralph Kee making exceptional progress in his Laser Standard and Tom Watterson maintaining podium and moving into the overall lead from Batch in the Aero 7. Your correspondent summoned some Mojo to take a 6<sup>th</sup> in Race 5 but slipped to 11<sup>th</sup> in race 6. More consistency and better fitness required. I'm working on the weights.

So we're set for a final showdown next weekend when discards will come into play if both races 7 and 8 are sailed. Quite apart from the ultimate winner, there are little tussles all through the fleet including the 4 RS Teras, the scutch of Lasers of all types and those of us dreaming of a top half result. We look forward to another brilliant Sunday morning sail next weekend, just the ticket for shaking off the cobwebs after the MS&CC Dinner and Prizegiving at the Park Hotel on Saturday night.

Thanks to the Patrol Boat crews, (Graham and Adrian Wilson for races 3 and 4, May Shiu Chan and Ed Pearce for 5 and 6), OOD Keith Poole and of course to our sponsor Doug Watling of Watling Streetworks. See y'all next week. Weather looking ok for now but different again.

Full results and pictures on the club website and FB.

Jerry Colman