

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Watling Streetworks Injebreck November Series Dinghy Races 1 and 2

Sunday morning saw the beginning of the MS&CC's winter dinghy races on the reservoir at Injebreck. A fine fleet of 16 boats shepherded by Ralph Kee and Huw Bevan in our patrol boat 'Hilary' made it for the 10.00 start time, an excellent turn out.

The enthusiasm may have been helped by some rather pleasant late October weather including balmy conditions at Injebreck on the preceding Saturday, while the boats were being brought up. I suspect a renewed joy in the sailing experience in view of Manx sailor Peter Cope's victory in the UK Wasp National Championships on Oct 26th, so he now stands as both UK and French national champion, an incredible achievement.

The Westerly 5 to 6 forecast however did suggest a possible increase especially in gust strengths and these duly appeared within minutes of the dinghies being launched just before 10. Iain Fenna (RS Aero 7) was the first and therefore initially most newsworthy capsized, going over just before the start as he was hit by a gust, first of the new season.

It was very pleasing to see within the fleet a great turnout of youthful sailors including the 4 RS Tera sailors Lucy Fenna, Charlie Watterson, Jake Walker and Finbarr McSeveny, the Lasers sailed by Tullie Hyett (4.7) and George Pearce (Radial) and the RS Aero 7 sailed to great effect by Tom Watterson to win the first race and come 4th in the second after a capsize albeit with a very quick recovery.

So there was a really wide age range out on the water and young and old (and male and female) were well scattered through the results. The top four (Simon Pressly (Laser Radial), Tom, James Walker (Streaker) and Dave Batchelor (RS Aero 7) hogged their end of the leaderboard with Simon taking the day with a second and a first. Further down the list came the Septuagenarians, Colman and Andrew Dean, Devoti Zero 8.6).

The wind picked up a bit for the second race and while the battle at the front continued, those following began pressing harder to get to the front. The 4 Teras mixed it up with some determined racing while the other RS Aero (Iain) and the Lasers (George, Tullie, Bob Love and Jason Hyett) battled it out largely on the basis of minimising the number of capsizes.

We very much look forward to seeing the Wayfarer back racing again next week after their terminal dip, new boat too. Apparently the water is colder than it used to be!

We look forward to an even bigger fleet next Sunday 9th November and more of the very competitive but friendly racing the Series seems to provide.

Thanks to the Patrol boat crew, OOD Keith Poole, the spectators and of course to our sponsor Doug Watling of Watling Streetworks. See y'all next week for probably different weather. It's never the same and rarely predictable.

Full results and some pictures on the club website and FB.

Jerry Colman