

Write-up by Jerry Colman

Tom Watterson sailing an RS Aero 7 took the November Series of the Watling Streetworks Dinghy Racing event at Injebreck on Sunday. Although finishing on equal points (12) with Dave Batchelor sailing a similar boat, Tom mustered two 1sts and three 2nds in the 8 race series while Batch made 2 wins but just the two 2nds, thereby conceding this very close-run series.

On the day, Tom managed a 2nd in race 7 but did not start the last race (allegedly revising for exams). However Batch could only manage a 3rd in race 8 behind James Walker (Streaker) and Simon Pressly (Laser Radial). Any improvement would have won him the honours.

The other 9 boats racing in the gusty, shifty and occasionally wet westerly breeze had plenty of fun reaching very quickly up the lake in clouds of spray then battling through calm spots at the North end then upwind through the start line into the next lap. The 3 Tera's of Jake Walker, Finbar McSeveny and Charlie Watterson battled it out through a few spills with Jake taking an impressive 5th place in race 7 (in front of some more senior sailors on corrected time including your correspondent but still a couple of places behind his Dad) then Finbar headed the Tera fleet in race 8 with Charlie close behind. However, that 5th put Jake in front of the Teras in the Series. Lucy Fenna missed the last day – could that be because she was at the MS&CC Prizegiving Dinner the night before with her parents? We did all have a very good time.

Also racing on this last day was BT Global Youth Challenge Trophy winner Lettie Hyett in her Laser Radial, she managed to sneak past Dad, Jason, with two 6ths against an 8th and a 5th. Little sister Tullie (Laser 4) was close behind with a 10th and a 7th but she finished the series beating them both with a strong 7th overall in the 21 boat fleet, one place above George Pearce in the Laser Radial. Your correspondent now has his eye firmly over his shoulder having managed just a 6th overall just behind Ralph Kee in the Laser Standard.

The point is that the racing is very close and every slip really counts. Watching the top sailors is an education in concentration and expertise in boat handling, sail trim and tactical manoeuvring. Beyond that, chat in the dinghy park afterwards (in the sun fortunately) was mostly about how much everyone had enjoyed the sailing and we look forward to the next series starting next weekend (on November 30th).

Thanks to the Patrol Boat crews, (May Shiu Chan and Martin Jackson), OOD Yogi Quayle and of course to our sponsor Watling Streetworks. See y'all next week. Weather looking ok for now with NW 4 – 5 and some sun but it's never quite what you expect.

Full results on the club website and FB. Jerry Colman