

Write up by Jerry Colman

A South Easterly forecast with rain could have put a few off especially those who know what a mess it can make of the breeze on the lake but after a little hesitation from the older hands, youth took over and a fleet of 13 dinghies set off up the lake for the start line through the gusts, lulls, shifts and showers.

There was a festive spirit about the whole event with welcome appearances from Will Osbourn and Teddy Dunn both sailing RS Aero 7s who we hadn't seen for a while. Not to be outdone, the Hyett family added 3 more to the roster in the forms of daughters Lettie and Tullie with Dad Jason (mostly astern) in a selection of Lasers.

Osbourn demonstrated the potential of the gusts by capsizing spectacularly on the first beat then the significance of the course cards by missing the start mark on lap 2 and getting disqualified from Race 7. Dunn performed his usual feat of shooting straight off the start line into the lead and staying out in front to the end (which is when it matters) thereby demonstrating compliance with the 2 main rules when racing sailboats which are 1) Get to the front, and 2) Stay there.

The Hyett offspring pushed your correspondent out of the top half in race 7 but not in race 8 so some relief there. So as always there was some quality sailing going on around the course. This could also be observed amongst some of the more senior racers with Ralph Kee (Laser standard) and Simon Pressly (Laser Radial) completing the podium in race 7 while Dave Batchelor and Tom Watterson re-established some cred by following Dunn in Race 8, where Osbourn showed that he could still perform with a respectable 5th just in front of your correspondent in the Finn.

Further back the Fevas sailed by Finbar McSevney and Charlie Watterson were mixing it with one victory each - they struggle to keep up with the bigger boats in light and shifty conditions. Also George Pearce in the Laser Radial showed in the last race that he could beat all the Hyetts at once.

Race 8 completed the December Series and it was a clear overall win for Tom Watterson in his RS Aero 7 with Ralph Kee sneaking into second half a point in front of Dave Batchelor in the new Supernova. Your correspondent was pleasantly surprised to find himself in 5th just behind Pressly. It was also good to see a total fleet of 19 boats taking part the Series, boding well for the rest of the winter.

Next event is the Frostbite Regatta on Boxing Day, which will be a pursuit race with the Feva SPs starting at 11 and everyone finishing at 12 with a bang then the January Series will begin on 28th Dec. We look forward to seeing all our friends on the start line again and wish everyone a Merry Christmas in the meantime.

Thanks to our sponsor Doug Watling of Watling Streetworks, Martin Jackson and Ed Pearce in the patrol boat and Yogi and his team at the start line. Full results and some great pictures from Andy Dunn on the club FB.