

Write up by Jerry Colman

A forecast of strong winds in the Irish Sea did not apply at Injebreck on Sunday where wisps and catspaws greeted the 12 boats in brilliant sunshine and some perfect reflections of Carraghan in the water. This didn't look good for sailing but as we watched, a light breeze filled in from the North West tempting the fleet to get rigged up.

Much interest was shown in Dave Batchelor's new and shiny Supernova dinghy which looked quick and so it proved – perhaps at least as much due to the driver. Also joining the fleet was Jimmy Cope in the RS Tera Pro with a larger rig than the other Teras, useful in light airs.

So the patrol boat Hilary was launched manned by Huw Bevan, Peter Hoosen-Owen and Constantin from King Bill's College who we hope to see sailing with us when he gets back from Germany with his kit after Christmas. He showed the sort of reserve about his sailing capabilities that you tend to see in really good sailors so watch out.

As the fleet spread out around the lake looking for the windy and less windy areas it became apparent that these were changing places quite often. So careful observation of the signs on the water, darker clouds, flights of birds, and as the fleet spread out, how much better the other boats seemed to be doing paid dividends. In particular Jimmy in the Tera Pro picked some good slants and finished up rather too close to the faster boats in Race 1 which he won by over a minute from James Walker in the Streaker and Finbar McSevney in the Tera Sport. The course also played its part in the fun with starboard mark roundings and very calm patches especially at the marks where the confluence of several boats at once seemed to frighten the wind away. Big gains were made by getting these manoeuvres right and your correspondent has more to learn in that respect. Supposedly faster boats finishing with the bunch tend to be handicapped to the back of the fleet so for the Finn it was the first discard of the series – hopefully it won't get any worse.

There was a bit more breeze to start with in Race 2 with occasional requirements to sit out to keep the boat upright, one of the real fun aspects of sailing that makes it all feel worthwhile no matter where you are in the results. The faster boats managed a quick first lap and set off for the second but the Teras fell into a big calm zone and struggled to finish lap 1. Walker took the race to put the Streaker in pole position for the rest of the series. Tom Watterson (RS Aero 7) and Batch (Supernova) completed the podium, so Dave is getting the hang of the new boat. Your correspondent made 5<sup>th</sup> so all is not lost.

All in, another really enjoyable Sunday morning sail in beautiful surroundings. Snowdrops will be out soon!

Thanks to the Patrol Boat crews, OOD Keith Poole and his bridge team and of course to our sponsor Watling Streetworks. See y'all next week. The weather looks a bit wet and windy for now but it's never quite what you expect.

Full results and pictures on the club website and FB.