

Write up by Jerry Colman

A forecast of increasingly strong Southeasterly winds and heavy rain in the Irish Sea did not deter the fleet at Injebreck on Sunday where 12 dinghies raced in the December Series. On arrival it seemed that again Injebreck had not been listening to the forecast with light and very shifty breezes, calm spots all over the lake and a welcome absence of precipitation. These conditions were not to persist for the whole morning, however.

Indeed as soon as the sails were hoisted in the dinghy park, the wind picked up from all directions and with notable strength causing us competitors to duck and dive as booms swung about threatening life and limb making it far safer to get afloat and away from the crowd. On the water the general meteorological mess was slowly developing with mostly Southerly conditions at each end and Westerly or nothing in the middle. The course was set from the middle to the South end, back to the North end then middle again so dodging calms thrice a lap would put you in the money.

Despite, or perhaps because of the absence of his Dad, Tera sailor Jake Walker got the picture just right and finished a clear winner by a over a minute on corrected time so really well done Jake, also fellow juniors Tom Watterson (RS Aero 7) and George Pearce (Laser Radial) who completed the podium for Race 3, leaving all us grumpy old salts in their wake.

Race 4 saw some increase in wind strength but not much improvement in consistency so there were a few capsizes as sailors were caught sitting out in sudden calms or with sails aback in big shifts. Your correspondent experienced one of the latter right on the start line resulting in a big bang on the forehead with the boom and a loud exclamation – thanks to Tom for asking if I was ok before shooting off at high speed when assured I was.

The rain set in quite heavily as the race developed. This seemed to help some of the more senior competitors along with Simon Pressly (Laser Radial) taking the win from Ralph Kee (Laser Standard) but Ralph was tied with Tom for second and third and Jake was still up there in fourth.

A notable feature of the racing is how much closer all the results are getting, often with just a few seconds between corrected results so it looks like we are all learning.

I'm putting his week's Rule Clinic on hold as from my observations and listening to the commentary afloat there was little in the way of transgression. Certainly even crowded mark roundings seemed to go smoothly and it looked like standards of alertness and decision making were good so well done all.

At half way through the Series, Watterson leads from Dave Batchelor (Supernova) and Kee but with several still in the hunt especially if all races are sailed and discards come into the result calculations. Your correspondent has used both of his already so is looking forward to more favourable results later.

Thanks to the Patrol Boat crew Adrian and Graham Wilson, OOD Yogi Quayle and his bridge team and of course to our sponsor Watling Streetworks. See y'all next week. Weather looking wet but warm and windy for now but it's never quite what you expect.

Full results and pictures on the club website and FB.