

Write up by Jerry Colman

After the week's Easterly gales and the high tension invoked by the first round of the 6 Nations it was good to see a little soothing sunshine through the mist over Injebreck on Sunday morning with a light southerly wind driving a few ripples up the lake. (Better than last week when there was no wind at all so no racing.) 13 dinghies took to the water in very light conditions and drifted up the lake to the start line area only to see that the course would require them to sail back south into the doldrums v. Happily a little more breeze settled in just before the start, favouring the pin (East) end of the start line where your correspondent in the Finn found himself at the gun. Getting some speed was more critical than out-pointing the opposition and the clear air feeding into the big sail achieved a healthy dose of momentum in short order. Simon Cain (Aero RS 7) also got it right and led by a boat length or 2 from the Finn at the first mark. Next it was a run in a very light following zephyr and this suits the Finn so by staying very still and not changing anything the Finn's position moved up to leading on the water by the next mark at the top of the lake. Dave Batchelor in the Supernova was close behind and would not be making any mistakes on the beat back down the lake.

We crossed tacks a couple of times heading through the start/finish line and it looked like the Supernova might take the lead on the water when the Finn, sailing a little beyond the lay line was able to gather just enough speed to overhaul and blanket the Supernova on approach to the mark and gain a few metres on the water. Would it be enough to cover the handicap advantage of the allegedly slower boat?

No, it wasn't so after the second lap the Supernova had it by 13 seconds. The rest were a little further behind but not so much as there was a bit of extra breeze helping them up the lake during the last few minutes. This came too late for the RS Teras of Jimmy Cope, Finbar McSevney and Jake Walker who finished in that order after just one lap (lasting over 20 minutes) and when the handicap computations were done found themselves propping the fleet up.

The forecast had the breeze picking up a bit for the second race and there was indeed an extra puff in between races but it held just long enough to put the Finn over the line for the second start and then settled back to the previous status which made digging out a bit of a struggle but your correspondent didn't baulk and to the delight of the riveted crowd fought back to take 4th place behind Batchelor, Jimmy Cope and Andrew Dean (Devoti Z, Legend, just back from injury). This put Batchelor in first place overall with 2 bullets and your correspondent 2nd with 6 points. Then it was Ralph Kee (Laser Standard) a few points back in third overall and Jimmy Cope 4th after an impressive second in race 2.

Observant spectators may also have noticed that the Walkers had swapped boats so junior Jake was now sailing the twitchy Streaker while Dad James was shoehorned into the fridge sized Tera. Jake knows how to set the sails and which way to point the boat and I thought handled her very well. Dad somehow managed to get just one place in front of Jake by 17 seconds on handicap. I hope we will see more of the juniors trying other boats when conditions are fit for it.

Also good to see in the crowd, UK and French Waszp foiling dinghy National Champ Peter Cope looking to pick up a few tips from the experts. Thanks to patrol boat crew Graham and Adrian Wilson and Race officer Brian Quayle and his crew at the battery. Pictures and full results on the club website and FB. See you all next weekend.