

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Watling Streetworks March Dinghy Racing Series at Injebreck.

Tom Watterson takes the Series by a Smidgin.

Tom Watterson (RS Aero 7) sailed just well enough to take the March Series on Sunday from Dave Batchelor (Supernova). Both finished on 11 points after discards but Watterson had 3 first places against Batchelor's 1 so countback gave it to Tom. Next down the leader board came Ralph Kee (Laser standard), Joe and Eric Whitelegg (Enterprise) and Jimmy Cope (Tera PR) with a win each, showing quite a spread amongst the fleet's top performers by age, boat type and in the wide variety of conditions we endured.

Sunday's races (7 and 8) took place at the light end of the wind scale, with the hills around the lake diverting the westerly flow often into a northerly breeze at the top and a southerly at the dam ends with varying concentrations in between and on each side according to some ethereal whim. Quite difficult to read especially if you're out in front but ably managed by Batchelor who had to pick up a few points to catch Watterson in the series. However it wasn't quite enough even with a 2nd and a 1st. The Whiteleggs in the Enterprise pipped Batchelor by 3 seconds in race 7 to take the 1st that he needed to win. Tom discarded the 4th he achieved in the same race and his 2nd in the last race secured the series.

Your correspondent was not expecting to be present for this grand finale but was asked quite late on Saturday night during the club's Commissioning Supper to do Patrol Boat duty which I had dodged all year so couldn't really refuse. The Finn was withdrawn the previous weekend due to a hatch in the side tank coming loose thus affecting the boat's watertight integrity. It was windy so a capsize was entirely possible and it would be embarrassing to have to tell Manx Utilities that there was quite a nice dinghy at the bottom of their reservoir. All fixed now but the boat's back in Ramsey. So I did get a good view of the unfolding battles of the day with help from Jimmy's Dad Tim on watch and photography duties. No rescues required but a bit of towing in at the end after the wind died away completely. Nice to have an engine when this happens.

So that's all the Watling Streetworks Winter Series done for the season and with some 25 boats taking part from all round the Island, skippered by a very wide age range of boys and girls, it can I think justifiably claim to be a success. It's been a friendly and cooperative event throughout and we thank all those who helped make it work including our sponsor Doug Watling, patrol boat crews, race officials and parents/helpers who put their time and efforts into it.

There will be a final fling next Sunday (29th March) on the reservoir with a Pursuit Race which starts from 1000 am and finishes at 1100. After that it's time to remove the boats and prepare them for the MS&CC Easter Regatta on April 4th, first start 1130 in Ramsey Bay. See you all on the start line!

For Sunday thanks to the patrol boat crew and thanks also to race officer Brian Quayle and team and to our generous sponsors Watling Streetworks.

Full results and some pictures on the website and FB.

Jerry Colman