

We're now two weeks into the new Watling Streetworks Winter Dinghy Series which has been taking place on West Baldwin reservoir, racing has taken place in excellent mild Autumnal conditions, mild temps and mild wind strengths!

The first round of Sunday morning racing on 6th November took place in breezes from the south which blew up the valley creating ideal conditions for the four juniors in their Tera's in their first winter series.

However, it was the (slightly) older junior, Teddy Dunn (Aero 7), who made the running in the first of the two races, finishing well ahead of second on the water, Jerry Colman (Finn) and third Andrew Dean (D-Zero). After correction the win went to Teddy, second Phil Hardisty (Laser) after doing well to overcome an uncharacteristically appalling start, with Jerry third.

Too much chatter at the back of the class put the Tera sailors towards the rear of the fleet.

Race two over the same course and yet again Teddy dominated, pulling himself well clear of the chasing D-Zero's of Andrew and Stu Brew. Corrections once applied and Teddy still first, Phil second, due to less chatter in the Tera fleet Jimmy Cope up to third and Thomas Watterson fourth. An excellent first morning's racing with Baldwin Reservoir at about it's best.

Slightly different conditions for the second round, bright and mild again but with the wind from the East, across the valley which led to some very variable wind directions, classic Injebreck!

The excellent fleet of 17 dinghies in the first of two races was again led from start to finish by an Aero 7, this time in the hands of the other (slightly) older junior Peter Cope, Jerry second, Phil third and Ralph fourth. So spread out were the leaders that even after correction the placing didn't change. Best placed Tera was Thomas Watterson in fifth.

For Race two over the same 'obstacle' course saw Phil catch the 'lucky gust' at the first mark to lead the fleet comfortably with Peter second and Andrew third.

Phil's lead was enough to give him first even after correction, with the 'no chatting in class' paying dividends bringing the Tera of Robert Fenna up to second ahead of Peter in third. Fortunately Cope Snr and Fenna Snr (RS 200) were on hand to witness the excellent placings of their juniors though from rather further back in the fleet!

Many thanks to our sponsor Doug Watling of Watling Streetworks, Keith Poole for Race Officer and patrol boat crews May Shiu Chan, Peter Hoowen-Owen, Graham and Adrian Wilson. For some excellent photo's and drone footage from the first week please see the MS&CC facebook page.