

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club

Watling Streetworks Injebreck 2023 January Series Races 7 and 8, 22nd January

Report by Andrew Dean

Despite there being force 5 or 6 winds, gusting 7 in the Irish Sea, there were reasonable conditions at the reservoir when the fleet arrived to rig the dinghies on Sunday. For the first of two races the wind was a moderate southerly with a few stronger gusts to test the unwary. A fleet of 9 boats launched consisting of 2 RS Aero7's, 3 RS Tera Pros, and one each Finn, Devoti D-Zero, RS200 and Laser standard rig. For the most part it was dull and it rained, but the valley setting remained attractive.

The course for both races was 2, 3, 4 to 6 giving a beat and run and a little in the way of reaching with the wind across the boats. There was some congestion at the first mark by the slipway with a collision or two, but all was sorted out amicably. The leading bunch slipped through leaving work to do for those caught in the melee. Young Peter Cope stamped his authority on the day in his Aero, leading the fleet comfortably in both races. Dave Batchelor suffered a broken tiller extension universal joint before the start, but was able to borrow a replacement to complete both races, coming third in the second. Behind Peter in both races on handicap was Dinghy Captain Ralph Kee having a good day in his Laser standard. Jerry Colman helmed his freshly-polished Finn to 3rd in race one.

The middle positions in the results were mostly filled by the promising youngsters Thomas Watterson, Will Osbourne and Robert Fenna in the Tera Pros, achieving 3rd, 4th and 7th in the first race, and a brilliant 4th, 5th and 6th in the second. It was great to see the three finishing with very little gap in between them in the second race.

This concludes the January series of a full eight races, with the ability to discard the two worst results. Manx National dinghy champion Philip Hardisty (Laser standard rig) won with Teddy Dunn (Aero 7) second and Peter 3rd. 4th was Dave ahead of Jerry in 5th. Only 6.5 points separated 5th and 9th.

Thanks to Keith Poole for race officer duty, and the Patrol boat crew of Peter Hooson-Owen and James Bishop. Thanks also are due to sponsors Watling Streetworks, supporting sailing in our lovely island.