

Nothing like a good forecast to bring out the crowd and in the bright sunshine of the Baldwin valley 16 crews competed for the final month of racing for the Watling Streetworks Dinghy Series. This included full turnouts from both Peel and Laxey!

Unlike the previous Sunday, cancelled, there was wind and unusually it was blowing mostly down the valley with the usual light gusts and deadly calms. With the wind, the 'wrong way' the Race Officer set a 'wrong way' course, marks to starboard (right hand side) rather than the usual port (left hand side). To add to the extraordinary, only the small course using the top half of the lake, only adding to the sense of crowding of a massive fleet.

Difficult to give a blow by blow account of the racing as the positions of the competitors swapped about so many times. After three laps what was clear was that James Walker (Streaker) was first across the line followed by Keith Holden (Finn). Dave Batchelor (ILCA 6) and Joe and Eric Whitelegg (Enterprise) were so close they were given the same time in third.

However, as we all know corrections need to be applied, the win going to Dave Batch, second James Walker and third were Joe & Eric.

Race two over the same course in very similar conditions was lead to the first mark by junior, Thomas Watterson (Aero 5), the second by Dave Batch and the third Joe & Eric.

After a bit more to-ing and fro-ing James Walker and the Enterprise of Joe & Eric pulled away from the main bunch. After three laps Joe & Eric crossed the line behind James W, but taking the win after corrections over James with Dave Batch in third.

So close are the results that we have, after two races of the March Series three in first place, two in second place and two in third place. Best junior so far this month is Thomas Watterson in seventh place chased by Lettie Hyett (ILCA 6) only one point behind. Credit is due to all juniors (5), they are all far from bottom of the class.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank our sponsor Doug Watling, Race Officer Keith Poole and patrol boat crew of Peter and Muir. Full results and some excellent photos by Barry Murphy can be found on the club Facebook Page.