

There have been light winds and very strong winds for the March Series of dinghy racing on West Baldwin reservoir. But for the final racing of the Watling Streetworks 2024-25 Winter Series there was both sorts of wind. Normally this would be in the usual strong gusts and vicious calms.

Not so on Sunday morning, the first race testing the survival skills of competitors and the second almost idyllic, with the odd puff now and then - naturally. The sun did shine throughout though.

Nine crews lined up for the first race, not long after the start the gusts joined together leading to a few tactical retreats. The remaining fleet of five consisted of three juniors and two seniors.

Revelling in the conditions and keen to finish enough races to discard a 15th place was junior Thomas Watterson (Aero 5) who pulled ahead to finish first on the water and far enough to take a win on correction. Dave Batchelor (ILCA 6), first senior and second overall was chased by junior Will Osbourn (Aero 5) in third.

For Race two Andrew Dean (ILCA 6), realising that some of the sting had gone from the wind, joined in. Yet again junior Thomas was at the front of the fleet, very closely followed by Andrew, so closely that the win went to Andrew on correction, Thomas second and Batch third.

The March Series was won overall by Dave Batchelor with Thomas second and Andrew third.

Special mention to Tullie Hyett, with a new mast, showed tremendous tenacity and fitness to finish race one in her first Injebreck season and using the larger 'Pro' sail on her Tera.

This is the last inland racing for this winter as we all return to the sea and the Easter Regatta on Saturday 19 April hosted by the Manx Sailing & Cruising Club in Ramsey Bay with the first start at 13.30.

MS&CC would like to thank our sponsor Doug Watling and Watling Streetworks for once again supporting our winter sailing programme. Also our Race Officer Keith Poole and all our patrol boat crews who have helped out over the winter.