

It's that time of the year again folks, gone quiet around the coast, with most of the Island's active dinghy fleet retreating to the hills for the 'Watling Streetworks Winter Dinghy Series'.

Racing on the West Baldwin reservoir has a few advantages over the sea sailing during the winter, in fresh water, short commute to the start line and best of all the tide is always in. Downsides are, just like the sea wind can blow from any direction, the Baldwin valley is special, it can blow from any direction at the same time!

We will have a quick catch up on the November series so far.

Week 1, 3 November, excellent turn out, everyone ready for a new term, no wind so everyone goes home.

Week 2, 10 November, did not seem to be very promising, early risers didn't have their sails up by the time Mr Comelately's, who appeared to bring the wind with them.

The light breeze definitely helped the larger sails, Dave Batchelor (Hadron H2), Jerry Colman (Finn) and Ralph Kee (ILCA 7) with best junior Thomas Watterson (Aero 5) in 6th place.

For Race 2, over the same course, Batch was this time chased by Andrew Dean (D-Zero), who at the finish was only 5 seconds back in 2nd, Ralph 3rd again with Lettie Hyett (ILCA 4) best junior in 5th place.

Week 3, 17 November. Very similar conditions to Week 2, wind in the same direction, Race Officer set the same course. What was noticeably different was the lack of MS&CC talent at the front of the fleet, bit of a late night at the MS&CC Dinner??

Race 3 was once again dominated by the massive rig of the Hadron H2 of Dave Batchelor who was ahead of James Walker (Streaker) in 2nd and Simon Pressly 9iLCA 6) in 3rd. Best junior was Thomas Watterson (Aero 5).

For Race 4, the Race Officer shortened the course, you have to keep a sharp eye out for things like this! Sadly the blind followed Dave Batch to a mark that wasn't on the course. Bit of a shame, your correspondent being 3rd on the water and closing fast!

The race was won by the sharp eyes of James Walker ahead of Simon Pressly, it was Will Osbourn's turn (Aero 5) to be best junior in 6th place.

Manx Sailing & Cruising Club would like to thank Doug Watling for once agreeing to sponsor our winter sailing. Also, thanks to Keith Poole for Race Officer and all the volunteers in the patrol boat.

For full results go to the MS&CC website.