

Dinghy racing for 2025 started on Sunday morning, following the previous week's issues snow, dinghy's snowed in and crews snowed out!

The Watling Streetworks January Series sailed on the West Baldwin reservoir, snow still on the surrounding hills and a forecast of building wind during the morning. Mostly light winds with the occasional gentle gust, enough to have most crews hiking (leaning out) hard. The lack of the usual vicious calms normally associated with Baldwin reservoir allowed more commitment - without falling backwards.

Race one the fleet of 14 sailed a course around the lake soon saw the crews with the larger sails quickly move to the front, Andrew Dean (D-Zero), Jerry Colman (Finn) and Ralph Kee (ICLA 7). With each of them taking the lead at some point over the three laps it was Andrew, Jerry 2nd and Ralph 3rd on the water. After correction though it was Dave Batchelor (ILCA 6) who took the win by 10 seconds from Ralph and junior, Thomas Watterson (Aero 5) in 3rd place.

After another clean start the same trio lead on the water again, this time not getting the same space between them and the following group, which included most of the fleet. Andrew finished first again with Ralph 2nd and Jerry 3rd. However, a large gust went through the rest of the fleet on their down wind to Mark 5 and fast reach to Mark 6 allowing them all to make up lots of time on the three leaders on the water.

After correction it was again Batchelor in first, Thomas 2nd, Ralph 3rd and junior Lettie Hyett in fourth after claiming the 'new year dip' in the first race.

Special mention to Tullie Hyett who leads the Tera fleet having moved upto the larger 'Pro' sail.

Your correspondent admits that he has 'missed' a few write ups, fortunately our Race Officer has been making and posting some notes and pictures on our Facebook page together with some 'better than usual' photography by Barry Murphy.

Manx Sailing and Cruising would like to thank our sponsor Doug Watling, Race Office Keith Poole and Graham and Adrian Wilson for manning the patrol boat.