

Report on St Marys Loch round of the 2017 Solo Scottish Traveller Series

Gerry Goodfellow

Many thanks to all of you who ventured to St Marys at the weekend for the second of the Scottish Solo Traveller Circuit (kindly sponsored by JP Watersports).

Despite the forecast for light winds at the start of the week, the first race greeted competitors with a force 4 (and plenty of strong gusts – now becoming traditional of a St Marys Open Meeting). The race officer Charles Willoughby, set three traditional Olympic ‘triangle-sausage’ courses for the fleet of 16 solos travelling from across Scotland and the north west of England.

Race 1, saw the strongest of the SSW winds (and a torrential freezing cold shower). After three years away from the circuit, Geoff Henstridge continued on from his success in the final race of the Bardowie traveller, taking the first bullet of the day, followed by the Gibb brothers (Derek and Kevan) and Andy Hutchinson (who despite an early dip and an attempt at sailing the wrong course – managed to hold on to a top 5 position!).

Race 2 was sailed on the same course (a port hand triangle), with the wind reducing and gradually clocking further round to the south east as the race continued. Geoff again showed form, finishing a tight race against Kevan, Keith Milroy and Andy to take a second bullet and, with a discard to be included, sealing himself the event title.

With the change in wind direction, the PRO adjusted the course to a starboard hand triangle for Race 3. Despite a heavily port biased start line, the fleet were well behaved – successfully completing three starts without the sign of a general recall or a black flag! Well done all! The lighter winds in the final race saw a new race winner, Andy. In second place, and showing good consistency across all three races, was Kevan, followed by Geoff and Keith.

The next event is Prestwick on Saturday 10th June. For more information see <http://www.scottishsolosailing.co.uk/index.html>