

Good turnout at Frostbites despite wind forecast

On St David's Day, the planned team match with Norfolk Broads Yacht Club had been abandoned late on Saturday evening due to the strong wind forecast which was "on the wrong side borderline". Nevertheless 8 boats turned out for the first start on Sunday, following a 15 minute postponement by Race Officer Paul Tegerdine assisted by Penny Joy, in order for competitors to reef. Reefing is a relatively simple operation on a Norfolk Dinghy and makes the boat so much easier to handle in gusty conditions. Sam Woodcock sailing B20 "Kelpie" and crewed by Karen Armitage made the best start beating upstream but in the cut the conditions were extremely variable and by the time he passed the clubhouse on the downwind leg he had dropped to fifth position. David Mackley sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" and crewed by Wendy Bush had in the meantime taken the lead which he held to the finish after 3 laps and 36 minutes. Woodcock performed well and recovered to second position finishing just 40 seconds behind Mackley. Also sailing well came Danny Tyrrell in B53 "Twinkle" crewed by Jean Board 19 seconds behind Woodcock. On handicap Tyrrell moved to first, with Mackley second. In third place was Pat Woodcock sailing B61 "Echo" and crewed by husband Bernie beating their son Sam into fourth!

The second race at 12.30pm saw Geoff Coulthard, who had started late in the first race, getting off the start line first. He was sailing B71 "Wild Duck" crewed by co-owner Geoff Evans. Coulthard was followed by Mackley who, using his skill to keep his boat heading higher in the gusts and not bearing off too much in the lulls, reached the top mark first and proceeded to increase his lead throughout the race finishing first after 30 minutes. Coulthard held his position finishing almost 3 minutes later. In third place about a minute and a half later came Sam Woodcock. On handicap, Mackley held his time and was first with Coulthard also holding on to second. In third place again was Pat Woodcock in danger of having her handicap percentage amended! Next Sunday the Club intend to run their annual "Power Station" race for the Breydon Challenge Cup. There is no power station now but crews head upstream towards Norwich and turn where the power station used to be.