

## **Mayfly skims over the water at Frostbites in two races to remember**

There was no sailing at Frostbites on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November but a week before on Remembrance Sunday sailors were glad of a twenty minute delay to their normal race time as following the two minutes silence the faintest of breezes from the north east came in. Race Officer David Yapp set a downstream course and with a high tide seven Norfolk Dinghies set off. David Mackley initially took the lead in B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by Linda Allen but out of sight around the corner positions changed and eventually B20 "Kelpie" appeared sailed by Sam Woodcock and crewed by Sam Archer. Keeping to the north bank and followed by others progress was very slow. On the other side of the river close to the big trees B28 "Mayfly" helmed by John Atkinson and crewed by Linda Pargeter crept ahead and by the time they reached the top middle and top marks had a good lead over Woodcock and Mackley with the rest of the fleet languishing some way behind. The course was shortened from an optimistic three laps to just one and Atkinson won the race just fifteen seconds ahead of Woodcock and Mackley came third. On handicap Atkinson and Woodcock held their positions but third place was taken by Bruce Thompson sailing B53 "Twinkle" and crewed by John Wood.

The second race at 12.25pm started with a fairly strong ebb tide and competitors found it difficult to stay the right side of the line leading up to the start. John Atkinson was actually straddling the line as the sound single went so was over but managed to clear at the far end of the line and start. A much reduced course was set and at the first mark everybody was bunched together. However Atkinson managed to round the starboard mark and sail over to the south bank as before whilst others drifted back below the mark in the tide. The beat back up the river against the tide was tedious in the extreme but Atkinson did well and pulled out a substantial lead, followed by Linda Allen, this time helming B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by David Mackley. They finished in that order with Wendy Bush sailing B54 "Coot" and crewed by Ray Johnson coming in third. On handicap Allen was pleased to take first place, with Atkinson second and Bush third.

Next Sunday Frostbites hope to run their "Three Race Day" at a second attempt because on the planned date of 17<sup>th</sup> November there was absolutely no wind!