

Strong winds at Frostbites reduce competing boats to three

On Sunday, after a ten minute postponement to give time for the ordering of a reef, three boats ventured out of the dyke at Frostbites to test themselves against the very windy conditions with rain. Before the start David Mackley sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" and crewed by Pat Woodcock packed it in after a significant gust came through. The remaining two boats started the upstream beat from "A" line set by Race Officer Kevin Edwards assisted by daughter Ellie. Sam Woodcock sailing B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Archer soon took a commanding lead over Danny Tyrrell sailing B53 "Twinkle" with two reefs and crewed by Bruce Thompson. Spectators were entertained by spectacular sailing including planing runs downstream past the clubhouse. After 24 minutes Woodcock came in as the only finisher after Tyrrell also retired.

In the second race at 12.20pm Woodcock again took the lead but had to work hard to keep ahead of Mackley, this time crewed by Bernie Woodcock. After 28 minutes Woodcock crossed the finishing line with Mackley just 38 seconds behind. In third place some five minutes later came Tyrrell still with his second reef in which made the boat more manageable in the heavy gusts. On handicap the result was the same. Relieved that the racing was over and involved no incidents, spectators were surprised to see Sam Woodcock out sailing again, this time with new member Heather Drysdale as crew and they calmly sailed up and down demonstrating how, in the proper hands, the Norfolk Dinghy can be managed in testing conditions. Next Sunday Frostbites are hoping to welcome visitors from Norfolk Broads Yacht Club for the first leg of the annual team rave between the two clubs.