

Mackley finishes Frostbites Series in style

Sunday marked the final day for Club racing at Frostbites and the final day for the Norfolks and Allcomers Series Races. Next Sunday the downriver series start with the final Long Distance Race for the Paul Pint Pot ending the season on 28 April.

In the 11.00am race 11 Norfolk Dinghies approached a congested start line in a gusty north-west wind and many started prematurely and had to return to cross the line again. David Mackley sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" and crewed by Linda Allen made a near perfect start, closely followed by Geoff Coulthard in B71 "Wild Duck" crewed by Steven Ford. During the race, which involved a difficult beat up to the top buoy in the Cut, both Sam Woodcock sailing B20 "Kelpie" and crewed by Sam Archer, and Ray Johnson in B54 "Coot" crewed by Wendy Bush, overtook Coulthard and the three leading boats, Mackley, Woodcock and Johnson had a cracking race finishing within two minutes of each other in that order with Coulthard coming in half a minute later. On handicap Coulthard was the winner, with Johnson second and Mackley third.

In the second race at 12.20pm 10 Norfolks came to the line and this time, after suffering rig failure in the first race and retiring, Pat Woodcock sailing B61 "Echo" and crewed by Jan Hubbard, was first away followed closely by Mackley. After plenty of tussling Mackley moved into first position followed by Johnson with Woodcock looking to be third. However in the final beat to the line Mike Lees, after a catastrophic start, managed to overtake to leeward and take third place by 4 seconds over Woodcock. On handicap Mackley held his time as did Johnson but third place went to Woodcock.

In the clubhouse many commented on the excellent sailing conditions brought about by a combination of high tide, wind of the right strength and direction and of course the excellent dinghies, ideal for river sailing.