

Commodore Woodcock retains the Clabburn Trophy

On Sunday 24th November Frostbite sailors were greeted with near windless conditions and Race Officer Jamie Manners initially set the postponement flag before attempting to start the first race at the slightly later time of 11.00am. By then a light southerly breeze had come and gone giving the eight Norfolks starting downstream on "C" line difficulty in keeping to the upstream side of the line due to the ebb tide. So many boats were over the line at the start that a General Recall was made, quite unusual at Frostbites, and at the second attempt at 11.10am four boats were premature starters and had to go back and restart.

The downstream mark was laid in such a position that rounding to starboard required a smart tack onto port in order to start moving against the tide. Progress was slow and B20 "Kelpie" sailed by Commodore Sam Woodcock and crewed by Sam Archer lead the beat just ahead of B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" sailed by David Mackley and crewed by Olivia Archer. B28 "Mayfly" and B61 "Echo" helmed by John Atkinson and Pat Woodcock respectively were close behind forming a close group of four boats somewhat ahead of the rest of the fleet. After rounding the top mark and reaching down to the lower mark once again, Kelpie and Lucifer continued to fight for the lead. The course was shortened from an optimistic three rounds to two and after 29 minutes Mackley crossed the finish line one minute ahead of Woodcock. In third place was B71 "Wild Duck" sailed by Geoff Coulthard and crewed by Steven Ford.

On handicap, first place was retained by Mackley who saved his time, Coulthard moved into second place and third was B61 "Echo" sailed by Pat Woodcock and crewed by Jan Hubbard.

In the second race at 12.20pm the course was set upstream against the tide from "B" line. Atkinson rounded the top mark first followed by Sam Woodcock. The beat back from the lower mark involved more tacking this time and with the increasing ebb tide proved difficult but coming upstream past the clubhouse Woodcock lead, closely followed by Mackley and then Atkinson. The course was again shortened to two laps at the lower mark and after 27 minutes Sam Woodcock came in to finish first, followed under a minute later by Mackley with Atkinson third. On handicap, Woodcock and Atkinson took joint first position with identical corrected times and Coulthard came third.

The final race started at 13.10hrs during a lull. Atkinson rounded the top mark first but unfortunately hit it due to the strong tide and had to do a penalty turn. Sam Woodcock following came closer and overtook Atkinson on the downstream leg. The course this time was shortened to just a lap and a half as the strengthening ebb tide was very difficult to stem from the lower mark. After 27 minutes Sam Woodcock crossed the finish line. In second place was Atkinson and third was Pat Woodcock.

The Clabburn Trophy awarded on this three race day event went to Sam Woodcock for the second year running, the runner up was David Mackley and John Atkinson was third.

Next Sunday will be the second leg of the annual team race against Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club whose team and followers will be welcomed to Frostbites.