

Kelpie crew beats the opposition whoever takes the helm

On Sunday 26th January the weather forecast looked promising apart from the wind direction which came in from the south over the trees around Whitlingham Broad. The lee shore necessitated either rigging in the dyke or paddling over to the south shore opposite the clubhouse. Nine Norfolk Dinghies came to the line for the first start at 10.55am which Race Officer Pat Woodcock, assisted by Jan Hubbard, set downstream from B start line. Many boats arrived at the lower port mark in a raft and a couple of boats were forced to hit the mark and needing to do penalty turns. Despite the strength of the wind, the long reach back upstream against the tide and amongst the trees proved very difficult. A few were forced to tack off the north shore which proved fatal due to the tide. Approaching the bend leading up to the top mark many fell into a hole and with no wind were caught by others with momentum to take them through. Nevertheless Sam Woodcock sailing B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Archer kept to form and after a battle with Danny Tyrrell sailing B53 "Twinkle" crewed by Bruce Thompson and with David Mackley sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by daughter Kate George, came in first after 38 minutes, 2 minutes ahead of Tyrrell and nearly 4 minutes ahead of Mackley. The rest of the fleet didn't arrive until over 7 minutes later. On handicap Woodcock and Tyrrell held their time but in third position came newcomers Philip and Jean Board sailing B49 "Pixie" getting into the results for the first time.

The second race at 12.20pm again started downstream with an additional lower middle mark placed opposite the clubhouse for a port rounding in all but the first round. This time Tyrrell really got away and for much of the race was way out in front. However he was gradually reeled in by young Sam Archer sailing "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Woodcock, and also Kate George helming "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by father David Mackley. These three boats finished in that order within a minute of each other after 43 minutes and again it was a period approaching 5 minutes before anyone from the remaining fleet crossed the line. On handicap Archer moved into first place, Tyrrell was second and George remained third.