

Woodcock wins both downstream and upstream races at Frostbites

At 10.55am on Sunday 9 Norfolk Dinghies started the first downriver race of the season. Race Office Bruce Thompson and Timekeeper Leona Levine had to start the race and then leap into a safety boat, overtake the fleet and look out for somewhere appropriate to finish them. This turned out to be almost as far as Bramerton in a race which took between 33 minutes for the leaders and 48 minutes for the tailenders. Sam Woodcock sailing B20 "Kelpie" and crewed by Sam Archer, David Mackley in B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by Karen Armitage and Ray Johnson in B54 "Coot" crewed by Wendy Bush all got away from the main fleet. They continued more or less together in a gusty beat past the old May Gurney site and under the by-pass, entering the deadly grove shortly afterwards, with trees either side and no wind apart from the occasional puff. Through the grove and half way up the reach towards Bramerton the race was finished with the three leaders close together and in the same order.

The re-start at 12.00 midday saw the fleet enter the grove with John Atkinson leading in B28 "Mayfly" and crewed by Linda Pargeter followed by Woodcock and Lees who opted for the left hand side out of the tide. This paid off and at the other side of the grove Woodcock emerged in the lead, followed by Lees and with them Geoff Coulthard in B71 "Wild Duck" crewed by co-owner Geoff Evans. Woodcock got away and carried on to win the race and the Darley Cup. Lees and Coulthard had a great tussle all the way but Coulthard eventually took the lead shortly before the Whitlingham bends to take second place with Lees third.