

A fine Regatta at Coldham Hall Sailing Club

On the weekend of 4th and 5th May 2019 Coldham Hall hosted their Annual Regatta which has been organised each year since 1951 jointly by the Coldham Hall and Norwich Frostbite Sailing Clubs. Early records show that a regatta was held here in 1847 so this is a truly historic tradition.

Sailors turned up expectantly on the Saturday for the 2.00pm race but the weather conditions were too bad and racing was cancelled for the day. However John Wells and Sandy Watt provided entertainment by sailing up and down the river in their Flying Fifteen, a boat designed for such conditions. Inside the tavern the band Lee Vasey entertained the less hardy souls.

On Sunday the winds had abated somewhat and with a bright start the breeze from the north was however quite chilly. The full programme was run comprising 18 races in all including three entries for the Broom Challenge Cup for juniors under 18 years of age, last sailed for in 2009. The Club was also pleased with the turnout of visitors which included six Norfolk One Design Dinghies. Other boats included Wayfarers, Yeomans, Lasers and a Comet.

With a light to moderate northerly wind, race officer Vernon Penketh set a course starting upstream round a port mark with a run back and a gybe mark near Coldham Hall Tavern to entertain spectators followed by another port mark some way downstream. With such a full programme races were restricted to two rounds and the course held good all day with no changes. The handicap race for local boats was won by young Wilum Johnston sailing his Laser "Kipper" earning him the Silver Challenge Cup, second was Sandy Watt in the Flying Fifteen "Findus Archates" and crewed by her father John Wells and in third place was Nigel Kippen sailing his Wayfarer "Maggie May" crewed by Jeni Barnacle. The Yeomans sailed a series of three races for the Youngman Bowl which was won by David Hickman sailing Y80 "Magpie" and crewed by Debbi Jaffey winning all three races. In second place was David Woolston sailing Y180 "Shibboleth" crewed by David Greenacre and third was Geoff Pinder in Y6 "Contest" crewed by Mandy Blezard. The Norfolk series of three races for the Silver Challenge Cup was won easily by Sam Woodcock in B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Archer. In the Wayfarers Paul Parker sailing a club boat and crewed by Gill Pearson dominated all three races in the series and won the CHSC Challenge Cup for that class. In the Allcomers series John Wells sailing his Flying Fifteen "Findus Archates" crewed by Sandy Watt won the Challenge Trophy overall although a tough challenge was put up by Wilum Johnston in his Laser "Kipper". Sam Woodcock also won the lunchtime Mixed Centreboards

race in his Norfolk OD "Kelpie" and in the Junior Race for the Broom Challenge Cup Sam Archer sailing the same boat won from his sister Olivia who was sailing Norfolk OD B61 "Echo" crewed by Bernie Woodcock. Had it not been for touching a mark and having to do turns the result may well have been different. The Harry Last Trophy was won by John Wells and the Jack Points by Sandy Watt. There was a race for the River Cruisers at 2.00pm and with only one entry the result was a win for Colin Brown in "Glory".