

Kelpie wins both downstream and upstream races at Frostbites

The normal start time at Frostbites on Sunday was postponed 30 minutes due to torrential rain and no wind! However at 11.25am Race Officer Danny Tyrrell set 8 Norfolk Dinghies on their way. The boats were bunched together most of the way through the tree lined Whitlingham Reach and it could have been anyone's race, but not Stephen Ellingham's – he joined the fleet half way down the reach in B30 Willa and crewed by Karen Maran. In the clearer wind past the boatyards Sam Woodcock in B20 "Kelpie" and crewed by Sam Archer broke free and enjoyed a decent reach up to and under the bridge over the by-pass. The race was finished after the sewage outfall but before the deadly grove in an overall time of 36 minutes by Woodcock, followed by Geoff Evans in B71 "Wild Duck" crewed by Geoff Coulthard and in third place within a minute was David Mackley sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" and crewed by Linda Allen.

On the return to the club the race was again initially close but the dead patches forced many positions to change. In an attempt to prevent being overtaken one boat luffed an unfortunate follower into the reeds and both ended up stationary with no wind and were passed. Others doing well grounded and allowed boats to pass. "Kelpie" this time helmed by Sam Archer with Sam Woodcock as crew took the lead just before the Whitlingham bend and managed to win in a time of 50 minutes, followed a minute and quarter later by B15 "Wee Simby" helmed by Mike Lees and crewed by Jean Board. In third place, just 13 seconds later, was B47 "Brambling" sailed by Sue Grief and crewed by Nigel Gutteridge.