

Sam Archer clinches the Claude Heath Trophy on Rum Punch Sunday at Frostbites

It was a cold and icy morning for competitors arriving at Frostbites no doubt affecting the turnout. However 5 boats eventually slid down the slipway to launch in a river showing white icy banks and patches of floating sheet ice.

Race Officer Ray Johnson assisted by John Reid set a downstream course from "B" start line for boats to sail a testing beat against a light and variable south-east wind. Sam Archer made the best start in B15 "Wee Simby" and crewed by Olivia Archer but was closely followed by Adrian Coulthard, on a visit from his home in New Zealand, sailing B71 "Wild Duck" crewed by Geoff Coulthard. After a time Danny Tyrrell sailing B53 "Twinkle" and crewed by Bruce Thompson managed to pass Bernie Woodcock sailing B49 "Pixie" crewed by Jean Board. During the remainder of the 3 lap course positions remained the same except that on the final beat to the finish line, the Coulthards overtook the Archers to take the win after 32 minutes. On handicap Archer was first, Coulthard second and Tyrrell third.

In the second race with a slight increase in the wind strength over the same course, Archer again made a very good start and proceeded to extend his lead throughout the race to win in 33 minutes. 3 minutes later came Coulthard and 2 minutes after him came Tyrrell.

Both races count for the Claude Heath Trophy and there was a tie between Archer and Coulthard each having won one race. The last race rule was applied meaning that the trophy was won by Sam Archer, with Coulthard as runner up and in third place was Danny Tyrrell.

In the Clubhouse afterwards competitors first and then visitors and guests, were treated to Angela Mackley's famous hot rum punch which she has been serving up for the last seventeen years during the equally famous Frostbites raffle. Thanks go to her once more.