

## **Lively start to Downriver series at Frostbites**

Following an early rise due to clock changes Frostbites sailors turned out in good numbers for the first downriver race and return of their 2022-23 season. This is the start of a series of races culminating on 23<sup>rd</sup> April with a passage race, weather permitting, to Coldham Hall for the regatta there the following weekend.

A quite reasonable north-easterly gave Race Officer Bernie Woodcock assisted by Shirley Hagger the opportunity to set a beat from "C" start line for the 7 Norfolk Dinghies and one Enterprise at 10.55am. After a clean start Bernie and Shirley hopped into one of the Club Safety Boats, driven by Alex Powell, to gradually overtake the fleet in preparation for the finish at some point downstream. Pat Woodcock and John Bayldon brought up the rear in the second safety boat.

Sam Woodcock sailing B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Archer was first away followed closely by Danny Tyrrell in the first prototype GRP Norfolk named "Egret" crewed by Bruce Thompson. At the Southern Bypass Viaduct Ray Johnson helming B54 "Coot" and crewed by Wendy Bush moved into second place. In the infamous tree lined "grove" Stephen Ellingham sailing solo in B30 "Willa" overtook both Johnson and Tyrrell as did Geoff Coulthard in B71 "Wild Duck" crewed by Dominic Talbot. Woodcock finished near Bramerton Woods End after 49 minutes followed by Ellingham 2 minutes later and 3 minutes after that. Mike and Jess Readhead in their Enterprise retired early on in the race due to the nasty gusts.

After a short break and a running start the return race commenced and first over the line was Paul Armitage sailing B60 "Jane" and crewed by Karen Armitage. Unfortunately they were premature and had to return. Sam Archer now helming "Kelpie" and crewed by Sam Woodcock made the best start followed again by Tyrrell. In the grove Wendy Bush now helming "Coot" and crewed by Ray Johnson moved into second position followed by Coulthard and Talbot in "Wild Duck". However Tyrrell now getting used to "Egret" regained second position by the viaduct but Archer by this time was considerably in the lead, finishing back at the Clubhouse after 55 minutes. Tyrrell was second nearly 6 minutes later and third was Bush about 30 seconds behind him.

The return upriver race was sailed for the Darley Cup presented by Mr Clifford Darley in 1970.