

Frostbites win Ramuz “Champion of Champions” inter-club sailing event of the Broads Area at Beccles

This competition attracted 14 teams from sailing clubs across the Broads and was hosted this year at Beccles Amateur Sailing Club whose members provided 9 privately owned Norfolk Dinghies. The event is organised each year by the Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association through their Chairman Ben Falat.

After an hour delay due to low wind conditions the first two flights of 7 boats took off in very light conditions and comprised 25 minute races of a single lap. Later with some surface ripples the third and fourth races managed a lap and a half. By mid-afternoon 3 lap 30 minute races became possible and with sunshine and blue skies bank-side spectators had a wonderful day.

The basis of the competition was a cumulative league with no discards. All teams raced 4 times. The last race of the day became a show-down between thus far equal scoring Chris Bunn for The Lady Yacht Club and Sam Woodcock for Frostbites. These two helms popped out of the start line with clear advantage over the rest of the fleet and in a single decisive move Bunn was forced to tack off and Woodcock went on to win with Bunn trying on many occasions to get past.

Woodcock took the win with 1 point over Bunn, the next 4 competitors tied on equal points and the next 3 also tied. The eventual positions were Sam Woodcock crewed by David Yapp first for Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club, Chris Bunn crewed by Chris Tuckett second for Lady Yacht Club and Danny Tyrrell crewed by Jamie Manners third for Norfolk Broads Yacht Club.

Back at Frostbites base at Whitlingham 4 boats took part in the final downriver/upriver series and Stephen Ellingham sailing solo took 2 wins followed in second place by Geoff Coulthard and Steven Ford going downstream and Graham Hagger and Shirley Hagger upstream. Third place was taken by Graham Hagger going downstream and Bernie Woodcock also solo upstream.