

Frostbites final day of season – Passage Race to Coldham Hall

On Sunday 23rd April 5 Norfolk Dinghies set off from their Whitlingham base to undertake the annual passage race to Coldham Hall, a distance of a little over 8 miles. The wind was fairly light but its northerly direction, although chilly, provided a fair amount of reaching enabling reasonable progress to be made under the flyover, through Postwick Grove and up the long straight to Bramerton. There followed a slow stretch due to high ground and trees which later opened out for a lovely sail to Surlingham Ferry Inn for an arranged lunch stop.

Officer of the Day Stephen Ellingham assisted by Dominic Talbot followed the fleet and then overtook them in order to time in the boats as they finished at Surlingham. Ray Johnson and Wendy Bush provided safety boat support.

First to finish was Bernie Woodcock helming B61 “Echo” and crewed by his wife Pat in just over 2 hours followed in second place just 2 minutes later by Olivia Archer sailing B20 “Kelpie” crewed by Sam Woodcock. In third place was Harrison Horner in B31 “Bittern” and crewed by Ella Poole about 6 minutes after Archer.

After an enjoyable lunch during which the rain clouds steadily formed, the second stage of the race started in torrential rain and little wind. After an hour the finish line was drawn not far from the dyke leading to Surlingham Broad and this time first position was taken by Danny Tyrrell sailing the GRP Prototype Norfolk Dinghy “Egret” crewed by Bruce Thompson. In very close second place was Graham Hagger in B24 “Jimba” crewed by Shirley Hagger and in third was Olivia Archer.

Combining the results from the two legs Olivia Archer won the Paul Pint Pot with runner up Danny Tyrrell and third was Graham Hagger.

The boats were towed the rest of the way to Coldham Hall where the Sailing Club members there made the rather wet crews very welcome and provided hot drinks and refreshments. Next weekend will be the Coldham Hall two day Regatta.