



## FROSTBITE NEWS

03/08/23

### NORWICH FROSTBITE SAILING CLUB – CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF WINTER SAILING

It all started 90 years ago on Friday, 29th September, 1933, when four young men, “working men”, as the long defunct Sunday Graphic put it, met in Charlie Pitts’ pub, the Rifleman, for a discussion.

The subject was a proposal by one of them, Eastern Daily Press reporter Ted Chamberlin, to sail dinghies in the winter on the only day in the week that they were free - Sunday, and on the Yare, which had been ignored by yachtsmen for many years. On Sunday, 19th November, the idea was tried out. The 12ft dinghies used were lent free of charge by Alfred Ward, a local boatyard owner and World War I pilot.

The club was inaugurated on Thursday, 14th December, when eight sat down to a meal provided by Mrs. Pitts. Ted Chamberlin was elected Commodore, George Levine, Vice Commodore and Treasurer, and Claude Heath as Secretary. Ted proposed the club be called the Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club.

90 years later, the challenge of sailing in all weathers combined with the warm-hearted community atmosphere of our club house continues to attract sailors to race together on the same stretch of water.

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the club’s formation local historian Malcolm Martins is giving a talk on the many boatyards that existed in Thorpe St Andrew around the time the club was formed and subsequently. Following the talk a finger supper will be provided and the bar will be open to allow members, friends and all interested to explore Frostbites and learn more.

Tickets are £10; to book call Steven Ford on 07838 832058 or email [fordsteven@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fordsteven@hotmail.co.uk) by Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> August.



*1930's photograph of Ward's Boatyard, now the Rush Cutters Pub.*



## Second Downriver series at Frostbites

With a fine day and good north-easterly breeze 7 Frostbite crews set off downstream from C line under the supervision of David Yapp as Officer of the day assisted by Julia Deary as timekeeper and flag puller. Newcomer John Bayldon helming B61 "Echo" and crewed by Bernie Woodcock made the best start followed closely by Sam Woodcock in B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Pat Woodcock and also Danny Tyrrell sailing "Egret" sporting sail number B53. Geoff Evans in B71 "Wild Duck" crewed by Geoff Coulthard had problems rigging and were a little late starting.

The wind direction provided a good beat at the start and also all the way through the Whitlingham straight which made for exciting sailing. By the time the fleet were passing the boatyards and moorings on the north shore, and approaching the Southern Bypass Viaduct, Woodcock was well out in front with Ray Johnson sailing B54 "Coot" crewed by Wendy Bush some minutes behind. Stephen Ellingham followed in B30 "Willa" crewed by Shirley Hagger. Owing to the speed of the fleet the OOD decided to carry on through the windless "grove" of trees leading to the Bramerton straight of more open water and finished the race a short distance up. Woodcock finished first in 35 minutes, Johnson second 4 minutes later and Ellingham third 2 minutes after Johnson.

After a quarter of an hour break the return race was started very competitively between Tyrrell and Bayldon at the midpoint of the line but Pat Woodcock now helming "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Woodcock started further to windward and put the former two boats about by having tacked onto port off the far bank. Woodcock held her starboard tack well and crept up the leeward bank before finally tacking out and back again nicely in the lead. She progressed well ahead into the "grove" which in this direction lived up to its name and stopped the fleet for some time.







Woodcock's position was threatened but she managed to keep just ahead sufficient to leave the grove and sail away and was under the viaduct by some distance before Mike and Jess Readhead emerged in their Enterprise followed by Ellingham and Tyrrell. On entering Whitlingham straight the Woodcocks poled out their jib and powered on a lovely run to be overtaken only by the safety boat crew who just managed to reach the finishing line at the Clubhouse in time to record their finish.

Woodcock finished in 45 minutes and it was over 7 minutes before the Readheads followed and Ellingham 2 minutes later. On handicap (boats only) Woodcock was first, Ellingham second and Tyrrell third. The Readheads fell back to sixth position.

### **Second Downriver Race Results:**

Norfolks (6): 1. Kelpie (S Woodcock, P Woodcock), 2. Coot (R Johnson, W Bush), 3. Willa (S Ellingham, S Hagger).

### **Second Upriver Return Race Results:**

Allcomers Handicap (7): 1. Kelpie (P Woodcock, S Woodcock), 2. Willa, 3. Egret (D Tyrrell, B Thompson).







## **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 midafternoon 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.





## Coldham Hall Regatta 2023

This annual event took place on the weekend of 29th and 30th April. There were races on the Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. Frostbites members attending the event had sailed up from Whitlingham on the previous Sunday having endured a thunderstorm and downpour on the second leg of the trip from Surlingham Ferry.

Our members performed pretty well at the Regatta. On Saturday afternoon Sam Woodcock on corrected time won the first and second Combined Allcomers races sailing Norfolk Dinghy B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Heather Drysdale winning the E J Redding Challenge Cup.



On Sunday the lunchtime race for Mixed Centreboards took place and Olivia Archer, having taken over the helm of "Kelpie" for the day won the race on corrected time earning her the King Kong Cup for Frostbite members.

There were four races in the series for Norfolk Dinghies, Sam Woodcock winning the Saturday race but on Sunday Olivia Archer won both the second and third races coming second to David Yapp in B15 "Wee Simby" crewed by Julia Deary in the first.

Other members attending were Bernie and Pat Woodcock in B61 "Echo", Danny Tyrrell and Bruce Thompson in the prototype plastic Norfolk "Egret" and Graham and Shirley Hagger in B24 "Jimba".

At the prizegiving Olivia Archer won the Silver Challenge Cup for the Norfolk series having won two out of three races and coming second in the other. She also won the King Kong Trophy for Frostbite members in the Mixed Centreboards lunchtime race. That's not all! Olivia also won the Harry Last Trophy for sailing the fastest corrected time in the last series of races. At the presentation unfortunately the appropriate cups could not be produced and so Olivia was presented with a stainless steel teapot and coffee pot as a temporary measure!



## Maud at Frostbites

In July, the Wherry Maud Trust was very grateful to make use of our club mooring on one of their trips. It was a bit of a surprise to the Sea Cadets when they turned up for one of their evening sessions. They were very excited to see the 'big sailing boat'!





## Prizegiving Supper 2023

On Friday 5th May 2023 we held our traditional end of season Prizegiving Supper returning once more to The Old Rectory at Spixworth. This venue has served us well for many years with its lovely conservatory, good food and efficient staff.

Our trophy table is a sight to behold and here is a photo:-



Our guests this year were David and Philippa Tait from Coldham Hall Sailing Club and Maureen and Tim Horne from Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club.

Commodore Phil Board welcomed everyone and after the meal gave a resume of the Club's activities over the winter and after the prizegiving introduced Ivor Stemp who gave an illustrated talk with slides about the Norfolk Wherry Albion.

During the Prizegiving Olivia Archer was presented with three trophies, the King Kong for winning the mixed centreboard race at Coldham Hall Regatta and also the proper trophies for winning the Norfolk OD Silver Challenge Cup and the Harry Last also from that Regatta. She seemed pleased as is evident in the photo:-

Other trophy winners were Sam Archer, Stephen Ellingham, David Mackley, Danny Tyrrell and Sam Woodcock.





## Team Race with Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club

On Wednesday evening 21st June a team from Frostbites along with a number of spectators visited Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club for the first leg of the annual competition between the two clubs.

It had been originally thought that eight Waveney One Designs would be made available for the event giving four boats a side, however this was modified to three boats a side in the end. It was just as well because we were asked by WOBYC if we had any spare crews and we were able to loan Shirley Hagger.



With good sailing conditions but a difficult southerly wind OOD Jordan Levett set a sort of Olympic course involving a sausage and a triangle. The first beat across the broad was to number 2 port mark followed by a dead run back to number 5 port mark near the start line. Another beat back to 2 again but followed by a reach to 1 port mark near the clubhouse and a return to 5 to repeat the process three times. After passing 1 for the fourth time the course went straight to the finish line.

In race 1 Paul and Pat Tegerdine sailing W15 “Creeping Jenny” seemed to make the best start and we think they rounded the first mark in the lead. In the meantime Sam Woodcock, crewed by David Yapp in W8 “Thalia” managed to squeeze out Trevor Balls sailing W25, crewed by Graham Reeve at the port end of the line. During the race the Tegerdines dropped back but the battle at the front between Woodcock and Balls was tight with each taking the lead at times. In the end Woodcock took the lead and pulled away to win the race with Balls second followed by Geoff Little in W20 “Speedwell” crewed by Shirley Hagger. Frostbites took first, fifth and sixth places.



In Race 2 over the same course Graham Reeve crewed by Trevor Balls in W8 “Thalia” won the race with Geoff Little and Shirley Hagger in W10 “Iris” second and David Yapp crewed by Julia Deary in W20 “Speedwell” third. Frostbites took third, fourth and fifth places giving an overall win to WOBYC of 18 points to 24.

Other Frostbite helms not mentioned above were Stephen Ellingham, Danny Tyrrell and Bernie Woodcock. A very pleasant buffet in the Clubhouse followed and WOBYC were thanked gratefully for organising and running the event, loaning their boats and providing excellent refreshments. The return leg at Frostbites is scheduled for November 26th.







### Team Race with Wells Sailing Club

On Saturday 24th June a team from Frostbites along with a number of spectators visited Wells Sailing Club for the second leg of the annual competition between the two clubs. The first leg held at Whitlingham in Norfolk Dinghies on 8th January 2023 gave Frostbites a 5 point lead to take to Wells for the event.

The conditions were lovely, sunshine and warmth with a nice, manageable westerly breeze. It was an early start due to the morning tide and we had to be at Wells Sailing Club for 9.00am in order to have the boats, 12 sq. metre Sharpies, out near the lifeboat station for around 10.00am for the start of the first race.

Whilst the boats were being prepared and the crews getting ready, spectators could sit on the patio area in front of the clubhouse enjoying the sunshine and views over the marshes.

Frostbites were short of sailors and we had to borrow a couple of volunteers from Wells as crews. These were kindly forthcoming and after a short briefing and allocation of the boats to the six helms, launching began. The Sharpie was designed in Germany in 1931, curiously the same year as the Norfolk Dinghy. It was selected as the two-man dinghy for the 1956 Olympic Games held in Australia. As with the Norfolk, the Sharpie has retained all the original characteristics of the Class.

The course set by James Case as OOD all took place in the river between the quay and the Lifeboat Station and the start was around the area of the Pool buoy with a beat down to Bank followed by a run out to Motor Car just beyond the Lifeboat Station and across to Pool, all marks to starboard. In the first race Andrew Cracknell crewed by Tim Gibbs in Rock-a-Bye took first place followed by Bernie Woodcock crewed by son Sam in Poelsnip. In third place was Richard Mulderij crewed by Keith Painter in Fuut. With Frostbites taking 2nd, 4th and 5th that gave us 11 points against Wells' 10 so that was one of our lead points lost.

In the second race over the same course Sam Woodcock crewed by his father Bernie this time sailing Fuut lead from the start but was pressed hard by Tim Ashby and Andrew Cracknell in Windspiel who came in second followed by Martin Read crewed by Keith Painter in Poelsnip in third. This time Frostbites took 1st, 5th and 6th places earning us 12 points against Wells' 9. Another three points lost! Overall result though was 41 points to the Frostbites and 42 to Wells so Frostbites retained the Braconash Challenge Cup.

On the way back to the clubhouse David Yapp crewed by Steve Nott managed to capsize Rock-a-Bye in front of the quay amid roars of appreciation from spectators!

The meal in the clubhouse was incredible and was followed by Martin Read entertaining us all and encouraging a sing-a-long. After presenting Frostbites with the trophy our hosts were thanked for a wonderful day and we look forward to welcoming them to Frostbites early next year.



## Notices to the Club:

### Awards - nominations requested

- Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA)
- New: The Mike Evans Memorial Trophy for Excellence – ends 30th September
- This year 'excellence' will be in the context of preserving the heritage of Broads watercraft.
- The Martin Broom Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Broads Boating – 30th September
- The Tim Whelpton Trophy for Young Achievement – ends 15th October

### East Anglian Maritime Awards

- [Recognising achievements and contributions of young people in fresh and salt-water environments.](#)  
Ends 30<sup>th</sup> September

### Consultations

- 10<sup>th</sup> July Broads Authority - [Thorpe St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan](#) – ends 5pm Monday 21st August
- 19<sup>th</sup> July NSBA - [Boating on the Broads](#) – NSBA's Policies – ends 30th September

## Club Boats Available to Sail

The club have purchased several Norfolks that members are welcome to race. Skippers need to demonstrate an appropriate level of competence. The cost is only £10 per day. For more info and to apply to take one out, contact David Yapp [davidsyapp@googlemail.com](mailto:davidsyapp@googlemail.com).

## 2023 Annual General Meeting

On 12th May this year the Club held its 89th AGM. We welcomed Shirley Hagger as our new Club Secretary having taken over the role from Sue Grief. Shirley used to sail at Frostbites many years ago having owned B24 "Jimba" since 1976 and we are pleased to have her back.

Sue Grief has retired as our secretary after helping us through some very difficult times and we thought it appropriate to make a presentation to her at the meeting in grateful thanks for her years in office and what she has done for us.

David Mackley was appointed as our Club President following on from Alan Mitchell following his death earlier this year. We think that David was pleased with the appointment although until recently he had not thought himself old enough! David has been sailing at Frostbites since his youth and has been a mainstay of the Club throughout and we hope that he will continue to be so.

## Club Merchandise

Thanks to Sam Archer we now have a range of clothing for sale that sports the club's name and logo. Visit [st-cyr.co.uk/](http://st-cyr.co.uk/) and drop down the 'Sailing Clubs and Fleets' menu to find the Norwich Frostbite page. The direct link is also available on the club's website.



## Dates for your diary

**2<sup>nd</sup> September** – Talk and reception to launch our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

**13<sup>th</sup> October** – Rigging out Supper. This will be held in the Clubhouse. Bring a plate of food to share.

**15<sup>th</sup> October** – Start of Series Racing

**5<sup>th</sup> November** – Norfolk Open Dinghy Event - NOD 90th Anniversary Cup

# NORWICH FROSTBITE SAILING CLUB