

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

It was a bright and windy morning for competitors arriving at Frostbites for the final sail of 2023, racing for the final races in the October to year end series but also for two races both to count for the Claude Heath Trophy first sailed for in 1971. 8 Norfolk Dinghies launched.

Race Officer John Reid assisted by Ray Johnson set an upstream course from "B" start line for boats to sail in a very flukey south-west wind up the new cut against an ebb tide. In the first race Sam Woodcock made the best of it sailing B20 "Kelpie" crewed by last years winner Sam Archer soon building an unassailable lead and going on to win the 3 lap course in 35 minutes. 5 minutes later came David Mackley sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by Olivia Archer. In third place was Danny Tyrrell in B53 "Twinkle" crewed by Bruce Thompson a minute later just beating David Yapp in B50 "Dodman" crewed by Abigail Stevenson by 5 seconds. On handicap Woodcock held his first place but in second was Jamie Manners sailing the prototype glass fibre boat B87 "Egret" and crewed by Alex Savage. In third place it was Phil Board sailing B49 "Pixie" crewed by Commodore Jean Board.

In the second race Yapp made a good start and managed to hold off a threatening Woodcock for almost a whole round but eventually succumbed to allow Woodcock to win. After running aground on the beat up to the finishing line Yapp let Tyrrell through to take second. On handicap first place went to Stephen Ellingham in B30 "Willa" crewed by Alex Ellingham but that result is under enquiry as he may have retired due to being over the line at the start. In second place was Olivia Archer now helming Lucifer and Tyrrell was third.

Both races count for the Claude Heath Trophy and Woodcock having won both was presented with the trophy by Commodore Jean Board.

In the Clubhouse afterwards competitors first and then visitors and guests, were treated to hot rum punch prepared by Pat Tegerdine to a traditional secret recipe during the equally famous Frostbites raffle.