

## **Frostbites win the first leg of the team race against Wells Sailing Club for the Braconash Challenge Cup, first awarded in 1952.**

A bright, cold morning greeting sailors at Frostbites on Sunday and Race Officer Paul Tegerdine, assisted by his wife Pat, set a downstream course for the fleet of eight Norfolk Dinghies with a strong ebb tide under them against the north easterly breeze. Most were able to sail to the lower mark without tacking but it wasn't easy getting past the overhanging trees. David Mackley soon took the lead sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by Geoff Coulthard. Behind him came Stephen Ellingham sailing solo in B30 "Willa" and behind him Sam Woodcock in B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Archer. The first three boats finished the three lap course in that order. On handicap Ellingham took first place, Mackley second and in third place was David Yapp in B50 "Dodman" crewed by Julia Deary.

The team racing was for 3 boats a side over the same course. Crews had difficulty staying the pre-start side of the line such was the power of the tide. Chris Gibbs for Wells sailing Kelpie and crewed by Darnell Embson took a narrow lead and rounded the lower mark first. He was followed by Will Gibbs, also of Wells, in Lucifer crewed by Tim Gibbs and a little behind them came Jamie Manners sailing for Frostbites in B49 "Pixie" crewed by David Yapp. This order continued throughout the race until on the final rounding of the top mark Will Gibbs was caught on port and unable to respond had to do penalty turns. This cost him his place and the finishing order was Chris Gibbs first, Jamie Manners second and Sam Woodcock third in Dodman crewed by Sam Archer. The result of this race was a win for Frostbites 9 points to 12.

In the second race with many crews changing over there was a very close start but again Chris Gibbs sailing Dodman this time crewed by Andrew Cracknell made the best of it rounding the lower mark first. However soon after that he was passed by Mackley in B53 "Twinkle" crewed by Bruce Thompson and by Yapp in Lucifer crewed by Manners. Going upstream against the tide was particularly difficult beyond the clubhouse and Mackley suffered from lack of wind and drifted to leeward and Yapp with better luck sailed straight to the top mark and rounding was able to take the win after 23 minutes followed 30 seconds later by Archer and 15 seconds later by Mackley. The result of this second race was another win for Frostbites taking the first three positions 6 points to 15.

The overall result for the team race event was Frostbites 15, Wells 27, giving Frostbites a useful 12 point lead to take up to Wells for the second leg in the summer.