

Brisk winds at Frostbites for the first race of the downriver series

In a frisky north-westerly with enough attitude to cause some pre-race discussion, a select group of four boats, one reefed, started under the direction of OODs Paul and Karen Armitage with a short beat upstream. A port rounding, not a gybe, preceded a downwind downstream leg virtually to Bramerton. David Mackley sailing B6 "Lucifer beyond repair" crewed by Olivia Archer got away cleanly, unlike others, and after a few "moments" for each of the boats, surviving BIG gusts on the way, Mackley just held off the challenge from Sam Woodcock in B20 "Kelpie" crewed by Sam Archer to take the win. Danny Tyrrell in B53 "Twinkle" crewed by Bruce Thompson came third.

The return leg for the Darley Cup, saw two boats over the line, and Mackley giving us all a masterclass in sailing through the difficult "doldrums" just downstream of the Postwick bridge. A challenging beat wore down all the crews, and at the finish Sam Archer now helming Kelpie pipped Mackley by a mere one second with Bernie Woodcock sailing B61 "Echo" crewed by Steven Ford third.