



***Rollesby Broad
Sailing Club***

Frostbite Series 2026

***Race Reports &
Results Summary***



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Upcoming Events This Month

April is shaping up to be a very busy month with multiple events! A new 'year' has started, hoping to welcome back our summer members and hopefully some new faces. We will begin another series and sailing is now permitted any day on Rollesby Broad as long as adequate safety cover is arranged (e.g organising a small group via the WhatsApp community). For full details of the sailing programme, see link here: <https://www.rbsc.org.uk/racing-2/programme-2026-27/>

- **Spring Open Regatta – Sunday 5th of April**

Start of the new series, visitors welcome and encouraged!

<https://www.rbsc.org.uk/2026/03/spring-regatta-april-5th/>

- **Spring 'Social' – Saturday 11th of April**

Rigging and preparing the club boats for the new season ahead. All welcome to do some spring cleaning of their own boats and dust off their sailing boots! Safety cover and social sailing all day with race 'training/coaching' for those interested starting after lunch.

- **First Eel's Foot Race – Sunday 12th of April**

Sunday morning adventure onto the other broad, our unique passage race!

- **Junior Friday Evening's Begin – Friday 17th of April**

We welcome back all our families to Rollesby Junior Training, with Block 1 fully booked up.

<https://www.rbsc.org.uk/rya-training/>

- **Eastern Area Solo Open – Saturday 18th of April**

Competitive event for Solo Dinghies. Formal racing and visitors expected, we hope for a good representation of Rollesby Solo Sailors! <https://www.rbsc.org.uk/2026/03/solo-open-sat-18th-april/>

- **Wednesday Evening Series Begins – Wednesday 22nd of April**

Pursuit Racing with starts times calculated on boat PY and helms previous performance, it creates individual start times so no busy start line to contend with.

- **Open Day – Saturday 25th of April**

Rollesby is open to all visitors and members of the public to come along and try sailing at our club. Experienced sailors give tours and boat rides (free of charge), aiming to attract people to sign up as a club member and/or book on a course.

<https://www.rbsc.org.uk/2026/03/open-day-25th-april/>

Week 1 – Sunday the 8th February:

A light southerly breeze was welcomed by 24 dinghies which was a nice change after three consecutive weeks of persistent easterlies. With the wind finally switching to the south, competitors enjoyed the chance to stretch their legs as the course was set the length and breadth of the broad.

In Race 1, the Multi-Sail fleet's five Wayfarers delivered some excellent class competition. David Houghton crewed by John Simmonds, and Chris Foster crewed by Chris Codling, were locked in a race-long duel. On the final leg, Houghton managed to edge ahead and secure the win, closely followed by Tony Fulford (Comet Trio) who took third. In the Single-Sail fleet, the faster boats pulled away early. Mike Gower (Solution) maintained his lead throughout to take first place, followed by Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) in second and John Saddington (Solo) third.

Race 2 brought a course change, but the Multi-Sail results mirrored the opening race. Again Houghton (Wayfarer) was first and Foster (Wayfarer) second. Fulford (Comet Trio) although second boat home, was dropped into third on corrected time. The Single-Sail fleet saw a much tighter contest as the breeze faded with each lap. Bull (Laser/ILCA 7) escaped early and held on for the win, with Kevin Edwards (Solo) second and Saddington (Solo) again third



Close competition in the Multi-Sail Fleet – [Flickr Album from Kevin](#)

Week 2 – Sunday the 15th February:

A lively Southerly breeze delivered challenging but exhilarating conditions for 12 dinghies. Icy showers swept across the water, giving sailors plenty to contend with while spectators enjoyed the racing from the warmth of the clubhouse.

In Race 1, the Multi-Sail fleet saw Phil and Tamsin Highfield (RS200) break clear early, powering down the reaches under spinnaker. Although the Highfields were first across the line, they dropped to third on corrected time behind the Wayfarers. David Houghton, crewed by John Simmonds, maintained a narrow advantage over Chris Foster, crewed by Chris Codling, to secure the win. In the Single-Sail fleet, the boats gradually spread out, with Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) leading the way. Roger Wilson (Streaker) stayed in touch and claimed victory over Bull by just two seconds on handicap, with Ellie Edwards (Splash) taking third.

Race 2 once again saw the Highfields surge ahead in the Multi-Sail fleet and this time hold their lead on corrected time. Foster and Houghton resumed their Wayfarer duel, with Houghton taking second after getting ahead of Foster on the final leg. In the Single-Sail fleet, Bull and Wilson continued their close contest, but Edwards kept up and snatched the win by 15 seconds on handicap. Remarkably, Bull and Wilson finished tied on corrected time, both sharing second place.



Phil and Tamsin flying in their RS200 – [Flickr Album from Kevin](#)

Week 3 – Sunday the 22nd February:

A gusty, shifty westerly wind made for demanding racing with 16 dinghies battling the unpredictable conditions. Junior sailor Dalton joined in, enjoying a fair few number of capsizes in his Topper.

In Race 1, David Houghton, crewed by John Simmonds (Wayfarer) established an early lead and maintained this to the finish. A capsize with the spinnaker up dropped Howard Astely-Jones (RS Vareo) to the back, allowing Gareth Thomas (Wayfarer) to secure second and Shaun Burland (Wayfarer) third, both crew names not known. In the Single-Sail fleet, Darren Pike (Phantom) powered ahead in clear air and quickly broke away. Roger Wilson (Streaker) was leading the remaining pack until an unexpected swim let Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) through into second. Pike remained comfortably ahead on corrected time, with Bull taking second and Ellie Edwards (Splash) close enough for third.

For Race 2 in the Multi-Sail fleet, Astely-Jones dominated from the start, building a commanding lead. Houghton and Thomas engaged in a close Wayfarer duel, with Thomas appearing set to take the advantage until a poor final mark rounding allowed Houghton to slip inside and beat him to the line by half a boat-length. In the Single-Sail fleet, the boats spread out with each lap. The leaders could not escape Chris Barker (ILCA 6), who snatched the win from Bull by a single second on handicap, with Wilson third.



Single-Sail fleet heading downwind – [Flickr Album from both Kevin and Glenn](#)

Week 4 – Sunday the 1st of March:

A strong south-westerly breeze met 26 sailors. White horses rolled down the broad, turning the racing into both a test of nerve and sometimes survival. Three juniors turned out for an exhilarating sail!

Race 1 began with nine boats in the Multi-Sail fleet, though two Wayfarers retired early, both due to various gear failures. Chris Foster, crewed by Chris Codling (Wayfarer) and Howard Astely-Jones (RSVareo) powered down the broad under spinnaker, with Foster establishing a commanding lead that was held to the finish. Astely-Jones secured second, with Gareth Thomas (Wayfarer) in third.

The Single-Sail fleet saw sixteen starters, but only half reached the finish line as fierce gusts and several brutal capsizes forced eight retirements. Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) and Tamsin Highfield (RSAero 7) led throughout, with Bull taking the win both on the water and on corrected-time. Although Tamsin finished close behind, she slipped to third on handicap, edged out by just 18 seconds by Ellie Edwards (Splash).

Race 2 in the Multi-Sail fleet produced identical results to Race 1, with Foster first, Astely-Jones second, and Thomas in third. In the Single-Sail fleet, Phillip Highfield (RSAero 7) broke clear to finish a minute ahead of Bull, but corrected-time reversed their positions by 17 seconds, with Edwards again third. Junior sailor Dalton (Topper) endeavoured to complete both races, finishing 8th and 4th, showing excellent determination.



Single-Sail fleet showing the 16 starters for Race 1 – [Flickr Album from Kevin](#)

Week 5 – Sunday the 8th of March:

A gentle easterly breeze and low grey skies met 27 sailors who launched into the mist and drifted down the broad towards the start line. Both fleets soon found themselves battling congestion at several marks, with the wind shifting unpredictably, sometimes 15 boats piled into the leeward approach!

Race 1 in the Multi-Sail fleet saw Steve Whitby (National 12) and Tony Fulford (Comet Trio) break clear of the Wayfarers early. Fulford crossed the line first, but on corrected time he missed victory by just two seconds, giving Whitby the win. Three minutes behind, the Wayfarers battled for a podium place, with David Houghton, crewed by John Simmonds eventually securing third.

In the Single-Sail fleet, seven Solos produced excellent class racing. Kevin Edwards (Solo) established an early lead and held it comfortably to the finish. Roger Wilson (Streaker) led the chasing group, but John Saddington (Solo) closed steadily on the final lap, pushing Wilson into third on handicap by only 20 seconds.

In Race 2 Houghton and Fulford read the shifts best, pulling away from the Multi-Sail Fleet. Houghton took the win, Fulford followed closely in second, and Howard Asterly Jones (RSVareo) finished three minutes behind in third. In the Single-Sail fleet, Phillip Highfield (RSAero 7) stayed far enough ahead to win on corrected time, with Edwards second and Wilson just nine seconds back in third.



Steve and Tony breaking away from the Wayfarers – [Flickr Album from Kevin](#)

Week 6 – Sunday the 15th of March:

A strong south-westerly met the sailors this time, in a stark contrast to last week's grey drift. The bright skies returned and the wind whipped the water into foam that gathered against the jetties. 22 dinghies launched for Race 1, but fierce gusts caused some to return ashore before the start signal.

In the Multi-Sail fleet, only two Wayfarers ventured out as the others had their turn on Race Duty. David Houghton crewed by John Simmonds powered ahead, managing the tough conditions well to secure a commanding win. Phil and Lorna Harlow battled through and earned a well-deserved second place.

The Single-Sail fleet saw more than half of the twenty competitors retiring at various stages. Chris Barker (ILCA 6) and Roger Wilson (Streaker) broke away as Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) played catch-up after his multiple capsize from the lead during Lap 1. Wilson crossed the line narrowly ahead of Bull and Barker, but was knocked into third on corrected-time. Ellie Edwards (Splash) kept in touch throughout, closing the gap each lap to take first on handicap, with Barker in second. Junior sailor Matthew enjoyed plenty of thrills and spills in his Splash, finishing eighth. With conditions worsening, Race 2 was cancelled but a few hardy sailors went back out for an exhilarating blast.



Daniel's first falling over of the day and then being over taken by Chris!



Single-Sail fleet powering downwind – [Flickr Album by both Kevin and Glenn](#)

Week 7 – Sunday the 22nd March:

Sunny skies and a shifty, light easterly breeze met 21 competitors. Although gentle, the wind proved unpredictable, often arriving from behind at awkward moments and triggering several bunch-ups across the fleets.

In Race 1 for the Multi-Sail fleet, Tony Fulford (Comet Trio) and Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo) broke clear early and settled into a duel for line honours. Fulford came first, with Astley-Jones second and Chris Foster, crewed by Chris Codling (Wayfarer) taking third. In the Single-Sail fleet, Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) and John Saddington (Solo) escaped initially, only to run into congestion with the Wayfarers on Lap 1. This allowed Roger Wilson (Streaker) to slowly catch up, finishing first on the water and beating Saddington on corrected-time by just two seconds. Bull slipped off the podium when Ellie Edwards (Splash) claimed third with only five seconds on handicap.

Race 2 delivered even more drama. Steve Whitby, crewed by junior sailor Matthew (National 12) held a top-three position throughout and secured the win on handicap. Fulford, despite finishing first on the water, was caught by the rest of the fleet in a chaotic finish-line pile-up caused by a late wind shift, leaving him second and Astley-Jones third. The same shift compressed much of the Single-Sail fleet, but Edwards stayed close enough to take victory on corrected-time. Mike Horwitz (Solo) finished second, followed by Saddington in third.



Daniel and John catching up the Wayfarers – [Flickr Album from Kevin](#)

Week 8 – Sunday the 29th March:

The clocks sprung forward and 25 dinghies turned out for the end of series racing. A lively south-westerly delivered excellent class completion for the Wayfarers and Solos, creating exciting yet challenging conditions.

In Race 1 for the Multi-Sail fleet, six Wayfarers enjoyed close racing but it was David Houghton, crewed by John Simmonds and Chris Foster, crewed by Chris Codling, who battled at the front. Houghton eventually broke clear to take the win, with Foster second and Bob Sparrow (Wayfarer) third. In the Single-Sail fleet, Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) pulled ahead early and held off Roger Wilson (Streaker), who finished just six seconds behind on corrected-time. Chris Barker (ILCA 7) kept the eight-strong Solo pack at bay to secure third.

Race 2 brought stronger winds and large gusts, prompting some to stay ashore and others to retire. In the Multi-Sail Fleet, Houghton and Foster resumed their duel, this time with Foster edging ahead to claim victory, while Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo) took third. A congested Single-Sail start soon gave way to a familiar leading trio as Barker, Bull and Wilson broke clear. Bull stretched away on the final lap, but Wilson stayed close enough to produce a rare dead-heat on handicap, the pair sharing the win with Barker again in third.



Daniel leading the Single-Sail fleet downwind – [Flickr Album from both Kevin and Glenn](#)

Summary

We had an excellent turn out for the Frostbite Series this year, with an average of 18 boats seen across the 8 weeks. Sailors had to count 5 races, with only three discards the results would be close. Both fleets had very tight competition, with the overall winners and runners up for Race 1 and 2 not being decided until the final week!

Key contenders for the title in the Multi-Sail fleet were David Houghton with crew John Simmonds, and Chris Foster with crew Chris Codling. Most weeks those two Wayfarers battled it out for line honours at the front of the fleet. This season the Wayfarers have been particularly competitive and enjoying their class racing, with at least 5 regularly making up the majority of the Multi-Sail fleet. This enabled 'Wayfarer Trophy' to be well contested, in memorial of Dennis Manning, for the most successful Wayfarer competing over the Autumn, Winter and Frostbite series.

In the Single-Sail fleet, it was Solos who dominated numbers. Having 10 entrants throughout the series and some weeks they made up at least a third of the fleet. A pattern soon emerged seeing the same few names being mentioned in the reports – Daniel, Roger, Chris, John, then Ellie and Kevin Edwards. These sailors were consistently in the top third of the fleet, with Roger and Dan tying twice in a dead-heat on handicap!

We experienced a wide range of weather conditions, from wintery showers in strong wind to light mist and fog on a calmer day, plus some heavy rain and bright sun. The wind strength seemed to alternate, one week being lighter airs then the next a very fresh breeze, with at least 4 weeks being quite windy. The wind direction was mostly between the West and South, with a couple of gentle easterlies too. No two days are ever the same at Rollesby!

Overall Results

Full Results for the series are available on the website [– here.](#)

<u><i>Race 1 – Multi-Sail Fleet</i></u>	<u><i>Race 2 – Multi-Sail Fleet</i></u>
1. David Houghton & John Simmonds (Wayfarer)	1. David Houghton & John Simmonds (Wayfarer)
2. Chris Foster & Chris Codling (Wayfarer)	2. Chris Foster & Chris Codling (Wayfarer)
3. Tony Fulford (Comet Trio)	3. Howard Astley-Jones (RS Vareo)

<u><i>Race 1 – Single-Sail Fleet</i></u>	<u><i>Race 2 – Single-Sail Fleet</i></u>
1. Daniel Bull (ILCA 7)	1. Daniel Bull (ILCA 7)
2. Roger Wilson (Streaker)	2. Roger Wilson (Streaker)
3. Ellie Edwards (Splash)	3. Ellie Edwards (Splash)
4. Kevin Edwards (Solo)	4. Chris Barker (ILCA 6&7)
5. Chris Barker (ILCA 6&7)	5. John Saddington (Solo)

<u><i>Wayfarer Trophy</i></u>
1. David Houghton & John Simmonds
2. Chris Foster & Chris Codling
3. Bob Sparrow & Various Crews