

PERIHELION 118

*Comet
Class Association
Newsletter*

Spring 2016



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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 118

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 Class Association
 Website:- www.cometsailing.org.uk

Chairman's Report

Chair's Mutterings

Now that the sailing season has now started, we have already had the first open meeting at Frensham Ponds which was shared with the Solo class. The rest of the open meeting programme will continue in April with events at Hunts SC, Fishers Green SC, Shearwater SC and Burghfield SC, and will be followed by the Association Championships at the beginning of May which is being hosted by Sutton Bingham SC. As



always thank you to Norah for the work she puts in liaising and negotiating with the clubs that offer to host events for the class. This year, Nigel and Sarah Austin are the contacts for the two championships and are busy finalising the details with Sutton Bingham SC and Rutland SC, who are hosting this year's National Championship.

As in previous year's the class has also exhibited at the Suzuki RYA Dinghy Show held at Alexandra Palace at the beginning of March. Many thanks to those members who spent a few hours on the stand promoting the class association and the boat, special thanks also to John Sturgeon and Steve Gregory for organising the stand and volunteers, Henry for his art work, and Andy for providing the boats.

The on going process of updating and improving the class website has been progressing over the winter, there is an article later in this edition from Nigel Fern detailing some of the up-

dates. As ever, please let the committee know what you would like to see on the website. One of the big changes over the winter is to set up a number of job/role related email addresses for some of the members of the committee. These are transferable as members of the committee changes - no more remembering individuals personal email addresses. One additional email address that has been set up is

"information@cometsailing.org.uk", the intention is to use it for all communication to the members of the association. If you think that you are not receiving any emails from the association, please check your junk/spam folder just in case it has been quarantined.

Most of you will remember the photograph competition that we ran for a number of years, this year we will be running a new competition to encourage more entertaining or unusual articles for the Perihelion. These do not have to be exclusively about the racing, and prizes will be awarded for the winning articles. Brian Welham has more details later in this addition
See you on the water during the season,

Paul Hinde C844

The password for the members section of the class website has changed, it will now be: ***inear2016***

/

Secretary's Report

Notes from the committee:

1. We seem to have had vast quantities of rain this winter, so hopefully all the reservoirs and ponds will be full for the sailing season.
2. Chris Robinson braved the elements and competed in the Bloody Mary, taking 193rd place in some challenging winds and a large fleet. Nigel Austin was also on the water, but chose his D-Zero as the Bloody Mary is included in their programme of events. Perhaps Comets should consider doing the same.
3. Our programme, which includes 22 Open meetings, will have started before you receive this copy of Perihelion. Frensham Pond have invited us to join the Solos again. The joint Open meeting is on Saturday 20th March, so slightly earlier than our usual start date. You will find all of the events set out on the credit-card sized programme which is included with this newsletter. We're delighted to have been invited back to Gunfleet, after a very long absence. You will find the details of the Aphelions elsewhere.
4. Sadly we are unable to return to Kingsmead. Their new landlord had refused to renew their lease, so, after many years, this very family friendly club will close in March.
5. The National Championships will be at Rutland SC from Friday 12th – Sunday 14th August, and the Association Championships will be at Sutton Bingham SC over the weekend of 7th and 8th May.
6. The Annual General Meeting for 2016 will be at Rutland Water on Saturday 13th August. Please send any motions by 23rd July 2016.



7. Thank you to John Sturgeon and Steve Gregory for organising our stand at the Dinghy Show and to Andy who brought 2 boats to display
8. Your Committee met recently and discussed a variety of subjects. This included making some modifications to the website, so please let us know if they meet your approval. Paul has subsequently set up a number of email addresses, linked to the website, which you can use to contact various members of the committee. This will mean that you won't have to memorize a different address when someone new takes over a particular role.
9. The Committee also decided to replace some of the Aphelion trophies as the cups used for the Eastern, Western and Northern Aphelions are looking very sorry for themselves, and there is no room for any more names on them. We'll make sure that the replacements will have room for all the names so that the history of each event is preserved.
10. Comet Number 1 – Numero Uno – is in need of some TLC, so we have asked Brian Herring to advise on what needs to be done. If you would like to sail Numero Uno at the Championships, please let us know. The Committee decided to use the same rules as last year to ensure that you won't be disadvantaged by doing so.
11. The committee was reminded that Brian Welham has produced 30 editions of Perihelion, which is an amazing feat. As you know, we have been looking at ways of balancing the costs and benefits of the newsletter with our increased use of the website. Paul is continuing to add previous editions of Perihelion to the latter. We decided that this year we will produce Perihelion in April, July and December. Brian will give you details of a competition too.

12. 2016 is the Comet's birthday. We decided to try to find all of the Comets, so Nigel Austin is doing some detective work. Do let him know about others at your club.
13. Your committee also talked about the work which it does, and decided to produce some job descriptions. These will be particularly useful as committee members retire. The jobs included are: Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Results Co-ordinator and Events Organiser.
14. Congratulations are in order for a number of members: Alun and Kate Bevan on the birth of Ffion; Clive Chapman on becoming Commodore of Shearwater SC ; Ben Palmer on being elected Commodore of Baltic Wharf SC.

Norah Jagers Class Secretary

The photographs in this issue were printed with the kind permission from the following.

Cover	<i>Don't Know!</i>
P12 & 13	Keith Lamden
P23 & P25	Steve Gregory
P24	Brian Welham

Builders Report

I've just returned from the Dinghy Show via Worthing on the South Coast where I dropped off a Comet Xtra to Lancing Sailing Club. Evidently Bob Dodds did well there in a race meeting which might have helped.



The other Comet at the show was rigged as standard on the Class stand and should sell soon.

Major change here at South Molton, the big old premises I've been in has been sold and I'm moving to a much smaller unit at Ashreigney, a small village 15 minutes towards home.

You can only begin to imagine the amount of "stuff" accumulated over 35 years or so! The phone number will be the same initially, but keep an eye on our website for the new number and the new address appears below.

I was going to ask you all for patience whilst we are moving regarding ordering spares and us answering the phone but I've just realized that by the time you read this I should be moved in and business as usual.

At the dinghy Show I discovered the association championships are at Sutton Bingham near Yeovil which is almost local so I'll hopefully see some of you there early May.

Comet Dinghies

Unit 4 Valley View Business Park
Ashreigney
Chumleigh
Devon
EX18 7ND

Andy Simmons

APHELIONS 2016

Travellers Trophies

Northern

Sat 21/05/16 Winsford Flash
Sat 18/06/16 Attenborough
Sun 31/07/16 Cransley
Sat 15/10/16 Redesmere
Sat **22/10/16 Staunton Harold**

Southern

Sun 20/03/16 Frensham Pond
Sat 16/04/16 Fishers Green
Sat 16/07/16 Hawley Lake
Sun 11/09/16 Littleton
Sat 24/09/16 Cotswold
Sat **08/10/16 Crawley Mariners**

Eastern

Sun 17/04/16 Hunts
Sat 23/04/16 Burghfield
Sat 11/06/16 Chipstead
Sun 10/07/16 Gunfleet
Sun **02/10/16 Up River**

Western

Sat 09/04/16 Shearwater
Sun 05/06/16 Baltic Wharf
Sat 06/08/16 Mudeford
Sat 03/09/16 Severn
Sun 18/09/16 Merthyr Tydfil
Sat **01/10/15 Bristol and Avon**

How to qualify for the Travellers' Trophies

This year there are currently 22 Open meetings in 4 Aphelion areas. There are 2 discards available in each Aphelion. Therefore, in order to qualify for a regional prize you need to enter a minimum of 4 events where there are 6 Opens, and 3 where there are 5. Your best results will automatically be counted towards your overall place.

The Orbital Trophy is our overall Travellers' competition. To qualify, you need to enter a minimum of 6 events which include events in at least 2 regions (Aphelions) and one of the national events (National or Association Championships). Your best 6 results will be counted towards the trophy. If there is a tie, the tie break will be determined by your result at the National Championships.

If an event is cancelled, the results for those events will be determined by calculating the average results in that series.

Just another near-miss - see later



New Beaches at the Gunfleet

Work commenced in the Autumn of 2014 to protect the sea front from Holland Haven to Clacton Pier with about one third completed before a winter break for the weather. Starting again in the Spring from the other end at the pier towards, and then past, our sailing club, we received our beach back for use at the end of August.

We are now protected by a bay, loosely known as Gunfleet Bay, with a rock groyne in place to the east at Star Point next to our slipway and a stretch of sand/gravel for 200 yards to the east and another groyne. This pattern repeats for the whole 3 mile works extent and allows easy beaching and launching for sailing, canoeing and fishing.

With three months experience, we are delighted with the results that put our previous facilities in the shade. Whilst there is some surf on the beach in rough conditions, there is always shelter in the calm behind the groynes and we can now easily sail and recover at any state of tide with little risk of any damage to the boats from the surface of the foreshore.





A group of us have had lovely midweek sails since August and travelled some distances along the new coast. I often still prefer the Mino rig for ease of use but, on a light wind day, I used the full Hyde and ran from behind to be ahead of a Solution that is a faster boat. Later, as we beat for home, the wind increased to Force 3 and it was a delight to sail the boat as the tide helped us back to the club.

Gunfleet is in good shape with improvements also to the Clubhouse and, while there is still work to be done, signs are good for a full season in 2016. I am so enthused by the new facilities, that I might even come out of retirement and try some racing again!

I understand from Norah that it is possible we might host an Open next season and, whilst I know some are wary of the sea and we cannot promise the weather, I would urge you to give us a try. Some of the first meetings of the Class were at Gunfleet and, on a good day, I can promise you some wonderful sailing.

Keith Lamdin. (C55)

Manure...

An interesting fact about Manure:

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything for export had to be transported by ship. It was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOM.....

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction ' Stow high in transit ' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this "volatile" cargo and start the production of methane. Thus evolved the term ' S.H.I.T ', (Stow High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day. You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I. .

Norah Jagers



Comet

COMET EVENTS 2016

*35 years
of Class racing and
still going strong!*

March	*		
20	Sun	S	Frensham Pond
April			
9	Sat	W	Shearwater
16	Sat	S	Fishers Green
17	Sun	E	Hunts
23	Sat	E	Burghfield
May			
7	Sat	} }	ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS at SUTTON BINGHAM
8	Sun		
21	Sat	N	Winsford Flash
June			
5	Sun	W	Baltic Wharf
11	Sat	E	Chipstead
18	Sat	N	Attenborough

July

10 Sun E Gunfleet
 16 Sat S Hawley Lake
 31 Sun N Cransley

August

6 Sat W Mudeford

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

& AGM at RUTLAND

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**Sept**

3 Sat W Severn
 11 Sun S Littleton
 18 Sun W Merthyr Tydfil
 24 Sat S Cotswold

October

1 Sat W Bristol and Avon
 2 Sun E Up River
 8 Sat S Crawley Mariners
 15 Sat N Redesmere
 22 Sat N Staunton Harold

*** Aphelion areas:**

N=Northern; S=Southern; E=Eastern;
 W=Western.

The final venue in each region is shown in bold where we intend to present the appropriate Aphelion prizes and mementoes. Orbital prizes, mementoes and end of season trophies will be presented at Staunton Harold.

Dates correct as at 24th Feb 2016

Confirm before travelling.

Why sail the Comet

What makes a Comet attractive

I have sailed a many different types of dinghies since i was 7 (now 54!) and have enjoyed all (although the Concept 302 which was not quite as expected). But what sets the Comet apart is that i do love sailing it in any condition thinking that i can eke out a result on handicap (although i think this is only on smaller waters from my experience). I am not the ideal weight but even that doesn't really seem to matter (certainly less so than with my other passion the DZero), so why???? I have listed the key factors which i think are the reasons why it is such an endearing boat and will sustain its appeal for years to come:

It appeals equally to all ages, weights and gender

It is simple to sail – yet the complexity comes with when you want to go a little faster than others in a race!!

It is an everlasting boat – in vehicle terms something like a landrover - in that as long as it is maintained it will keep going for ever (not too good on vehicles!) - but definitely not a Fiat rust bucket

You can race in a friendly circuit and every now and again everyone can be up the front (and at the back),

It still retains an element of danger when sailing in windy conditions – everyone seems to capsize

These are the reasons i can write down, but there is an X Factor that lies out there, that keeps me coming back for more – just cant quite define it (answers on a post card!!)

Nigel Austin 875

Insight on the Website

If you have recently had a look at the CCA website (www.cometsailing.org.uk) you will have noticed a number of changes, hopefully for the better.

For those of you who have not, could I recommend that you do. You will find a new 'Home' page outlining the aim of CCA website, the latest news, and up coming events on a rolling program, so if you are not sure what is happening or where the next four Opens are to be staged, then the Home page is where you need to go.

The 'Why Comet?' page is currently under review. If you have any comments as to why you sail a Comet, that you feel could be used to encourage others, then please send them to Brian Welham (NewsEditor@cometsailing.org.uk).

Paul Hinde has added a second gallery of images from 2014 and hopefully we will have a rolling program of yearly images, but we need the images to start off with. If you have any Comet-based images from 2015 please let Paul have them (chairman@cometsailing.org.uk).

The Calendar is now a scroll down list of events, where you will find all of the essential information for that event – just click "Find out more".

The top menu bar has been changed. A new item 'Information' has been added to provide just that!
The 'Members Area' has been reviewed and improved. The Rig

debate continues although 'Status Quo' seems to be winning at the moment. If you have opinions on the ability or not to change Rigs during Opens please get in touch. In addition Paul has added the last 5 editions of Perihelion, as a quick reference point and more will be added in the future, when work allows – oh the joy of being retired!

Finally the Contact page is under development. The first thing to mention is the new 'corporate' e-mail address -@cometsailing.org.uk, for the officers of the Association and secondly there will be a new set of images so that we are all recognisable.

Finally if you have any ideas to further improve the website please let us know.

Nigel Fern (website development team)

Perihelion 119

Please send your contributions for the next issue of
Perihelion by

1st June 2016

To Brian Welham, Class Editor, 9 Murrell Court
St Neots Cambs PE19 1LL
e-mail bwelham@sky.com

COMET SPARES, REPAIRS AND ACCESSORIES

Don't forget all spares and accessories are held in stock and can often be with you in less than 24 hours if you order in the morning.

New Dinghies	A selection always in stock
Comet	£4050
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Comet Mino	£4000
Standard Sail	£ 320
Standard Sail with Zipper	£ 350
Zippered Sail Conversion Kit	£ 30
Mino Sail	£ 280
Xtra Sail	£ 385
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e-mail cometdinghies@btconnect.com

2016 Dinghy Show

The Comet Class Association again had a stand at the 2016 dinghy show which was adjacent to the Comet Dinghies stand. Andy Simmons kindly lent us a standard rigged boat whilst he showed the Xtra rig. The two rigs again was a source of conversations with new and established Comet sailors.

We had a lot of help from members who came from as far as South Wales, Derbyshire Sussex and Cambridgeshire.

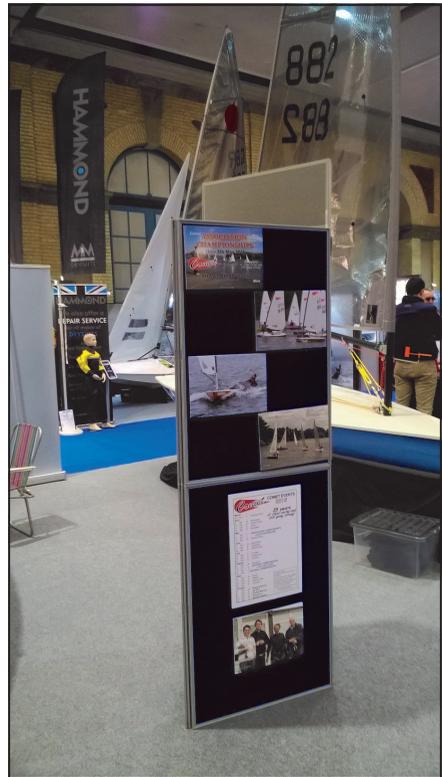
It is a long day and journeys for all of them and we would like to say thank you . You can see the Sunday group in the photo below but we had five more on Saturday.



Thank you to John Coppenhall, Eddie Pope, Brian Welham, Mark Govier, Bob Dodds Steve Gregory Ben Palme, Chris Robinson Nigel Austin and of course to Andy Simmons for building such a strong and durable craft. Although not on site we were also indebted to John Surgeon for doing all the organising of the position and the passes and to Henry Jaggars for the photos and brochures that we displayed and handed out. We should have had Michael Ettershank on the stand to do the setting up but he injured himself on Friday morning but he did manage to arrange for the stands and photos to get to us in time.



This is the stand just after set up and before the public were admitted.





For those who did not go or who have never been this is what it looks like from outside with the first TV transmission mast and if you turn round you can see the new London sky

Association Championships 2016

7-8th May 2016

Location Sutton Bingham Sailing Club, Sutton Hill, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 9QP
(01935) 862933

Type of water Sutton Bingham Reservoir is a T shaped lake with the tail pointing south of about 120 acres

Access

SBSC plan to open the club property at 6pm on Friday to allow for early arrivals. Access from the A37 between Yeovil and Dorchester

Accommodation

Local hotels and guest houses can be found from the usual internet sites.

Unfortunately SBSC can't allow people to camp on site in tents or to sleep in the clubhouse. For camping, people could try the following websites which are both within 10 miles of the club.

<http://www.masonsarmsodcombe.co.uk/> <http://www.lyons-gate.co.uk/>

Vans may park overnight Friday and Saturday on site for a charge of £10 per van per night.

Races

There will be 5 races with one discard

SBSC will ask that people arrive and sign on between 8.30am and 10.30 am on the Saturday and there will be a briefing from the Race Officer at around 10.30 am.

NOR

A full NOR will be issued online but racing signals will not be before 11am on the first day and not after 3pm on Sunday

Registration

SBSC will ask helms to register online in advance.

Charges

This is not finalised at the moment but is expected to be £30 for advances booking but £35 for payment on the 1st day.

The charge will include a hot drink and breakfast sandwich on day one.

Food etc

At this moment SBSC propose Jacket potatoes with fillings for Saturday lunch at £2.50, and a bar b q for Saturday evening at £5,

Sunday breakfast would be paid for at galley, SBSC expect to offer Sunday lunch of pasta bolognese at £2.50 after sailing and before the prize giving.

SBSC are planning to arrange a pre-order arrangement probably with the entry form.

Unfortunately the club is not licensed to sell alcohol so people wishing to drink with the bar-b-q will need to bring their own. Soft drinks will be on sale throughout Saturday and Sunday.

SBSC is also expecting to provide some entertainment on the Saturday evening at which both visitors and club members will be welcome.

Please note the above is a provisional notice and all helms should visit the Sutton Bingham SC website to confirm before attending.

Editorial

Hi,

We don't have a huge amount to report this time but I would like to draw your attention to the Association Championships which will be a Sutton Bingham. At the time of going to press all the details have not been finalised so the little piece on page Is what we have at the moment. Some of the details may change and you will need to look on the SBSC website to book your place. www.suttonbinghams.net



I would like to thank our president Keith Lamden for organising an Open at Gunfleet (Clacton) and for providing the on his club. You will note that at the time of his writing it he did not know if an open was arranged. This is because he wrote it in November and sent it to me but due to a technical hitch (error) a lot of my e-mails were deleted before I read and saved them. If any of you sent me something towards the end of last year and you have not seen them in the magazine please let me know.

I thought you might like to see the latest Comet from 30 years ago. I have no idea who was sailing it but perhaps one of our more mature helms will let us know. I had an idea whilst at the dinghy show of perhaps sharing our near misses or near disasters, either by photo evidence or a small piece for us to read. Just to start the process I have dug, from the archives, a few pictures of wipe-outs for your amusement. They may not has all been a ducking as the photo of me in 711 on its "ears" at Waldringfield did not end in a capsize so "bah!"

Please remove the centre page and pin it up in you clubhouse to encourage other Comet sailors to go to open meetings as the committee spend a lot of time coordinating these events.

Finally you will note that Andy Simmons has moved his operation down the road and expects his phone number to be unchanged but he and Karen can be reached by e-mail if the phone does not connect. Good luck Andy with the new premises and we will expect a full report on the move for the next issue.



Yes it is me to the left and I claim it did not capsize. I think it is John Windibank with Mark Coppenhall at the top and it is his brother Ian on the top left.

I know it is Ian C on the left but I can't remember who was sailing 107 at the time. Perhaps someone can tell us.

Brian Welham C801



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Built 1996, red hull with white deck, rear main.
Ready to sail, launch trolley, praddle, foils, top cover. Original handbook and registration.

4 owners from new

Berthed at Tamworth Sailing Club, Staffordshire.

£995 o.n.o.

Contact: Gill Holmes 01827 260859/ 07950 840048

Comet 588

Built 1993, red hull with white deck, rear main. Good condition.

Ready to sail, folding launch trolley, foils, top cover. Original handbook and registration. 3 owners from new.

Berthed at Draycote Water near Rugby.

£650 o.n.o.

Contact: Andy Jack 01926 815522 or 07805 506115

Comet Zero, sail no.105

Blue /white good condition for year spinnaker, furling jib, wooden fenders, outboard pad, launching trolley and non standard road trailer.

£1050 ono

Tel: 01202 690671

Mob: 07516846476

Email: ssappy@aol.com

Wanted

Wanted a full size top mast for comet

Contact: David Tarr

Email: davidtarr3@gmail.com



Comet Class Association

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association