



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 61
WINTER 2001/2002

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Cover picture: Ian Coppenhall with many trophies
(Photo: Anne Browning)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I will say (almost) nothing about the content of PH 60 as I thought I had already covered all you needed to know in my report! However, it was a lovely surprise for us both and something we will always cherish. Thank you, Alan, and thank you all once again for your good wishes.

2001 has been another excellent Comet year. After some disruptions and rescheduling caused by the terrible Foot and Mouth epidemic, events went ahead much as planned and were well supported. Despite obvious distractions of my own I once again managed to get to most and can vouch for the friendly enthusiasm of the sailors and organising clubs alike. Thank you, the clubs, for running these events, and, thank you, the competitors, for taking part.

Thank you too Littleton for hosting a really enjoyable and well attended Association Championship and, as I reported last time, the National Championships at Weymouth and Portland were also very well supported (especially for a tidal venue). Norah and I went back to the Portland and Weymouth Sailing Academy very recently to present them with a large commemorative picture which was well received. It features all the Comet Classes that took part over that weekend. The Academy has big plans to continue its development as an international and Olympic training centre and our photo will be a good advert for us displayed alongside of the "bigger" classes"

Phillip Hossell has written a full roundup of events which you can find later in this edition but my congratulations to our National Champion, John Challenger, and to Ian Coppenhall for winning nearly everything else!

Next year, 2002, the Comet comes of age! Yes, the class will be celebrating its 21st year and I would encourage you all to make it an extra special one whether racing or cruising. It is an ideal time for you to really push the boat out at your clubs and go for a surge in Comet sailing members, good for your club and for the class! If you have any ideas for us or think we could help you achieve this then please get in touch as soon as possible.

Make plans now to attend the National and the Association Championships, dates and venues for which you will find in "Notes from the Committee". The rest of the 2002 programme is nearly complete too and will be published in the Spring edition of Perihelion together with a programme card. Renew your membership now to make sure you get your copy!

As usual, the Association will be exhibiting at the NEC in February, at Alexandra Palace the beginning of March, and Comet Dinghies will be at the London Boat Show. If you can offer a little time to help, especially for the NEC show, please ring Paul Hinde before he rings you!

My sincere thanks to all the Committee, old and new, and to all who have contributed in any way during this past year. The Class could not succeed as it does without you.

We have a new annual trophy! Not necessarily for sailing but for "the person outside the committee who has contributed most to the promotion of the class". It has been generously donated by Liz and Phil Hossel on their retirement from the Committee and this year went to Sue Copenhall, a worthy winner!

That's about all for this time. Norah and I will be celebrating Christmas and New Year in Beer this year. It's quite an exciting prospect for us with all the changes as we look forward to 2002 and to another year of the Comet.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Good Sailing,

Henry Jagers, Chairman



Photographic competition: Winner - Comet racing

WINNERS OF THE 2001 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

As in previous years, all photos sent to the Editor as well as those entered directly were eligible. Plenty to choose from! This year the judging was done at the Kingsmead open during the lunch break. The photos were laid out anonymously and left with a team of judges, made up from committee and other members, not including the Chairman, none of whom had taken or submitted any of the entries, and instructed not to come out until they had made their decisions. Why so much detail? To cover any possible embarrassment, deserved or otherwise!

Comet Racing -

Winner - Norah Jagers. A dramatic shot taken at Severn SC during a very blustery event. Whether before or after she slipped over and dropped the camera in the mud I don't know. (Printed on page 3).

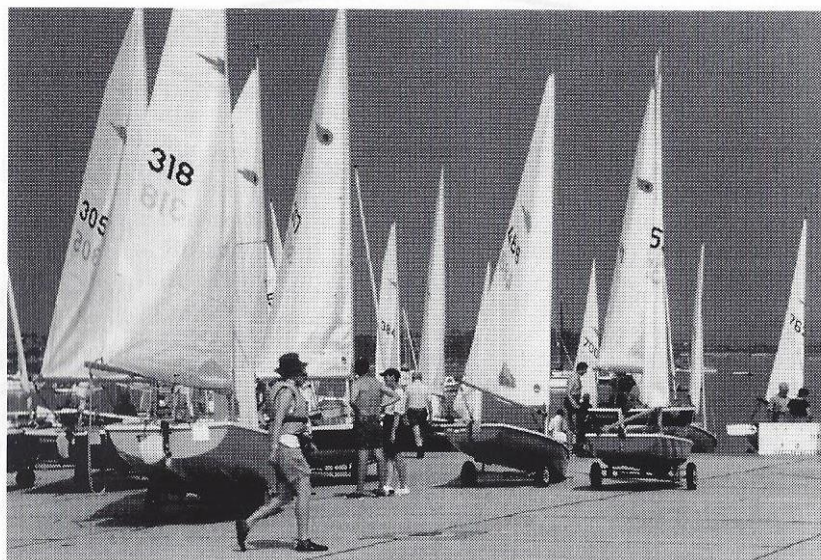
Runner-up - Norah. Boats lined up on the slipway at Portland and raring to go! When will the race committee release us?

Comet Fun -

Winner - Carolyn Beinon, a friend of the bride and groom. How this one got into the competition I don't know. And what's the connection with Comets and Fun anyway? I'm still shaking my head, but it is a very fine photo.

Runner-up - Norah. "New and Old" A lucky coincidence, this one, taken at the Nationals. To appreciate the joke you need to know that Peter Hayes is looking over his brand new Comet while, if you look through the sail window, you will see his old Comet on the car roof!





Runner - up: Comet racing



Runner - up: Comet fun

**FIRST SIX AT THE
OPEN MEETINGS**

NORTHERN AREA

Chester

- 1 636 I Coppenhall
- 2 800 H Jagers
- 3 620 A Bennett
- 4 803 P Hayes
- 5 488 E Coppenhall
- 6 548 P Hossell

NORTHERN AREA

Redesmere

- 1 636 I Coppenhall
- 2 548 P Hossell
- 3 620 A Bennett
- 4 803 P Hayes
- 5 488 E Coppenhall
- 6 780 P Mountford

SOUTHERN AREA

Kingsmead

- 1 636 I Coppenhall
- 2 620 A Bennett
- 3 800 H Jagers
- 4 548 P Hossell
- 5 750 R Smallwood
- 6 711 B Welham

EASTERN AREA

Hampton Pier

- 1 657 M Wilkins
- 2 700 J Windibank
- 3 63 C Robinson
- 4 532 J Coppenhall
- 5 641 P Hinde
- 6 247 B O'Herlihy

CENTRAL AREA

Severn

- 1 636 I Coppenhall
- 2 168 S Lemmon
- 3 548 P Hossell
- 4 532 J Coppenhall
- 5 800 H Jagers
- 6 724 R Lemmon

CENTRAL AREA

Staunton Harold

- 1 780 P Mountford
- 2 670 P Hayes
- 3 548 P Hossell
- 4 620 A Bennett
- 5 374 J Thompson
- 6 100 S Bellamy

WESTERN AREA

Sutton Bingham

- 1 419 P Govier
- 2 800 H Jagers
- 3 750 R Smallwood
- 4 711 B Welham
- 5 420 A Bevan
- 6 460 M Govier

WESTERN AREA

Pingewood

- 1 636 I Coppenhall
- 2 427 M Coppenhall
- 3 800 H Jagers
- 4 532 J Coppenhall
- 5 711 B Welham
- 6 63 C Robinson

WESTERN AREA

Shearwater

- 1 800 H Jagers
- 2 534 J Regnard
- 3 419 P Govier
- 4 707 D Coleman
- 5 420 A Bevan
- 6 460 M Govier

WESTERN AREA

Merthyr Tydfil

- 1 636 I Coppenhall
- 2 419 P Govier
- 3 168 S Lemmon
- 4 420 A Bevan
- 5 548 P Hossell
- 6 532 J Coppenhall

Note: These results are those that count towards the Traveller's Trophies. Results accrued by sailors who were not members of the Association at the time of the meetings are omitted.



On the river at the first Severn open meeting, Ros Stevenson and Roger Lemmon nearest the camera

APHELION RESULTS - 2001

NORTHERN AREA

			WFL	CMB	CRS	SHA	CHS	RDS	Pts
1	636	I Coppenhall	1	1	1		1	1	3
2	800	H Jagers	2	2	3	10			7
3	650	P Hossell	3		7	3	6	2	8
4	620	A Bennett				4	2	3	9
5	670	P Hayes	4	3			7	4	11
6	532	J Coppenhall	6	4	6		12	7	16
7	633	J Edwards	10		5		3	13	18
8	488	E Coppenhall	8				5	5	18
9	585	B Herring	5	5	9		13		19
10	100	S Bellamy	7	6		6	8	8	19
11	780	P Mountford			4		10	6	20
12	352	T Raine	12	10		7	4	9	20
13	762	R Stevenson	13	7	10		11		28
14	641	P Hinde	11	8		10			29
15	643	K Appleby	14		8		14	11	33
16	438	G Benson	15	9				13	37

EASTERN AREA

			FGR	CRW	CHP	CRN	HAM	Pts
1	636	I Coppenhall	1	1	1			3
2	657	M Wilkins		2	3		1	6
3	532	J Coppenhall	3	6	6		4	13
4	63	C Robinson		8	7		3	18
5	800	H Jagers	10	5		5		20
6	707	D Coleman	4	11	9			24
7	247	B O'Herlihy	15		11		6	32

SOUTHERN AREA

			TAP	AYL	FRN	MUD	KGM	Pts
1	636	I Coppenhall	1		1		1	3
2	711	B Welham	6	4	4	2	6	10
3	800	H Jagers	5		5		3	13
4	518	R Ballam	4	2	11			17
5	707	D Coleman	9		13	3	7	19
6	323	A Walter		5	9	5		19
7	750	R Smallwood	8		6		5	19
8	801	A Best	10	6	8			24
9	532	J Coppenhall	7	8	12		9	24
10	611	P Walter		9	15	4		28
11	63	C Robinson		10	14		8	32

WESTERN AREA

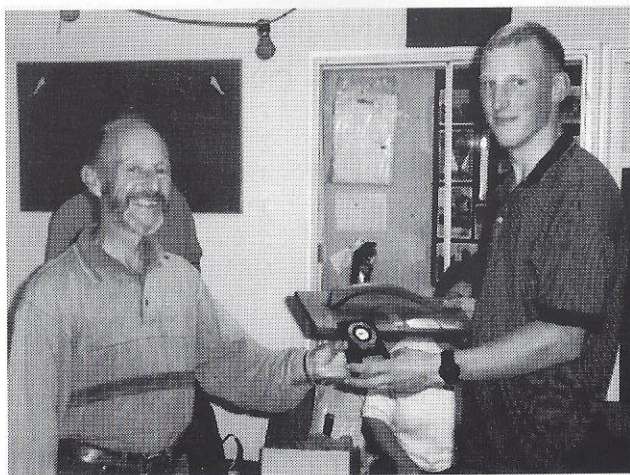
			RED	MUD	SBG	PNG	SHR	MER	Pts
1	636	I Coppenhall	1			1		1	3
2	419	P Govier	9		1	7	3	2	6
3	800	H Jagers	6		2	3	1	9	6
4	750	R Smallwood		1	3		7		11
5	420	A Bevan	10		5	8	5	4	14
6	460	M Govier	11		6	10	6	7	19
7	532	M Coppenhall	12			4		6	22

CENTRAL AREA

			NEN	NAS	CRN	BAN	SVN	SHA	Pts
1	636	I Coppenhall	1	1	1	1	1		3
2	427	M Coppenhall	9	4	2	2			8
3	620	A Bennett		2	4	3			9
4	650	P Hossell	3		3	11	3		9
5	800	H Jagers	2	3	5		5		10
6	532	J Coppenhall	4	5	6	8	4		13
7	780	P Mountford				7	7	1	15
8	670	P Hayes	8	6				2	16
9	585	B Herring	7	8	10	5	8		20
10	641	P Hinde	6	7	8	9			21
11	211	C Weston	5	11	9				25
12	762	R Stevenson	11	10	11	12	13		32

ORBITAL RESULTS - 2001

			Six best results						Nats	Assn	Mtgs	Pts
			1	1	1	1	1	1				
1	636	I Coppenhall	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	21	6
2	800	H Jagers	1	2	2	2	2	3	11	21	20	12
3	427	M Coppenhall	1	2	2	2	3	4	13		9	14
4	620	A Bennett	2	2	2	3	3	4	4		9	16
5	650	P Hossell	2	3	3	3	3	3	19	14	16	17
6	711	B Welham	2	3	4	4	4	5		8	10	22
7	532	J Coppenhall	3	4	4	4	4	4	26	17	23	23
8	188	S Thompson	2	2	3	4	7	7	7	3	6	25
9	803	P Hayes	2	3	4	4	6	7	7	3	6	26
10	750	R Smallwood	1	3	5	6	7	8	9	11	8	30
11	707	D Coleman	3	4	4	6	7	9	21	23	11	33
12	585	B Herring	5	5	5	7	8	8	15	26	12	38
13	518	R Ballam	2	4	5	6	11	13	14	13	7	41
14	801	A Best	4	6	6	7	8	10		6	7	41
15	63	C Robinson	3	6	7	8	8	10	23	12	10	42
16	641	P Hinde	5	6	7	8	8	9	22	31	11	43
17	488	E Coppenhall	5	5	7	7	8	20	20	24	7	52
18	762	R Stevenson	7	10	10	11	11	11	35	30	12	60
19	352	T Raine	4	7	9	10	12	32		32	6	74
20	611	P Walter	4	9	11	15	32	39	32	39	6	110



Henry presenting Ian with all those trophies !

EDITOR'S NOTES

This, the Winter issue, includes as usual the final results of the past season and also the review by Phil Hossell, as usual immaculately presented. Many thanks to members who sent me the 5 open meeting reports.

Membership renewal time has come round again! As last year there are un-numbered pages for you to remove and send to the Treasurer, and the Committee have asked me to include again a comments sheet on the back. So more comments please! Also you will find Paul Hinde's request for volunteers to help at the NEC show. Those pages are in the centrefold, between pages 16 and 17.

On the cover you see Ian Coppenhall. Only on special occasions do I put people on the cover but I think all would agree that Ian deserves it this time! The occasion was the presentation at Pingewood of the Orbital and all the Aphelion trophies, plus the Pingewood open trophy too.

There are quite a lot of photos this time, in addition to the competition photos, individually acknowledged, Anne Browning provided those of Ian, Ros and Sue Coppenhall, Liz Appleby the one on page 15 and Liz Hossell the other five.

There was a bit of a mix-up about the cover photo last time - I sent two with two alternatives for the contents page and the Editor's notes. One was one of mine, a head & shoulders photo of Henry and Norah, which was used and the other, my backup, taken by Anne, of them cutting the cake. As you see they used the wrong sheets inside. The point was I preferred my picture, but I took it using a digital camera and the picture resolution was not of the best, rather than megabytes the storage for it was only 20 kB. I was not at all sure that the printers could use it, but they excelled themselves and produced a cover picture better than I can on my printer. Well done and thanks to them. Why am I saying all this? Just to mention that I can now encourage digital photos, taken on the most humble digital cameras and sent to me via email, and the printers can make a good job of it. It's the totality of pictures that matters, not the quality.

E-mail

I mentioned last time that it is possible to send things to me by Fax or e-mail. Give me a ring if you want to do either, but for the email I have been having trouble recently with formatting, which did actually delay my editing. What I need is WORD version 6 or 7 or EXCEL version 7. I have been able to read pictures in JPEG format, but not always.

Alan Browning, Editor

2001 ORBITAL AND APHELION REVIEW

First of all, let me remind you how my 2000 Review started at this time last year. "There is one person that will be mentioned over and over again in this article." I did not think that I could say the same again this year, but it is true. A different name it may be, but still the same amount of commitment to his sailing and a great deal of support from his family. If you don't yet know to whom I am referring to, then where have you been this last 8 months?

Just before I confirm the identity of this individual, I must offer the man of last year all the very best after his recent marriage to our Association Secretary. Well done Henry & Norah, it did not seem to affect the appetite for sailing. Let's hope we still see your presence just as much on the circuit next year.

Right, back to the man of 2001. He is still only 18 and his achievements this year will be very difficult to surpass. He won every Open Meeting that he entered, yes all 19. That didn't leave many for the rest of us to try and win. He won many races by a considerable margin and was only pushed hard in some and even occasionally beaten, but still managed to come out on top by the end of each event. He also won every area and of course the Orbital. Well done Ian Coppenhall. I don't believe that anyone will ever match your record, unless you go for a repeat next year maybe?

Our greatest traveller, John Coppenhall matched Henry's record of last year in competing at 23 events. (This figure includes both Championship events.) Will anyone ever beat this record? Also, Sue Coppenhall was at most of these events but I cannot be sure on the number. Closely behind (but using the same transport facilities) was son Ian who entered 21 meetings. Even with Henry's hectic year he still managed 20 events. Liz and I made it to 16, Brian Herring and Ros Stevenson to 12, Derek Coleman and Paul Hinde to 11, Chris Robinson and Brian Welham to 10 and Mark Coppenhall, Peter Hayes and newcomer Alan Bennett to 9.

Even with the slow start to the season due to the Foot & Mouth outbreak, attendances were maintained similar to last year, averaging 16.3 boats per event. The largest gatherings were at the Association Championships at Littleton (42) and the National Championships at Weymouth & Portland (40). At the Open meetings the best turnouts were at Fishers Green (23), Chipstead (22) and Crawley Mariners & Redditch (21).

Our National Champion was John Challener (Mudeford) yet again, who kept his hands firmly on the trophy at a very enjoyable event held with the Duos, Trios & Zeros at Weymouth & Portland. John did have to put up a fight to stave off the strong challenge of Ian. This was Ian's only defeat of the year as earlier in the season he had won the Association Championship at Littleton.

Eastern Aphelion

Meetings in the area were held at Fishers Green, Crawley Mariners, Chipstead, and Hampton Pier. Ian started his domination early in the season with successive victories at Fishers Green, Crawley Mariners and Chipstead to give him the Eastern Aphelion. Mark Wilkins won the Hampton Pier event to add to his 2nd at Crawley Mariners and 3rd from Chipstead to give him the runners-up spot. John Coppenhall had a 3rd at Fishers Green and also took 3rd place in the area that had 7 qualifiers.

Western Aphelion

Merthyr Tydfil SC was again the venue for the final event of the Western Area Aphelion that due to the Foot & Mouth outbreak had 4 of the 5 events in September. Additionally, Mudeford could count either as a South or West. The other meetings were at Redditch, Sutton Bingham, Pingewood and Shearwater. Ian gave the rest of us a chance here. He won at Redditch but only after Debbie Degge had pushed him all the way. Richard Smallwood took the honours at Mudeford. Paul Govier then won at Sutton Bingham with Henry 2nd before Ian popped up again to take Pingewood with brother Mark in 2nd spot. Henry came up trumps in the light airs at Shearwater closely pursued by John Regnard. The final event at Merthyr produced a very exciting day's racing in a good blow where 6 of the fleet of 10 went out reefed. The capsizes were a spectators' dream. It made no difference to Ian, he just showed us that he can master all conditions thrown at him. He won the event and the area whilst Paul Govier achieved 2nd place in both and Henry was 3rd in the area that produced 7 qualifiers.

Central Aphelion

Ian once again was a dominant force with 5 straight wins at Middle Nene, Naseby, Cransley, Banbury and Severn. Naturally, he won this area with brother Mark taking the overall runner up spot aided by a couple of 2nd places at Cransley and Banbury. Alan Bennett took 3rd place in the area helped by a 2nd at Naseby and 3rd at Banbury. Peter Mountford won the meeting at Staunton Harold with Peter Hayes taking 2nd place. Henry chipped in with a 2nd at Middle Nene in an area that produced 12 qualifiers.

Northern Aphelion

This was the best-supported area and produced 16 qualifiers for the area. Well done the North! Perhaps there will be a National Champion from up this way soon. Like last year, the Northern Area Aphelion was sealed up after the first three meetings where Ian won at Winsford Flash, Combs and Carsington. He followed these up with wins at Chester and Redesmere. Last year's area winner, Henry, could only manage silver but was still up there by taking a couple of 2nd places at Winsford Flash and Combs. I had my best result of the year with a 2nd at Redesmere and two 3rd places at Staunton Harold and Winsford Flash to take the bronze. Alan Bennett showed some consistent form to take 4th overall with a 2nd and 3rd at Chester and Redesmere respectively.

Southern Aphelion

Just like in the Northern Aphelion, last year's area winner, Brian Welham had to be content with the runner up spot as Ian took the honours with 3 wins at Taplow Lake, Frensham Pond and Kingsmead. Mark Coppenhall took the honours at Aylesbury with a convincing display closely followed by Robin Ballam who had his best result of the year only a couple of months after a serious illness. There's plenty more years left in you yet Robin it's a good job you can still drive the boat, if not the car! Alan Bennett pushed Ian hard at Kingsmead but had to be content with 2nd. Brian Welham, Len Dean and Simon Thompson also scored 2nd places at Mudeford, Frensham Pond and Fishers Green. Henry crept in with a third at Kingsmead to also take 3rd in the Southern Area where there were 11 qualifiers.

Orbital Trophy

There were 20 helms that qualified for the Orbital award. Ian had sewn up the Orbital Trophy with only a few races gone. The rest of us did have some good battles to try and achieve one of those places that nobody remembers. Henry knew that his crown was gone early on but managed to take the runner up spot. Mark Coppenhall did exceptionally well to take 3rd place considering he only competed at 9 events, half the number that Ian and Henry were at. Likewise, Alan Bennett competed at the same number and was only just behind Mark. Well done Alan, welcome to the wonderful world of Comets, I'll tip you for something better next year considering the fight you gave Ian at Kingsmead. I was 5th with Brian Welham 6th and John Coppenhall in 7th. Simon Thompson had some great results but only just managed to qualify in 8th closely followed by Peter Hayes and Richard Smallwood.

The Ancient Mariners (Senior Citizens) were then grouped together with Derek Coleman getting the better of Brian Herring and Robin Ballam to fill 11th, 12th and 13th spots. A slightly younger gentleman (but only just) showed that a new boat can do well after his performance at the Association Championships in the form of Tony Best came 14th with Chris Robinson not quite achieving his

potential in 15th place. Paul Hinde took 16th slot with our only 2 lady qualifiers, Emma Coppenhall and Ros Stevenson in 17th and 18th. Tom Raine from Rudyard Lake was our youngest qualifier in 19th with Phil Walter just qualifying in 20th.

A Special Award was made at Kingsmead to Sue Coppenhall for all her achievements over this last year in getting the 4 sailing Coppenhalls to the correct destinations. That was some achievement considering that they represented 14% of the total entries throughout the year, yes, that is 1 in 7 boats on the water had a Coppenhall in it!

As most of you will already know, this is my last annual results summary as Liz & I are taking a breather from Committee duties. We will still be there on the circuit, but I urge you all to give our successors your wholehearted support. Ros Stevenson will be taking over the trophy & prize purchasing, whilst Paul Hinde will be co-ordinating the results etc. At least Ros will have an easy job of collecting in the trophies next year as they are mostly at the same household!

Phillip Hossell (Comets 650 & 548, Severn SC)



Eleven of the 16 Northern Aphelion qualifiers:

Back row: Peter Hayes, Keith Appleby, Ian Coppenhall, John Coppenhall, Guy Benson, John Edwards, Peter Mountford, Phil Hossell
Front row: Tom Raine, Emma Coppenhall, Alan Bennett.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

1. The Secretary may only be "at home" at weekends (she's still working in Basingstoke), but the 'phone is manned, by Henry or the answerphone. And, of course, you can send an e-mail.
2. The calendar for 2002 is taking shape, with most of the tried and tested venues on the agenda. Redoubt plans to hold an event again, and there have been enquiries from some new clubs hoping to hold their first Comet event.
3. The National Championships 2002 will be at Winsford Flash on 24th, 25th and 26th August 2002. Ros Stevenson will be giving more information on the facilities nearer the time.
4. The Association Championships will be at Hampton Pier on 25th and 26th May 2002, when we will be joining the Duos.
5. Following the Nationals at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy, we have presented a set of framed photographs of the event to the Academy, as a memento of the occasion and to record our thanks, along with those of the other Comet fleets.
6. The other Comet fleets are having their National events at Rutland Water in mid July, over 2 days. Although we were invited to join them, the date was near the Nationals, and would have meant that helms would have had to take a day off work in order to compete on all three days. Please let the Secretary have any comments and thoughts over the planning of future national events.
7. On an associated subject, over the past few years, we have planned our Nationals with 2 races on Day 1, 3 on Day 2, and 2 on Day 3, with 5 races to count. This has enabled people to compete on 2 days if they cannot afford the time to be there for all 3 days. For the Association Championship we have also tended to have 2 discards if there are 5 races (for tidal venues it may be practical to have only 4 races, with 1 discard). Your committee would be grateful for your comments on these arrangements, as we are aware that there has been some criticism of the generosity in respect of the discards.
8. Once again, a reminder that your subscription is now due and that the renewal slip is in THIS COPY OF PERIHELION!

9. The Committee's thanks go to Liz and Phillip Hossell for their generous gift of a new perpetual trophy to be awarded annually. Sue Coppenhall epitomises the spirit of the new award by her unflinching and unflagging support of the Class Association in ensuring that the Coppenhall Fleet is able to participate in so many events. Congratulations Sue.

10. On a personal note, thank you all for your messages of goodwill following publication of Perihelion 60. Although we knew that the Newsletter Editor was intending to use a wedding photo on the cover, we had no idea that he was producing a Comet version of Hello! Magazine.... Thank you Alan for a lovely surprise.

Norah Jagers,
Class Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JAN - MAR 2002

January 3 - 13: London Boat Show, Earls Court
February 16 - 24: Leisure Exhibition, NEC Birmingham
March 2 - 3: Sailboat 2001, Alexandra Palace

Dates for Your Diary:

Association Championships 25/ 26 May
Hampton Pier Yacht Club

National Championships 24/25/26 August
Winsford Flash Sailing Club

When you receive your renewal slip from Derek, in the New Year, you will find a reminder of the early dates on the back of it. The full programme will be available by the middle of February, on request, on the Comet Association website as soon as possible and will be printed in the Spring 2002 Perihelion.

BUILDER'S REPORT

It's that time of year again when I take stock and look back at the past year, decide what's gone wrong or right and the basis of this past experience, plan for the future year.

It's been a tough year that's for sure! Terrible weather in the Winter and Spring combined with the Foot and Mouth troubles made a grim start to the season.

The Zeros second season hasn't been quite so good as the first but we have three of them ready for customers in the Spring. The Trio has been similar to last year but would have been a lot worse if we didn't get the order for 6 from Ogston S.C. near Chesterfield for club training. The Duo has been very quiet but some have moved second hand creating a bit of interest in the class.

Sales of Comets were also well down but as usual there were plenty of new faces buying used ones, some appeared near the front at Opens and Nationals.

Talking of Nationals, I'm obviously pleased it went so well and I think everyone who went thoroughly enjoyed it. I think some Comet sailors did a double take at me in a Zero on the long beat to the start on the Monday. They are quite nippy little boats and I think I surprised some Comets.

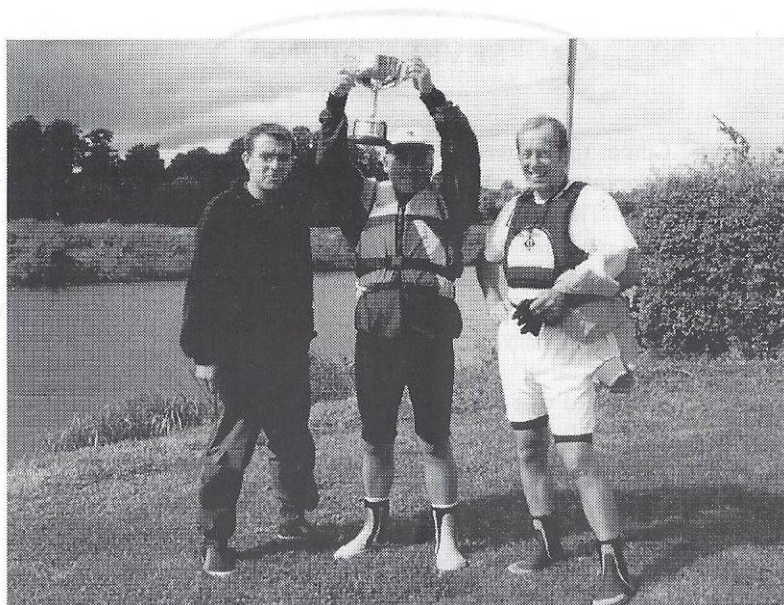
At Weymouth, some of you may have seen a prototype of a new dinghy that's being launched at London Boat Show in January and called, wait for it, Comet Race. The dinghy is 14' non-trapeze 2-person racer with an asymmetric spinnaker on a swivelling pole. In the market place, it could fit in between the RS200 and 400, without requiring vast amounts of skill and agility. Designed by Phil Morrison and initial races suggest a PY of 1050 or less. Unlike the other Comets, there will be no huge list of options, so production and stocking of them should be quite straightforward. This new dinghy will also be at Sailboat.

We have recently started using a local advertising/design company, so next year there will be a more dynamic look and feel to adverts and brochures, thus increasing enquiries and sales. That's the theory anyway! We've recently had the website revamped and by the time you read this, it should have details and pictures of the new dinghy. Our new web site address is:

www.cometdinghies.com

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas, Happy New Year and good sailing in 2002.

Andrew Simmons



The Severn team who won the Nationals Team Trophy



Presentation of the Team Trophy at the Nationals.

● SEVERN OPEN

The inaugural Comet open meeting at Severn Sailing Club was held on the 8th September and supported by seventeen boats that enjoyed a strengthening breeze throughout the day. The fleet was split into two flights to avoid start line chaos with finishing times recorded to produce one set of results.

The first race saw the first flight led away by Phil Hossell from Steve Lemmon and the second flight by Henry Jagers and John Copenhall.

In the first flight the lead was taken by Steve who was eventually overhauled by a charging Ian Copenhall who went on to win by a large margin from Steve and Phil. Henry led the second flight home with Roger Lemmon and John in pursuit.

When the times were computed, the overall finishing order at the front of the fleet was Ian, Steve, Henry, Phil and Brian Herring (Winsford Flash).

Further down the fleet there were some close times between Ros Stevenson and John Copenhall, and also between Vic Enstone and Nigel Boarder for the lower places, finishing in this order.

After an excellent lunch, thanks to Liz and Claire, the fleet locked horns again, with the flights reversed.

John pursued by Henry and Brian led their flight, while Steve made an excellent start from Ian and Peter Mountford (Manor Park). John extended his lead to the finish followed by Roger. The second flight was hotly contested with Ian coming home first from a tussling Phil and Steve finishing in this order.

The overall result of the second race was a narrow win for Ian again with father John second and Roger third with Phil and Steve completing the leading places.

The final race flights were seeded according to previous results, and in the strengthening breeze, Steve started confidently and built a substantial lead to the finish with Phil and John contending the other places.

The second flight was led by Pete Andrew (Severn) from Peter Mountford and Chris Hawley (Severn) with Dave Harris (Severn) making a late charge to win the second flight from Peter and Pete. The overall positions in the third race were Steve, Phil, Dave, Peter.

All this fun was concluded by a substantial tea, thanks to Wendy, Claire and Liz.

Final Results

1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts
2	168	Steve Lemmon	Severn
3	650	Phil Hossell	Severn
4	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts
5	800	Henry Jagers	Staunton Harold
6	724	Roger Lemmon	Severn

First lady 762 Ros Stevenson. Winsford Flash

Graham Pope



Prizewinners at the Severn open meeting:
Steve Lemmon, Ian Coppenhall, Phil Hossell, John Coppenhall,
Ros Stevenson.

STAUNTON HAROLD OPEN

Nine visitors joined seven Staunton Harold Comets for their open on 15 September. It was a very breezy day with wind strengths varying from force 2 to 5 with gusts from a N/NW direction, which would have meant a cold day for the rescue boats if they had not been so busy!!

In the first race every boat capsized at some stage, some before the start. Mike Raine took a commanding lead in a borrowed Comet, despite a nasty meeting between his head and the boom. Peter Mountford took second and Alan Bennett third. Unfortunately the gusts proved too much for many of the competitors with 6 retirements as they returned for a hot drink and a rest until launching for the second race after lunch.

After lunch the wind had not eased and a brave fleet of 13 boats battled it out. The OOD set a course that included a reach from one end of the reservoir to the other, which proved excellent viewing from the clubhouse and bought a smile to all the sailors' faces. There were as many capsizes in the second race with the gybe mark proving a challenge. Again Mike Raine took the lead, which he held to the end, with Peter Mountford in second place and Phillip Hossell in third. This meant that Mike could sit out the last race.

By the third race only 9 boats were launched but there was close sailing at the start of the race. Peter Hayes won it, with Peter Mountford taking a very consistent second.

Overall results

1	601	Mike Raine	Rudyard
2	780	Peter Mountford	Manor Park
3	803	Peter Hayes	Winsford Flash
4	548	Phillip Hossell	Severn

First Junior	Peter Gray
First SHSC boat	Nick Threadgill

Trish Moore

CHESTER OPEN

There was an excellent turn-out of 16 Comets for the Northern Area Aphelion Trophy event held on the river Dee at Chester on 29th September. With visitors travelling from Severn, Shustoke and Carsington competitors were faced with testing light southerly winds which provided an entertaining days sailing for participants and spectators alike.

The first race was dominated by Mike Raine who showed excellent river skills to win from Ian Coppenhall and Alan Bennett.

The Race Officer changed the course for the second race as the wind moved to the South West. Coppenhall soon found himself in the lead which he held to the finish to win from John Edwards and Bennett.

With all to sail for in the third race on the same course and in a dying wind Raine led for three laps before being overtaken by Coppenhall on the final downwind leg with Bennett again in third position.

Final Results

1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts
2	529	Mike Raine	Rudyard Lake
3	620	Alan Bennett	Shustoke
4	633	John Edwards	Chester
5	107	Bill Webber	Winsford Flash
6	352	Tom Raine	Rudyard Lake

John Edwards

● PINGEWOOD OPEN

Sunshine and a variable NW wind greeted the 11 contestants at this tree-surrounded gravel quarry venue near Reading, Berks.

For Race One the OOD set a figure-of-eight course around the islands with tricky wind conditions. Ian Coppenhall took an early lead closely followed by brother Mark. Throughout the 6 laps these two steadily increased their lead, to finish 1st and 2nd, despite the leader capsizing on lap 4. They were followed by most of the rest of the fleet in a fairly tight pack, and a small group of tail-enders, some of whom had capsized in the tricky windshifts and gusts. Paul Hinde had an argument with the trees on the last leg of lap 3 and retired. Mark Govier treated the spectators to a particularly drawn-out pirouetting capsize at the start of lap 4. One of the rescue boats was kept busy repositioning a drifting mark during this race.

After lunch Race Two was run on a similar course but with the previously drifting mark deleted. This course caused some difference in opinion as to the best course past the islands, resulting in the pack dividing into two groups on the second leg. The breeze was strong at the start but fell off during lap one, to return later. Ian again took the lead at the start and maintained this throughout, despite a heavy capsize on lap 5 when he fell down the bow of his boat. This caused an injury that prevented him sailing in Race 3. Tony Best fell out of his boat while starting the third lap. Attempted recovery resulted in multiple capsizes, rescue and retirement. Henry Jagers held second place for most of the race, to the finish, after successfully close covering Mark Coppenhall.

The course was further simplified for Race Three, being 8 laps of a triangle that still required a decision about the best course past the islands. The start was accompanied by a strong breeze, under a dark cloud that threatened rain. John Coppenhall took the lead, with the rest of the fleet in a tight pack. He temporarily lost the lead to Mark Coppenhall on Lap 4, but pulled away again, chased by Mark and Brian Welham with the rest of the fleet now spread over half a lap. Brian finally took the lead on Lap 7 and held it to the finish.

Overall Results

1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts
2	427	Mark Coppenhall	Hunts
3	800	Henry Jagers	Staunton Harold
4	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts
5	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake
6	63	Chris Robinson	Burghfield
7	419	Paul Govier	Merthyr Tydfil
8	420	Alun Bevan	Merthyr Tydfil
9	641	Paul Hinde	Middle Nene
10	460	Mark Govier	Merthyr Tydfil
11	625	Tony Best	Taplow Lake

A SUNNY SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT LITTLETON

Dear Alan,

Just imagine my surprise and delight when I flicked through Perihelion 60 and spotted a picture of myself on page 15. What a shock. I always assumed it was pictures of Comets at the front of the fleet that were published. Obviously not. On this particular occasion it was a hot, sunny Saturday afternoon and I was right at the back of the fleet. In fact I was developing the art of sailing backwards. I don't mean literally. Despite my attempts to keep up I seemed to stay still while the others disappeared off into the distance, the finish line and more importantly the bar. What better than pose at the far end of the Lake for the photographer whilst I rocked 'n rolled the dinghy to the other end. Just goes to show what goes on at the back of the fleet when every one else is concentrating on racing!

Val. - Bay City Rollers fan. (Mrs V. Pearce-Urwin, Comet 362)

Hi neighbour, glad you wrote. When I put your photo in Perihelion 60 I didn't know who you were, I couldn't see the sail number, I just assumed that your name was Val because the computer file name had Val in it. But there you were, a nice photo of a Comet sailor enjoying yourself, as we all should. I'm glad you liked it. Those at the front of the fleet probably get more photographic coverage than they deserve but do on occasion produce superb images, for example that cover of Perihelion 52. I hope to meet you at the back of a fleet sometime.

Alan Browning (neighbourly Comet 361)

● MERTHYR TYDFIL OPEN

Conditions were wet and windy with showers being driven up the valley by a strong southerly force five which turned a little to the west as the day progressed and increased slightly - or did we tire?

For the first race there were nine starters with some Comet sailors choosing the cautious approach of staying on shore. After quite a scattered start Ian Coppenhall slid into the front. In the strong wind conditions with somewhat noticeable waves there were several capsizes on the downwind legs. But Ian managed to stay in front and was little threatened by the chasing pack though never got more than a few tens of metres clear. Paul Govier crossed the line in second place with Stephen Lemmon close behind.

After a great lunch the second race was held with several more competitors choosing to reef than in the first race. The start was much closer and more organised with all starters crossing the line within a couple of boat lengths. Mark Govier led to the windward mark despite sailing with two reefs. Those with full sail didn't threaten him on the downwind leg, however a large gust knocked down about four of the competitors, including Mark. Ian Coppenhall regained his place at the front before the end of the first lap and managed to open up a larger lead this time and kept that lead to the end. Stephen Lemmon crossed the line second and was followed by Phillip Hossell.

For the final race of the afternoon there were just four entries. In this Ian Coppenhall led for most of the race closely followed by John Coppenhall and Paul Govier. But towards the end of the final lap both Ian and John capsized allowing Paul Govier to gain the lead. Paul finished first, followed by Ian and Alun Bevan was third as John struggled to right his boat.

The overall result for the day was a win for Ian Coppenhall with Paul Govier second and Stephen Lemmon third.

Overall Results

1	636	Ian Coppenhall	1	1	2
2	419	Paul Govier	2	10	1
3	168	Stephen Lemmon	3	2	DNS
4	420	Alun Bevan	7	5	3
5	650	Phillip Hossell	5	3	DNS
6	532	John Coppenhall	4	4	10
7	460	Mark Govier	6	10	DNS
8	673	Chris Hanley	10	10	DNS
9	724	Roger Lemmon	10	DNS	DNS
10	800	Henry Jagers	DNS	DNS	DNS

Mark Govier Comet 460

WHAT'S THIS ?



(answer on page 32)

NEWS OF THE REDOUBT SAILING CLUB IN 2001

The Club suffered a blow to its existence earlier this year and the purpose of this report is to let people know that we have survived - so far, and that we intend to continue during 2002.

Back at the end of February we were advised by our landlord, Nickolls Quarries Ltd. that they would not be renewing the agreements with any of the water users clubs after 31st March 2001. The lake was shared with the Cinque Ports Angling Society and the Redoubt Windsurfers Association.

Initially it was not clear if the club would need to close altogether or a different agreement was possible, however it emerged that any user of the water; anglers, sailors or windsurfers would be required to pay fees direct to the landlord. Previously each club paid an annual fee on behalf of all members. The new fees would be £100 for individuals and £130 for family memberships. Previous club membership charges had been around £50. The landlord also took over possession of the club building as he was legally entitled to do under the previous usage agreement. In return water users would have improved access road, parking and clubhouse facilities. In addition more water would be made available for sailing.

While the new charges don't seem excessively high compared to some other clubs, it has to be realised that, as Comet visitors saw at the open meeting in July 2000, facilities are very limited. Nevertheless, as a consequence the Redoubt club membership fell from over 100 to 45 as a direct result of increased charges. Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts who also use the water were also subject to increased charges although some negotiation has been possible to make charges more reasonable. The angling society and windsurf club quit the water altogether.

Sailing has continued through the year with normal spring and summer series continuing with reduced entries. This has meant that we have had to pull all boats into a general handicap rather than have fast and slow handicap races. Only one open meeting for the Solo class was held this year.

Needless to say very few of the promised improved facilities have appeared. We have access to additional water but it is only usable when the water level on the lake is high in Spring, it needs to be dredged and the landlord will not meet the costs.

Our Comet fleet has reduced by two, John Peach and Dave Pescod have moved on to Lasers. On the plus side Bob Luckhurst is about to purchase Comet 697 and there are now two Comet Duos owned by members of the club. In addition we are planning to invite Streakers and Comets to a combined open meeting on 20th July 2002.

Overall we are still fighting to survive and the battle is not yet over, sailing is continuing and we plan to have a progressively more successful 2001, so Comet Sailors, please support our Open meeting on 20th July.

Jeff Clarke (Comet 295)

NEW TREASURER

As reported in the last 'Perihelion' I shall not be seeking re-election next year. After ten years as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, it's time that someone else took up the reins having also been 'Auditor' for a couple of years before that.

It does take a bit of time mostly in the new year with the balance of accounts for the year and renewals coming in. There is probably room for improvement especially if you are competent with a computer.

Committee meetings, apart from the one in January setting out the agenda for the year which takes a few hours, the others are normally held at open meetings and are quite short and cause no inconvenience

I have talked on the telephone to and met some very pleasant people in our Association and hope it continues in that vein. I have enjoyed what I have done and hope it has come up to your expectation.

So if you are interested in helping to keep our association on an even keel, talk to any one of your committee members.

Happy New Year.

Derek (Comets 303 & 707) P.S. I shall still be Sailing (Sorry).

(If you really are a possible Treasurer for us, you will find a description of what Derek does for us in Perihelion 46, pages 28 to 30 - Ed)

● THE HOSSELL PLATE

As most of you will now be aware, Liz and I are taking a break from the Association Committee. As a parting gesture, we would like to present a new trophy for the Association to award on an annual basis.

From next year, we would like the Committee to present this to the individual or group of people who they think has contributed most to the promotion of the Comet Class and of course, the Association. But this year, the Committee doesn't need to worry about that as Liz & I have decided on the first recipient of this trophy.

You will soon work out who this individual is. This person is a great organiser. They know most of the roads of England, especially if they lead to a Comet venue. They have a terrific logistical brain to work out which boat needs to be at what location, on what date and who is going to sail it, This person is always there when you need them. If you come anywhere near the jetty, you will be tied up - whether you like it or not! Likewise, you may be cast off again - whether you are ready or not! If you come near the shore there is your trolley waiting.

This person is particularly special to one group of people. The tiller extension has snapped. Who is there with the tools fitting a replacement? This person manages a team with great success. You obey when the command is given. The entry forms are completed, the entry fees are paid, the lunches (and bananas) are organised. They have an incredible sense of timing. Only last week, one of the team quietly entered the club house at the exact time that our team manager shot out of the loo and ordered "sign your entry form now"!

Can the team cope without this person? I have witnessed that they are a bit disorganised without "the boss".

Who is this team? Team Coppenhall of course!

Our thanks go to the whole family for giving the open meeting circuit their whole-hearted support this year. Ian picked up nearly all the pots but who will end up cleaning them? However, this is one that Ian would not get hold of. Perhaps though, he might clean it?

So therefore, we have to recognise this individual team manager and good friend. The first winner of the Hossell Plate is..... SUE COPPENHALL.

Liz & Phil Hossell (14th October 2001)



Liz Hossell (left) presenting the Hossell Plate
to Sue Coppenhall

● **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER**



This is a photo of Ros Stevenson, our new Committee member, who procures trophies for us. Like most Comet sailors she is always cheerful and sails Comet 762 at her home club Winsford Flash. She and clubmate Brian Herring have been travelling quite a lot this year, to both of the National Championships and 10 other open meetings to qualify in the Northern and Central Aphelions. She was a prizewinner at the first Severn open meeting, and there she is in the photo of that fleet on page 7.

● COMETS, COMETS, COMETS

Maybe you've guessed it - - - the photo on page 27 is another Comet. This one really is a Comet dinghy! It's not likely to be confused with ours though because as you see it is a double hander. It has been in existence since 1933, manufactured in America. I came across it about 8 years ago in a book published in 1965 (reference below). It seems that it is a 16 ft long hard chine sloop, without spinnaker and was generally "one-design" but has had some freedom at least in the design of the rig. One version had a 22 ft mast with 130 sq ft of sail area. These dimensions make it similar to the Wayfarer without its spinnaker up but clearly there is decking both forward and aft, like the Graduate. Unlike our logo, theirs looks more like a shooting star than a comet. The sail numbers are likely to be serial, so the 1933 Comet was pretty popular, rivalling many successful British designs. In this photograph the crew are sitting sedately inboard but there is another photograph in the same book showing both crew fully extended, well outside the boat.

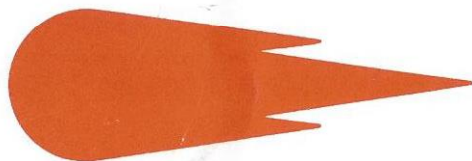
Editor.

Ref: Bill Robinson's book of expert sailing. MacMillan, 1965.

● PERIHELION

The next issue of Perihelion will be circulated in Early April 2002. **Contributions to me by the end of February please.** Distribution is a few days later than issues at other times of the year because it is deliberately delayed to be after the last day for renewal of membership. If you haven't paid your sub you won't get a Perihelion 62!

Alan Browning, Editor



Comet Class Association

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association