



**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 64  
AUTUMN 2002**

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Front cover:

Action at the Staunton Harold open meeting

(Photograph contributed by Nigel Fern)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We've had quite a fine summer for our first year in the West Country. Not a bad season for sailing either with quite a mix of wind strengths to contend with! Despite our more remote base I find I have now done 11 of the events on the Comet programme.

After the Association Championships, the next meeting I managed to get to was the open at Staunton Harold which provided a very good day's sport as usual. Strong winds proved very testing but were enjoyed by all if with very little success by yours truly! Staunton Harold was of course my club where I was secretary for many years and it was good to see some old friends and rivals again. Norah and I stayed on in the area and then went up to Glossop on the Monday to attend Stuart Gilder's funeral. It proved to be a very memorable occasion and a fine celebration of a full and remarkable life. We were pleased that Brian Herring and John and Jean Edwards were also present so the Association was well represented.

The following weekend I was at Redditch where, on a much smaller water, I did rather better despite the gusty conditions. The end of July saw us at Mudeford on a really lovely summer day where a large turn out enjoyed very pleasant sailing and a really friendly welcome. This was also the first event in the Mudeford Regatta week and I was very surprised, a fortnight later, to receive another trophy because of that. (Two handsome awards for the same place can't be bad!)

The Saturday at Frensham Pond was a fine warm day, too, though with a torrential downpour while we were packing up. The wind was mainly light and shiftly but nevertheless provided good racing. I had a good day and finished third. That evening we continued on our travels to Cransley for the open meeting on Sunday and what proved to be a very good and successful day's sailing. Although conditions there were gusty and quite strong at times I thoroughly enjoyed close racing all day and ended up second overall. There were surprises after the event, too - it was our first wedding anniversary and Ros had made us another cake!

Thanks to all the clubs mentioned above, and equally to those I was unable to get to this year, for running the events and making Comet sailors so welcome.

As I said, I was surprised to win something in Mudeford Week without even entering, although earlier I had thought I might spend the week there. I know some members who did stay on had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Perhaps they,

and anyone else who has sailed at regattas and other events outside of our programme could put pen to paper and let us know of their experiences, I'm sure we'd all like to hear from you. I myself took part in the Beer Regatta - but that's a different story and I'll write a few paragraphs on it for another time.

We have just come back from the Nationals at Winsford Flash SC, and, apart from our B&B, what a great three days it was! Winsford really did us proud and deserve our sincere thanks and congratulations for running such a large event. And it was a large event attracting 49 entries! It was also really good to see considerably more youngsters taking part this time and also some faces from the past who we haven't seen for quite a while. We could, perhaps, have done with a little more wind, but as well as good racing we were treated to good food and entertainment and the general impression as everyone was packing up to leave was of a long weekend well spent. Our thanks again to Winsford and in particular to Ros for all her hard work. She even made a Comet 21st Birthday cake! Thanks too to Banks Sails and to Harrisons Transport for their generous donations to the prizes. And our new National Champion? Ian Coppenhall, who last year won everything except this title. Well done!

As usual, the AGM was held on the middle evening of the championships. There was nothing contentious this year but some notes from the meeting can be found later in this issue. Full minutes will, of course, be published at a later date. Suffice for me to say that it was my pleasure to thank all the Committee personally for their work and support over the past year. Especial tribute was paid to Derek who stood down after ten years as combined Treasurer and Membership Secretary and service as Auditor before that. We are not losing his experience and common sense approach as he is continuing as an ordinary committee member for a while longer. Richard Smallwood was elected our new Treasurer and the rest of us were re-elected to serve for another year.

Well, although as I write there are still seven events still to come, I can't help but feel the season drawing to a close. Let's hope it will have been a good one for you all whether racing or cruising, at your own clubs or further afield. If you've been sailing a Comet it cannot have failed to be so!

Good Sailing,

Henry Jagers, Chairman.

## ● NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

1. You have a new look to the Committee following the Annual General Meeting . Derek Coleman, who has been an efficient and prudent Treasurer has resigned from that position after 10 years. Prior to that he was our Honorary Auditor. Derek has been a mainstay of the Committee, and we are delighted that he has agreed to continue as a committee member.

Your new Treasurer is Richard Smallwood, who currently sails at Frensham Pond, having joined the Comet fleet when based at Shearwater. Richard is new to the Committee, and we look forward to working with him.

2. A flyer sent out with Perihelion 63 announced the death of Stuart Gilder, who was a former member of the Committee, after a long battle with breast cancer. The Class Association was well represented at his funeral, joining a large number of his friends representing his many interests. On your behalf the Association made a donation to Breast Cancer Care, and we have received a letter of thanks from Hilary. She thanks everyone for their thoughts and condolences.

3. Martin Seaton's idea for celebrating the Comet's 21st birthday was taken up by one or two clubs, mainly through their Open days and we are grateful to the helms who loaned their boats to enable people to "Try a Comet". Don't feel that you have to wait for an official day if someone wants to have a go! We know that a lot of people have come to Comet sailing after borrowing someone else's boat.

4. The Committee would like to record their thanks to Winsford Flash for making this year's National Championships so successful. Ros Stevenson has been working towards the weekend for well over a year, and special thanks are due to her. For the first time, some of the prizes were sponsored, thanks to Ros' persuasive powers, and we are indebted to her for that too. Our thanks go to Banks Sails and to Harrison Transport for their very generous donations to the prizes.

5. Next year the National Championships will be at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy over the August Bank Holiday - so book your place now! We will again be sharing the venue with the rest of the Comet family.

6. The Committee is proposing that the Association Championship 2003 is also held as a joint meeting with the other Comets. The venue will be Rutland Water, and the event would be over a weekend, probably in June. The date will be announced as soon as possible

7. You will have noted that the RYA has changed the Racing Rules affecting scoring during this year. This has sparked some debate over the results from Open meetings. Although the Class Association specifies the scoring rules for the two national events, and uses the same system for the Orbital and Aphelion series, we abide by the scoring systems used by individual clubs at their Open meetings and published in their racing rules.

8. You will also have noted some comments, especially in Yachts and Yachting, about the future of older, one-design boats, and the level of activity of smaller classes. There is a perception that having fewer than 50 boats at a national event indicates that a class is in terminal decline! We hope that you will agree that the Comet Class Association is very much alive and kicking, with a very active Open circuit as well as high attendance at championship events. Your secretary has written to Yachts and Yachting and commented that the percentage of Comet sailors entering events is very high compared with many other classes. When we share a venue with another, much larger, class, it is unusual for them to exceed the number of Comets by more than two or three. (the letter has not been published). Keeping Comets as a strict one-design means that everyone starts with the same advantages. This has been very evident at the Nationals this year, where a number of youngsters borrowed boats and proved, yet again, that all age groups can be equally competitive. There aren't many sports where a 60 year age gap between the eldest and youngest competitor makes no difference to the competition.

Norah Jagers  
Class Secretary



Rounding mark 8 at the Frensham Pond open.

# 2002 NATIONALS - RESULTS

		Races: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7							Pts			
1	636	IAN COPPENHALL	Hunts	1	3	1	1	1	4	2	6	
2	657	Mark Wilkins	Chipstead	3	1	2	2	5	16	5	13	V
3	107	Bill Webber	Winsford Flash	2	2	5	4	9	1	4	13	V
4	331	Christian Birrell	Winsford Flash	5	7	3	3	6	2	3	16	J
5	620	Alan Bennett	Shustoke	7	5	10	6	3	6	9	27	V
6	531	Mike Raine	Rudyard Lake	16	6	6	12	4	17	8	36	V
7	351	Niki Birrell	Winsford Flash	4	13	8	7	11	21	6	36	J
8	427	Mark Coppenhall	Hunts	DNF	DNC	4	13	17	3	1	38	
9	188	Simon Thompson	Crawley Mariners	14	17	14	20	2	7	12	49	
10	700	John Windibank	Chipstead	6	15	26	8	7	22	16	52	
11	573	Alex Reeve	Taplow Lake	13	23	13	10	8	9	15	53	
12	168	Stephen Lemmon	Severn	20	9	12	11	14	11	10	53	
13	673	Dave Harris	Severn	9	11	21	9	22	13	17	59	V
14	801	Tony Best	Taplow Lake	19	4	16	15	24	24	7	61	AM
15	150	Robert Hamilton	Taplow Lake	17	10	19	5	15	30	34	66	
16	745	Nick Warren	Littleton	11	8	11	26	16	23	20	66	
17	352	Tom Raine	Rudyard Lake	10	18	DNF	14	21	10	19	71	J
18	800	Henry Jaggars	-	23	16	17	31	26	5	14	75	V
19	488	EMMA COPPENHALL	Hunts	12	29	7	16	19	25	31	79	L
20	135	Alan Mill	Winsford Flash	8	14	DNF	27	25	15	18	80	J
<b>21</b>	585	Jonathon Latham	Winsford Flash	27	25	20	19	12	19	11	81	
22	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	DNF	DNF	15	22	10	8	36	91	V
23	724	Roger Lemmon	Severn	29	32	9	18	33	26	13	95	V
24	730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	21	24	24	39	13	14	25	96	AM
25	641	Paul Hinde	Middle Nene	15	36	DNF	28	20	12	27	102	
26	100	Steve Bellamy	Winsford Flash	24	12	27	35	23	35	32	118	
27	803	Peter Hayes	Winsford Flash	28	31	28	24	27	18	22	119	
28	707	Derek Coleman	Coney	18	20	35	30	30	36	24	122	AM
29	115	Roger Monks	Winsford Flash	33	DNF	23	21	18	29	35	124	AM
30	738	Chris Hawley	Severn	25	30	25	17	40	28	40	125	
31	549	Michael Thompson	Crawley Mariners	22	19	38	42	35	20	29	125	V
32	63	Chris Robinson	Burghfield	30	22	22	32	34	37	23	129	
33	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners	26	33	18	29	32	32	DNF	137	AM
34	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	32	28	30	36	31	31	21	141	V
35	217	Stephen Hawley	Severn	38	21	29	37	41	27	28	142	
36	633	John Edwards	Chester	35	DSO	31	33	29	33	30	156	AM
37	762	Ros Stevenson	Winsford Flash	34	26	36	25	38	40	DNF	159	L
38	650	Helen Leivers	Severn	36	34	39	41	28	42	26	163	L
39	274	David Harrison	Winsford Flash	37	27	34	34	37	38	33	165	V
40	687	Nick Moon	Severn	42	38	32	23	46	43	39	174	
41	643	Keith Appleby	Carsington	39	35	37	38	44	34	38	182	V
42	50	Diana Thompson	Crawley Mariners	31	37	41	43	36	DNF	DNF	188	L
43	424	Penny Vere	Upton Warren	43	42	33	46	39	39	37	190	L
44	434	John Keylock	Severn	41	39	44	40	42	44	DNF	206	V
45	221	James Wilkins	Chipstead	DNF	41	40	44	45	41	41	207	J
46	438	Guy Benson	Redesmere	40	40	43	45	43	DNF	DNF	211	V
47	18	Brian Twiddy	Nantwich & Border	44	44	42	47	47	45	42	217	V
48	105	Helen Keylock	Severn	45	43	DNF	DNF	DNF	46	43	226	L

Mino

1	367	Daniel Moon	Severn	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	J
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## PRIZEWINNERS

<u>National Champion</u>	<b>IAN COPPENHALL</b>
<u>Runner-up</u>	<b>Mark Wilkns</b>
<u>Other main prizes</u>	Places 3 to 7: <b>Bill Webber, Christian Birrell, Alan Bennett, Mike Raine, Niki Birrell.</b>
<u>First Lady</u>	<b>Emma Coppenhall</b>
<u>First Junior (Under 19)</u>	<b>Tom Raine</b>
<u>Fist Veteran</u>	<b>Dave Harris</b>
<u>First Ancient Mariner</u>	<b>Tony Best</b>
<u>Committee prize</u>	<b>Jonathon Latham</b> (21st place)
<u>Team prize</u>	<b>Winsford Flash S.C.</b>

### Notes:

The main prizes are for the first 7 places. All of the other prizes are for those outside the first 7.

The Committee prize was awarded to the sailor in 21st place in honour of the coming of age of the Comet dinghy.

Six clubs competed for the team prize, team sizes varying from 4 to 11 entries. The host club were worthy winners with three of their eleven entries in the first 7 places. Severn S.C. came in force too, even appearing in matching shirts!

	<u>Entries</u>	<u>Team points</u>
Winsford Flash	11	14
Hunts	4	28
Taplow Lake	4	40
Severn	9	48
Chipstead	3	57
Crawley Mariners	4	73

Editor.



● AT THE NATIONALS



About two-thirds of the fleet



“Where did you get that hat,” !



Ros Stevenson's Comet Coming-of-Age cake



Champions Ian and Emma Coppenhall

## NOTES FROM THE 2002 AGM

1. Your Committee for 2002/3 is as follows:

Chairman:	Henry Jagers
Secretary:	Norah Jagers
Treasurer	Richard Smallwood
Newsletter Editor	Alan Browning
Trophy Buyer	Ros Stevenson
Results Co-ordinator	Paul Hinde
Committee members:	Nick Warren
	Derek Coleman

John Edwards has agreed to continue as Auditor. and Tony Ellison continues as Webmaster

You will find their contact details inside the front cover of Perihelion

2. There were no motions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting

3. In Any Other Business, it was suggested that Andrew Simmons be approached to authorise a second sailmaker. This request was made on the basis that there is a marked difference between the cut of the Morrison and Hyde sails. Some helms prefer the former and would like to be able to replace them.

After some discussion, the meeting felt that any alternative supplier could compromise the one-design concept, and that no approach should be made to Andrew.

4. The subject of tie-breaking was also raised in Any Other Business. As has been stated in "Notes from the Committee", each club hosting an Open meeting uses their own scoring system. The letter which they receive to confirm the venue, suggests that they use the current RYA rules, but we are aware that not all do so.

5. The only other comment from the floor was a request for more runs at the National Championships next year, as the courses at Weymouth last year had been biased against running.

Norah Jagers  
Class Secretary

# FIRST SIX AT THE OPEN MEETINGS

## NORTHERN AREA

### Carsington

1	636	I Coppenhall
2	352	T Raine
3	427	M Coppenhall
4	488	E Coppenhall
5	532	J Coppenhall
6	730	B Herring

## CENTRAL AREA

### Staunton Harold

1	636	I Coppenhall
2	650	P Hossell
3	620	A Bennett
4	803	P Hayes
5	780	P Mountford
6	622	C Chapman

## CENTRAL AREA

### Redditch

1	636	I Coppenhall
2	620	A Bennett
3	168	S Lemmon
4	650	P Hossell
5	800	H Jagers
6	532	J Coppenhall

## CENTRAL AREA

### Naseby

1	620	A Bennett
2	427	M Coppenhall
3	803	P Hayes
4	730	B Herring
5	780	P Mountford
6	669	G Parry

## CENTRAL AREA

### Cransley

1	636	I Coppenhall
2	800	H Jagers
3	427	M Coppenhall
4	488	E Coppenhall
5	532	J Coppenhall
6	730	B Herring

## EASTERN AREA

### Chipstead

1	561	G Wilkins
2	636	I Coppenhall
3	50	S Thompson
4	174	M Baxter
5	803	P Hayes
6	518	R B allam

## EASTERN AREA

### Redoubt

1	803	P Hayes
2	780	P Mountford
3	711	B Welham
4	700	J Windibank
5	323	A Walter
6	707	D Coleman

## WESTERN AREA

### Mudford

1	159	J Challenger
2	323	A Walter
3	711	B Welham
4	800	H Jagers
5	707	D Coleman
6	803	P Hayes

## SOUTHERN AREA

### Frensham Pond

1	636	I Coppenhall
2	188	S Thompson
3	800	H Jagers
4	323	A Walter
5	750	R Smallwood
6	707	D Coleman

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.

## ● FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### END OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2002

<u>Date</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Sat 21 Sept	Littleton	EAST	Nick Warren	01189 773110
SUN 22 Sept	Pingewood	CENTRAL	Keith Taylor	01189 814933
SUN 29 Sept	Merthyr Tydfil	WEST	Mark Govier	01222 778459
SUN 6 Oct	Redesmere	NORTH	Tim Baker	01477 534238
SUN 14 Oct	Kingsmead	SOUTH	Ian Ayres	01784 420460

## ● PERIHELION

The next issue of Perihelion will be circulated in December 2002. **Contributions to me by Friday 22nd November please.** As last year this is a few days earlier than usual but it is well away from the last two meetings of the season. This is to ensure that my editorial activity is not hampered by Christmas preparations and ease the task of the printers and distributors.

Alan Browning, Editor



Racing at the Mudeford open

## BANBURY OPEN

Eighteen boats competed in the forth Comet Open at Banbury on Saturday 18th May with 12 visitors and 6 Banbury boats. Visitors travelled to the event from: Crawley Mariners, Hunts, Nasbey, Shustoke, Winsford Flash, Littleton, Staunton Harold and Taplow Lake sailing clubs. The forecast was for light Westerly winds of up to 10 knots - not the force 10 quoted by the duty officer at the briefing!

The first race started in a modest South Westerly with the threat of rain. Ian Coppenhall led the fleet with father John and Alan Bennett scrapping for second, Alan finally came out on top. Robin Ballam was forth getting past Clive Chapman and Ros Stevenson. Brian Herring finished a strong fifth with Tony Best in sixth place. Towards the end of the race the rain became persistent and looked to be set in for the day.

After a break for lunch the rain stopped, the wind moved westward and strengthened to around 15 to 20 knots. So with a new course the duty officer brought forward the second race. Alan Bennett led for the first lap but was then overtaken by Ian Coppenhall both well ahead of Tony Best in third and Robin Ballam in forth. John Coppenhall was fifth with Peter Hayes in sixth. Overall, this put Ian and Alan in first and second places.

The wind strength and direction was maintained for the third race. Ian Coppenhall got off to a good start and rounded the first mark just ahead of Robin Ballam, Alan Bennett and Peter Mountfield. Ian maintained his position throughout the race finishing ahead of Alan for a third time with Clive Chapman third who overtook John Coppenhall in the latter stages of the race. Peter Mountfield was fifth with Tony Best sixth.

Overall results:

1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts
2	620	Alan Bennett	Shustoke
3	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts
4	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners
5	801	Tony Best	Taplow Lake
6	622	Clive Chapman	Littleton

First Banbury boat 526 Sam Worsley, in 12th place.

Eb Brown Comet 53

## ● STAUNTON HAROLD OPEN

Nineteen Comets gathered at Staunton Harold S.C. the fleet being made of seven home boats plus twelve 'travellers'. Conditions for Race 1 were sunny with a fairly steady S / SE force 3 – 4 wind with the odd gust reaching 5.

Officer of the Day J Deacon set a gybing course for race 1 using most of the marks to give the visitors a good view of the reservoir. A number of legs induced high-speed broad reaches with hairy gybes at the next mark. The sting in the tail was the penultimate leg dead run which saw several helms inspecting their hulls!

Mike Raine took line honours from Alan Bennett and Phil Hossell. Highest home boat was Peter Mountford in 5th.

For race 2 the start line was moved nearer the dam wall. All 19 entries set out for the start but SHSC member Rex Davis fell foul of the increasingly gusty wind and capsized before the start and retired. A similar course was set to race 1 but as the wind was more southerly a longer dead run was employed along with again plenty of planing reaches. The gusty conditions put paid to 7 more boats before the end.

Mike again took line honours, this time from Phil Hossell and Ian Coppenhall. Highest home boat was again Peter Mountford, in 4<sup>th</sup> this time.

Mike Raine, who for the second year running had now won the event, again in a borrowed boat, sat out race 3 leaving Phil and Ian to fight it out for 2nd and 3rd. By now the wind was 4 – 5 with gusts of 5+, white horses were well in evidence and a reduced field of 15 set out to the start; again under the dam wall. Gybes, planing reaches plus a hairy dead run were again the order of the day but the heavier conditions took their toll – 4 boats retired before the end – physical tiredness being cited in every case.

Ian Coppenhall held off Phil Hossell and Peter Hayes. Highest home boat was again Peter Mountford, in 5th.

### Overall Results:

1st	762	Mike Raine	Rudyard Lake
2nd	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts
3rd	650	Phil Hossell	Severn

Highest overall Staunton Harold member.

6th 780 Peter Mountford

Afterthought (not too serious!!): having noted that Mike Raine has won another event in a borrowed boat should we handicap him in some way?

N. Fern, Comet Captain



“Where’s the mark gone ?”



## REDDITCH OPEN

Fourteen visitors joined four home boats for the Redditch open, coming from as far afield as Winsford, Merthyr Tydfil, Beer and Hunts, and with a particularly strong contingent from Severn SC. The Officer of the Day, Ian Ranford, set a triangular course around the central island in a force 4 westerly breeze, which made for an enjoyable day's sailing for all the competitors.

In the first race, Ian Coppenhall went quickly into the lead which he increased and held for the whole 5 laps. The following positions were keenly contested, with second place eventually going to Alan Bennett and third place to Stephen Lemmon.

In the second race, Ian Coppenhall again established an early lead which he held comfortably to the finish. For two laps John Coppenhall held second position, but was overtaken on the third lap by Alan Bennett, who held this place to the finish. Third place again went to Stephen Lemmon who fought off a strong challenge from Andrew Audley who, at the age of 12yrs, was racing a Comet for the very first time.

In the final race, John Coppenhall took the early lead, but was overtaken by son Ian on the third lap. He didn't have it all his own way this time, however, as Alan Bennett managed to overhaul him on the final lap to take the gun. Third place went to Henry Jagers who had travelled all the way from Beer in Devon.

Overall results:

1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts
2nd	620	Alan Bennett	Shustoke
3rd	724	Stephen Lemmon	Severn
4th	650	Phillip Hossell	Severn
5th	800	Henry Jagers	Unattached
6th	600	Andrew Audley	Redditch

David Stephens, Comet 563

## NASEBY OPEN

Twelve Comets and one Mino enjoyed friendly competition at the Naseby Open.

The morning race started in a gentle but dying breeze. Alan Bennett (Shustoke SC) overtook the early leaders George Parry (Naseby) and Peter Hayes (Winsford Flash) to win and Mark Copenhall (Hunts) was 2nd.

After lunch and relaxation in warm sunshine it was back to the fray in a nice force 2. Paul Hinde (Naseby) showed early pace but faded to 5th, with Bennett again winning with Copenhall 2nd and Brian Herring (Winsford Flash) 3rd.

A sudden increase in wind strength at the start of Race 3 caused some excitement but Bennett again won with Copenhall overtaking Hayes and Phillip Hossell (Severn) to come 2nd.

### Results

1st	620	A Bennett	Shustoke
2nd	427	M Copenhall	Hunts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	803	P Hayes	Winsford Flash
4th	730	B Herring	Winsford Flash
5th	780	P Mountford	Staunton Harold

## REDOUBT OPEN

The Redoubt Open was held jointly with a Streaker fleet. Eleven Comets and seven Streakers took part in the three races.

The two fleets started five minutes apart with the Streakers going first. The weather forecast had been promising a "wet and breezy" day, however we arrived at the club to warm sunshine and very light winds.

The first race started in a southerly force 2-3 wind and was noticeable for much heated shouting at the first windward mark when rights were disputed. Two boats paid a 720 penalty and one a 360. After the race the rulebook appeared out in the club house and things seemed to calm down, Brian Welham finished a well-deserved first position having led through the whole race.

The second race started in stronger winds force 3-4 but after the first lap dropped back again to a more comfortable force 2-3 after changing from Southerly to a Westerly direction. This time Peter Hayes took the lead and held on through the race to win closely followed in second place by Peter Mountford.

The light winds continued for most of the third race but freshened for the last lap. Brian Welham had been holding third place but had a capsized which resulted in an injury to his thumb causing his prudent retirement. Peter Hayes again came first followed by John Windibank in second place.

### Results:

			<u>Race 1</u>	<u>Race 2</u>	<u>Race 3</u>	<u>Overall</u>
803	P Hayes	Winsford Flash	7	1	1	1
780	P Mountford	Staunton Harold	2	2	5	2
711	B Welham	Taplow Lake	1	4	11	3
700	J Windibank	Chipstead	3	3	2	4
323	A Walker	Welwyn	5	7	3	5
707	D Coleman	Coney	6	6	6	6
697	R Luckhurst	Redoubt	8	5	7	7
518	R Ballam	Crawley Mariners	9	8	4	8
170	I Hodge	Redoubt	4	9	R	9
611	P Walter	Welwyn	R	10	8	10
295	J Clarke	Redoubt	10	11	-	11

This was the second Comet Open meeting to be held at the Redoubt club and we were glad to have so many visitors again despite the limited facilities we are able to offer. Hopefully the fish & chip shop run and a friendly relaxed atmosphere made up for this.

We hope to see more visiting Comets sailors in our future opens. The club is located near the coast surrounded by hills and farmland and overlooked by Lympne Castle and John Aspinall's Port Lympne Wildlife Park, both within easy reach. The Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway narrow gauge line also runs behind the lake providing plenty of attractions in the area for non-sailing visitors.

J Clarke Comet 295

## ANOTHER KOMET



This vehicle parked beside us at a caravan site in Surrey, a Komet campervan. I sneaked this picture before the occupants drew their curtains, but on chatting to them, they turned out to be British campers living in a German vehicle. With an 'H' registration the vehicle was presumably over 10 years old. I didn't get around to asking them for information about it, so can tell you no more.

Alan Browning, Editor.

## ● RIVALS AT THE TIDALS - - -

What would have happened had a “Rivals” competition been held at the Tidals? Using the groups suggested on page 27 of Perihelion 60 and the Tidals’ results on page 10 of Perihelion 63 (not page 7 as it gives in the contents sheet):

Place		
2	Simon Thompson	Premier group
3	Chris Robinson	Group A
4	Peter Hayes	Group A
6	Michael Thompson	Group B
7	John Windibank	Premier group
8	Richard Smallwood	Premier group
9	Paul Hinde	Group C
11	Barry O’Herlihy	Group D

A statistician would no doubt walk off with a shrug of the shoulders, but at least the two from group A are together, prize to Chris Robinson, and groups B, C and D are ranked in that order and were below Chris and Peter. (I’ve not included Henry who did not actually take part in the racing).

So far so good. Had John and Richard been up with Simon it would have looked marvellous for my suggested groups, so I must say “Well done” to Chris, Peter and Michael for squeezing in between. I would have given a prize to Michael in 6<sup>th</sup> place because he was 9 points ahead of John and only one point behind 5<sup>th</sup> place John Coppenhall.

I can’t compare Barry and Diana Thompson because Diana was sailing a Mino this time but, as I understand it from the report, both did their damndest in the truly horrendous conditions. A prize for both ?

Finally, note that John and Richard are again in adjacent placings - they truly seem to be rivals. Nobody else came within 9 points of them either side!

## ● - - - AND AT THE NATIONALS

What would have happened had a “Rivals” competition been held at the recent Nationals?

Using the same groups:

Place		
9	Simon Thompson	Premier group
10	John Windibank	Premier group
14	<b>Tony Best</b>	Group A
16	Nick Warren	Group A
18	Henry Jagers	Group A
22	<b>Brian Welham</b>	Group B
23	<b>Paul Hinde</b>	Group C
27	Peter Hayes	Group A
28	Derek Coleman	Group C
31	Michael Thompson	Group B
32	Chris Robinson	Group A
42	Diana Thompson	Group D

Imaginary prizewinners are shown **bold**.

The Premier group members are higher than any in the other groups. Two members of group A have not done as well as the rest of the group this time. Groups A, B and C overlap, ie there is a lot of variability, in particular Paul Hinde did well and Michael Thompson not as well as he did at the Tidals.

One expects variability in the results of course, and the statistician would ask whether there is any “statistically significant” difference between the three groups. The best one can do is to reassess the grouping, using the results from past Nationals including the 2002 results.

The main question is: do the sailors in the groups think that competing in such “Rivals” groups is an interesting thing to do. It can certainly highlight improvements in ability and some rivalries, eg Smallwood / Windibank and Coleman / Ballam which are I believe real enough.

I really will shut up about this topic now, perhaps I should add that the only reason I’ve written these two pages is that nobody else contributed any personal articles this time and I had to pad the Newsletter out somehow.

Come on now, let’s have some more personal opinions on Comet sailing next time.

Alan Browning, Editor.

# ● PERIHELION REPRINTS

In 1993 the Comet Class Association published, as the first of a "Comet sailing series", a reprint of the article "**Setting your Comet sail**" by Keith Lamdin and gave a free copy to all the members that year. This article had first appeared in Perihelion issue 5 (Dec 1987). Simple photocopies of this publication can no doubt be made available. It includes comparisons between the Banks and Morrison sails but my attempts to update it to include the Hyde sails have not met with a great deal of agreement among the top Comet sailors!

The intention was for the series to continue with the other articles by Keith on sailing the Comet, racing the Comet etc. These publications were however delayed, and it seemed to me that Comet information should be conveniently available, so I prepared, in 1997, six booklets of reprints from Perihelion issues 8 to 40 (1988 to 1996) which I sold to members for £1 each or £5 for all six. They were not professionally printed, just on a computer printer, but the information was there. Over the next 3 years I sent booklets to over 40 Comet sailors but members who have joined more recently may not be aware of their existence, and may like to have some of them. Below I list their contents pages. Please get in touch if you are interested.

## SAILING YOUR COMET by Keith Lamdin, Perihelion 8 - 12

- Issue 8: Part 1 (Sep 1988)
- Issue 9: Part 2 (Dec 1988)
- Issue 10: Part 3 (Mar 1989)
- Issue 11: Part 4 (Jun 1989)
- Issue 12: Part 5 (Sep 1989)

## RACING YOUR COMET by Keith Lamdin, Perihelion 14 - 17

- Issue 14: Part 1 (Mar 1990)
- Issue 15: Part 2 (Jun 1990)
- Issue 16: Part 3 (Sep 1990)
- Issue 17: Part 4 (Dec 1990)

Note: These articles were written in 1990 and relate to the racing rules then in force. It should be borne in mind that in some parts they may not match the current racing rules.

## SAILING TECHNIQUE ARTICLES Perihelion 29 - 33

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Issue 29: Race preparation               | by Guy Wilkins   |
| Issue 30: A few thoughts on Comet racing | by Mark Wilkins  |
| Issue 32: Comet sail controls            | by Errol Edwards |

Issue 19: Turbocharging your Comet	by Errol Edwards
Issue 32: Techniques of winning	by John Regnard
Issue 32: Comet capsizes recovery	by John Windibank
Issue 32: Righting a capsized Comet	by John Regnard
Issue 33: Difficult downwind ?	by Keith Lamdin
Issue 10: Sailing your Comet - part 3 (excerpt)	by Keith Lamdin
Issue 12: Sailing your Comet - part 5 (excerpts)	by Keith Lamdin
Issue 33: Comet capsizes avoidance	by Richard Smallwood
Issue 33: Making heavy weather of Comet sailing	by Alex Reeve
Issue 33: Running before the storm	by Errol Edwards

(Minimally edited by Alan Browning, Perihelion editor, March 1997)

### **TALKING TO . . . ARTICLES Perihelion 33 - 40**

Talking to . . . Jake Sutton	Issue 33 (Dec 94)
Talking to . . . Henry Jagers	Issue 35 (Jun 95)
Talking to . . . the Thompson family	Issue 36 (Sep 95)
Talking to . . . Richard Smallwood	Issue 37 (Dec 95):
Talking to . . . Andrew Simmons	Issue 39 (Jun 96):
Talking to . . . John Windibank	Issue 40 (Sep 96)

### **THE COMET FOR REALLY RAW BEGINNERS by Alan Browning**

**Part 1:** (Perihelion 23, June 1992)

Getting the Comet on the water

**Part 2:** (Perihelion 24, Sept 1992)

Preparation

Setting off

A short sail

Coming in

**Part 3:** (Perihelion 26, March 1993)

Introduction

Gust patterns

Major problem No 1: Lateral balance

Other experiences and problems

**Part 4:** (Perihelion 27, June 1993)

Major problem No 2: Beating

Beginners common faults

Other experiences

In conclusion

### **FLUID FLOW by Alan Browning**

**Part 1:** Watching fluids flow (Perihelion 34, March 1995)

**Part 2:** Circulation and sail 'lift' (Perihelion 35, June 1995)

**Part 3:** Low speed hull drag (Perihelion 36, September 1995)

**Part 4:** Wave drag and planing (Perihelion 37, December 1995)

Alan Browning, Editor.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

Please note two important changes on the inside front cover:

The Association Hon Treasurer is now Richard Smallwood of Frensham Pond S.C.

Tony Ellison has moved but the email address for the Comet website is unchanged.

Thanks to those who have sent in photographs, Nigel Fern for the cover and on on page 15 and Norah and Henry Jagers for all the rest except my Komet.

Thanks too to those who sent me open meeting reports, but as I have mentioned on page 21, no other (non-Committee) members have sent in anything this time.

"Old and fat" wanted better competition at open meetings

I could not go to the Tidals or Nationals this year, but on pages 20 & 21 I have worked out what a "Rivals" competition would have been like. I intend to say no more on this topic from now on but I have, at the Committee's request, sent all the information about it to "Old and fat" who originally wanted some sensible competition among the lower ranks. As it stands a "Rivals" competition cannot satisfy him because the method is selective, he wanted a competition that all could enjoy, but it is a start and perhaps can be tailored to suit him. Unfortunately it is 6 years since he first wrote!

Digital photographs for Perihelion

Please note that digital photographs (digital camera or scanned prints) need not be of great resolution. "High quality" photos using megabytes of storage are difficult to get to me, because they have to come by 1.4 meg floppy disc for the last part of their journey, unless you send me a CD. For example, the cover of perihelion 60 only occupied 20 kB of storage and for magazine purposes this quality is usually adequate.

Alan Browning, Editor



# **Comet Class Association**

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association