

PERIHELION



73

Winter 2004



**Membership
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**Comet Class Association
Newsletter**

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 Money to Richard Smallwood
 Open meetings and general information to Nora Jaggars

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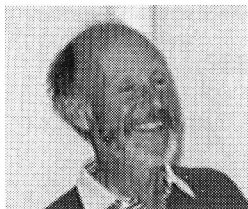
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Chairman's Report



Winter 2004

Looking back over the past season, I realise I have done a great deal more travelling than I

thought I would this year. But what an enjoyable season it has been! A superb Nationals at Rutland, a great Association weekend at Hampton Pier, and a plethora of open events where we received a friendly welcome at clubs all over the country.

Picking up on my travels since my last report, I managed to get to most of the remaining open meetings, other commitments permitting. Severn and Arden gave Norah and me an excuse for another full weekend away and we camped in the field at Severn SC. This is the only time our tent comes into use these days and it is always something of a relief to find it is still serviceable and I have remembered how to put it up. Sailing was good on both days. The following weekend saw us at Merthyr Tydfil for the final event in the West. Merthyr is in such a beautiful location. This time we had a reasonable if unusually variable wind there and enjoyed a really good day's sport leading up to the presentation of the Western Aphelion prizes. Next for us was Pingewood which provided testing conditions with a gusty wind which grew as the day progressed. One week later we again stayed with friends in the area for

the meeting at Burghfield. This was a new venue for Comets and one we have been trying to get for some years. As such it was very gratifying to see such a good turnout on what was a rather bleak and windy day. Thank you all for coming, I know Burghfield will be pleased to welcome us again next year and we will be pleased to go there. We should have been at Kingsmead the following day but as you know their lake was so remarkably weed infested that the meeting had to be cancelled. Never mind, they intend to be back to normal for 2005.

My final event, indeed the end of the Comet season, was at my other old club, Staunton Harold, at the end of October. A really good day's sailing started in a strong wind which diminished as the day went on. After the presentations for the event itself we went on to award the Comet Orbital Trophy, the Central Aphelion and the Eastern Aphelion (which should have happened at Kingsmead), and the many other prizes and mementoes which accompany the end of another Comet racing year. Sincere congratulations and thanks for his dedication to our circuit go to Ian Coppenhall who really did win *everything* this year! Well, I think he was beaten at just one of the opens he did, or maybe two. The Hossell Plate,

for service to promotion of the class, went to ... well see later on.

The Comet Association has been lucky to receive another perpetual trophy this year, "The Fate Plate" for Endeavour in the Face of Adversity. This was donated to us by Peter and Wendy Hayes and at their request its first winner was ... well see later, too. Many thanks to Peter and Wendy!

So another season over and many thanks to everyone who took part in the events and to the clubs who welcomed us to share their waters. If you are reading this as a non-traveller, as someone new to racing, or even if you have never yet joined in a race, I hope you will at least consider joining us for an event or two next year. The programme for 2005 is already taking shape nicely!

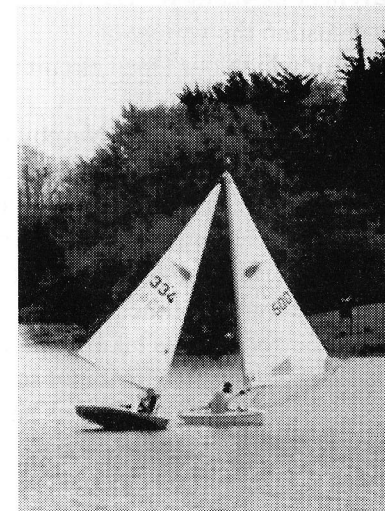
During the winter months, the Association will be doing its bit towards getting more people interested in Comets and in dinghy sailing in general and once again we have been invited to sail on the dock at ExCel during the London Boat Show. This will be on the last Sunday of the show and will consist of a pursuit race against a fantastic range of other classes. Do come, enjoy the show and support our entry.

Towards the end of February, we expect to be at the Boat Caravan & Leisure Show at the NEC; probably the only dinghy class association there. We will need a boat and lots of helpers to man the stand during the week. If you are able to help us in any way please get in touch as soon as possible with either myself or Alan Bennett who will be co-ordinating our efforts.

Straight after the NEC week comes the Dinghy Show weekend at Alexandra Palace and again we will be looking for your support to help with that before the start of what promises to be yet another successful year for the Comet!

A Happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all!

Good Sailing,
Henry Jagers



Secretaries Report

Notes from the Committee:

1. Another year coming to an end. Another season ended. Another opportunity to congratulate Ian Coppenhall on a very successful season culminating in a complete sweep of the silverware. Well done Ian – you've proved yet again that you can sail in all conditions and meet all competition with equal success.
2. I understand that we are envied, by other classes, for the amount of activity which Comet helms support, and our thanks go to all the sailors, and their pit crews, who have taken part in events this season.
3. Thank you to all the clubs which have hosted events this year. We rely on you to create and sustain the variety of conditions for which our Open circuit is known.
4. Our thanks go especially to Naseby for all their support over the years. The club has now disbanded and their Comets have gone to a range of other clubs – so maybe we will have the opportunity to meet at some of those venues in time.
5. The calendar for 2005 is taking shape, with some new venues, and without some of our "old favourites" where things have moved on and their committees have decided that it is no longer practical or viable to have a Comet event. More



- information in Perihelion 74! You will find information on some of the early events elsewhere in this edition.
6. Don't forget that your subscription is now due! If you don't renew, you will not get a copy of Perihelion 74!!
 7. Richard Smallwood has just written to all Comet owners who were not members of the Association, inviting them to join us. As a result he has recruited 79 new members this year. Welcome to you all. We hope that you will be tempted to join in some of the events.
 8. Richard's exercise has also resulted in a number of Comets being offered for sale, so hopefully we will have a new generation of helms to welcome into the fleet. Thank you, Richard, for undertaking a mammoth task. Thank you too, to Karen at Comet Dinghies for your help with the exercise, and to Angela for "stuffing envelopes".
 9. Ros Stevenson has asked to be relieved of her trophy buying "hat". She has done this for longer than the usual 2 seasons, and is finding it increasingly difficult to fit it in with her other commitments. Thank you Ros for all the super mementoes and prizes which you have found for the Association, and for bringing sponsorship into the Class. So far we have been unsuccessful in finding anyone to take up the trophy buying challenge – please let us know if you would like to "have a go".
 10. The Committee was pleased to present the Hossell plate at the last

event of the season. This is awarded to someone who has made a significant impact in promoting the Comet Class Association. You will find the details of the winner elsewhere in this edition. If you know someone in your club who works hard behind the scenes on behalf of Comets and the Class Association, please let your committee know about them.

11. Peter and Wendy Hayes have presented the Class Association with a new trophy, to be awarded annually, for Endeavour in the Face of Adversity. You will find the

conditions, and the identity of the first recipient, in a separate article. Thank you Peter and Wendy, not only for "The Fate Plate", but also for your unstinting support for the Association and the Open circuit over the past few years. Enjoy your travelling – and we look forward to hearing about your adventures on your return.

12. Thank you to everyone who entered the Photographic Competition. It was lovely to have so many entries this year.

Norah Jaggars
Class Secretary

THE HOSSPELL PLATE

This year the Hossell Plate is awarded to someone who has supported the Comet Class Association for many years, and in many ways. They are not seen on the racing circuit, and, in fact, would not be recognised by the majority of Comet sailors. They work in the background, and the support which they offer might be seen as being part of their everyday job. However, over the years they have consistently given more of their time and energy than their employed hours. They have been particularly supportive of our Treasurer by keeping records of new boats, changes of address and owner, and supplying address labels. They are responsible for photocopying the inserts and mailing your copy of Perihelion every quarter. This year, they have helped the Treasurer to contact all Comet owners who were not members of the Association, with the resultant increase in membership and swelling of our coffers. We have all spoken to this person at some time when we have contacted Comet Dinghies.

The winner of the Hossell Plate in 2004 is:

KAREN SYMONDS

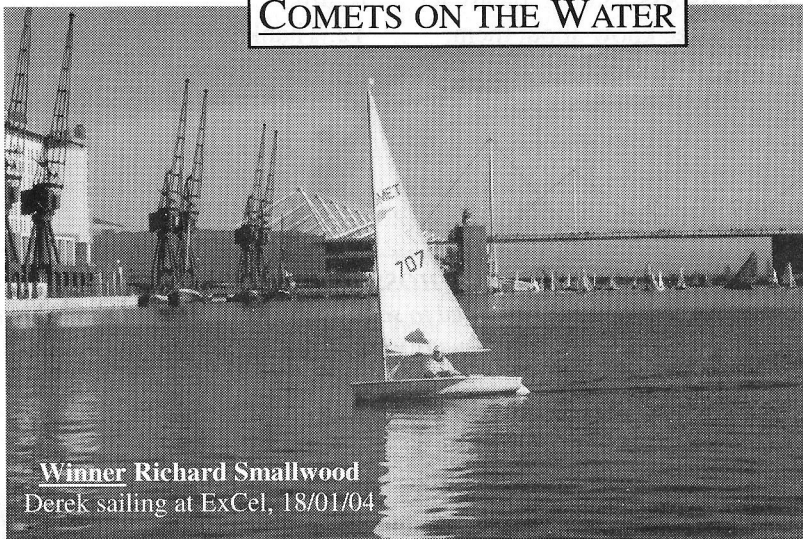


--- Photographic ---

Photographic Competition

This year we had more entries (79), and from far more people, than we have ever had so the Photographic Competition was a real winner itself this year! The categories were:- Comet on the Water and Comet People and judging took place during the last event of the season at Staunton Harold SC.

COMETS ON THE WATER



Winner Richard Smallwood
Derek sailing at ExCel, 18/01/04



Runner-up Fran Gibbs
A windy day at Severn SC

--- Competition ---

A Winner Itself!

The judges were drawn from the galley and other non-Comet people present at that meeting and, by all reports, they undertook the task with great dedication to detail and considerable pleasure. The verdict was:-

COMET PEOPLE



Winner Derek Coleman
Richard sailing at ExCel, 18/01/04



Runner-up Jennifer Lemmon
Roger on the run, Severn SC

Congratulations to the winners, your awards have already been posted to you, and very many thanks to everyone who took part. All your contributions have been viewed with pleasure and have given us lots of really good material for new posters and displays.

OPEN MEETING REPORTS

Staunton Harold SC Comet Open 23rd October 2004

Saturday saw the final Comet Open of the 2004 season taking place in changing conditions, initially very strong winds finishing in extremely heavy rain with weak wind. The forecast extreme wind restricted the overall entry to 14, with several boats being left on trailers in the car park.

Race 1, with only 12 competitors, saw Ian Kelly (SHSC) lead from the off, closely followed by Ian Coppenhall (Hunts) and Alan Bennett (SHSC). Ian made the rest of the fleet watch as he opened up a considerable lead during laps 1 and 2. Lap three saw Ian increase his lead with Alan unfortunately slipping back to 4th having been overtaken by Pete Hayes. The fourth lap brought about a complete change of luck both good and bad, Peter Mountford (SHSC) got a tremendous lift on the beat to see him pass Alan whilst Ian suffered a Comet death roll and lost the lead.

Race 1 ended with 1st Ian Coppenhall, 2nd Pete Hayes, 3rd Peter Mountford and 4th Alan Bennett.

After a short break all 14 boats contested Race 2 as it was held in more favourable conditions; the wind dropping to 10 to 15mph. This resulted in far closer racing with Pete Hayes,

Brian Welham and Alan Bennerrtt, all in close company, drawing away from the fleet by the end of lap 1. Throughout lap 2 Ian Coppenhall gave chase and started to close the gap to the leading three. The lower placings were heavily contested with twos and threes battling it out. The third lap saw Pete Hayes draw further away and consolidate his lead with the charging Ian

Helm	Boat	Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Overall
Ian Coppenhall	636	Hunts	1	2	1	2
Pete Hayes	803	RYA	2	1	7	3
Ian Kelly	725	SHSC	6	5	2	7
Brian Welham	711	Taplow	7	3	5	8
Alan Bennett	620	SHSC	4	4	4	8
Peter Mountford	780	SHSC	3	8	4	11
Phillip Hossell	650	Severn	5	6	9	11
Josie Adams	302	SHSC	12	4	3	15
Roger Lemmon	812	Severn	9	7	10	16
Henry Jaggars	80	RYA	DNS	11	6	17
Brian Herring	730	Winsford	DNS	9	8	17
Paul Hinde	641	Severn	8	10	4	18
John Coppenhall	532	Hunts	10	4	11	21
Rhiain Bevan	205	Merthyr	11	4	13	24

Coppenhall moving into 2nd ahead of Brian Welham and Alan Bennett.

The crews were then allowed a lunch break! The weather forecast indicating either a drop in wind or a massive increase influencing a back to back starting sequence.

With a first and second place each the 3rd race would see the outcome decided between Ian Coppenhall and Pete Hayes. By now the wind had eased considerably allowing OOD Tony Priest the luxury of putting in a dead run! Ian Kelly decided that a change of sail was needed and it paid off finishing lap 1 in third place behind Ian Coppenhall and Brian Welham with Alan Bennett in 4th, the lighter wind suiting Josie Adams (SHSC) in 5th. Lap two saw the wind drop further but the rain begin to bucket down but brought good luck for Josie Adams as was able to nip by Alan Bennett into 3rd with Ian Kelly in 2nd behind a comfortable Ian Coppenhall in 1st.

With two wins to his name Ian Coppenhall took first place, with Pete Hayes in second, a recovering Ian Kelly in third, Brian Welham in fourth ahead of Mr Consistency (three 4th places) Alan Bennett in fifth; losing 4th due to Brian Welham's 3rd in race 2.

Comet Orbital 2004



Pos	No	Helm	Club	Best 6 Results						Pts	Events
1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	20
2	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	1	2	2	2	2	2	11	15
3	803	Pete Hayes	RYA	2	2	3	3	3	3	16	25
4	620	Alan Bennett	Staunton Harold	2	2	3	3	3	3	16	10
5	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	2	3	3	3	4	4	17	22
6	800	Henry Jaggars	RYA	2	3	3	4	4	4	20	19
7	555	John Windibank	Chipstead	1	3	3	3	5	6	21	8
8	650	Phil Hossell	Severn	3	3	4	6	6	6	28	11
9	730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	3	4	5	6	7	9	34	8
10	488	Emma Coppenhall	Hunts	4	5	5	5	7	8	34	10
11	707	Derek Coleman	Coney	3	5	5	6	8	8	35	14
12	63	Chris Robinson	Burghfield	2	5	5	8	9	9	38	10
13	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners	5	5	7	7	8	10	42	10
14	750	Richard Smallwood	Frensham Ponds	6	7	7	7	9	10	46	7
15	641	Paul Hinde	Severn	6	7	8	8	10	10	49	9
16	724	Helen Leivers	Severn	7	7	8	10	13	15	60	8
17	420	Alun Bevan	Merthyr Tydfil	5	7	7	8	9	33	69	6
18	205	Rhiain Bevan	Merthyr Tydfil	8	12	12	13	15	21	81	6
19	812	Roger Lemmon	Severn	4	7	18	19	26	10	84	6

First Six at Open Meetings

West	Merthyr Tydfil	North	Redesmere	Central	Staunton Harold
1	636 Ian Coppenhall		636 Ian Coppenhall		636 Ian Coppenhall
2	532 John Coppenhall		107 Bill Webber		803 Pete Hayes
3	803 Pete Hayes		620 Alan Bennett		711 Brian Welham
4	812 Roger Lemmon		100 Steve Bellamy		620 Alan Bennett
5	420 Alun Bevan		803 Pete Hayes		780 Peter Mountford
6	800 Henry Jaggars		532 John Coppenhall		650 Phil Hossell
South	Littleton	South	Pingewood	South	Burghfield
1	636 Ian Coppenhall		636 Ian Coppenhall		150 Robbie Hamilton
2	711 Brian Welham		532 John Coppenhall		63 Chris Robinson
3	745 Nick Warren		800 Henry Jaggars		650 Phil Hossell
4	488 Emma Coppenhall		650 Phil Hossell		803 Pete Hayes
5	708 Roy Holden		803 Pete Hayes		745 Nick Warren
6	801 Tony Best		711 Brian Welham		190 Rupert Whelan

Aphelion 2004 Results

Another great year for Comet sailors and congratulations again to Ian Coppenhall who has completed his 4th consecutive Orbital win. Ian has now completed 21 Aphelion wins and his Orbital total now equals Mark Wilkins in this event. Brian Welham had his best year ever and after telling us how he lost at the beginning of the year he then went on to show us how to win and he was second in 3 Aphelion's well done. Peter Hayes wont be with us next year but he again heads the list by competing in 25 events and was always competitive. First Lady in the Orbital was Emma Coppenhall who upholds the family winning habit

and we look forward to next year with her continuing competition with Annette Walter. I am afraid I don't have space in this Perihelion to write about all the competitors but I will mention Bill Webber as he was about the only one to beat Ian this year and he only lost by a whisker at the Nationals. The Numbers qualifying this year are slightly down on last but well done Severn SC as the club with most Qualifiers again. There were qualifiers from 11 different clubs and we hope to see you all next year.

John Windibank 555

Comet Aphelion Southern 2004

3 Races to Count

Pos	No	Helm	Club	Taplow	Lake	Aylesbury	Littleton	Pingewood	Burghfield	Pts
1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	DNG	1	1	1	DNG	3	
2	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	4	2	2	6	11	8	
3	803	Pete Hayes	RYA	DNG	6	14	5	4	15	
4	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	DNG	7	7	2	12	16	
5	800	Henry Jaggars	RYA	9	4	DNG	3	17	16	
6	63	Chris Robinson	Burghfield	11	5	16	DNG	2	18	
7	707	Derek Coleman	Coney	12	3	8	8	9	19	
8	750	Richard Smallwood	Fransham Ponds	6	DNG	15	9	7	19	
9	622	Clive Chapman	Littleton	8	DNG	9	7	8	23	
10	801	Tony Best	Taplow Lake	3	DNG	6	DNG	16	25	
11	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners	10	DNG	11	DNG	13	34	

Comet Aphelion Western 2004

3 Races to Count

Pos	No	Helm	Club	Shearwater	Sutton	Bingham	Redditch	Arden	Merthyr Tydfil	Mudford	Pts
1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	DNG	DNG	1	1	1	DNG	3	
2	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	2	1	DNG	4	DNG	DNG	7	
3	803	Pete Hayes	RYA	4	3	3	2	3	DNG	8	
4	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	3	DNG	4	3	2	DNG	8	
5	800	Henry Jaggars	RYA	5	4	2	11	6	3	9	
6	420	Alun Bevan	Merthyr Tydfil	8	9	6	DNG	5	DNG	19	
7	650	Phil Hossell	Severn	DNG	10	DNG	6	7	DNG	23	
8	724	Helen Leivers	Severn	DNG	7	DNG	10	13	DNG	30	
9	641	Paul Hinde	Severn	DNG	8	DNG	7	16	DNG	31	
10	205	Rhiain Bevan	Merthyr Tydfil	DNG	DNG	7	13	12	DNG	32	

Comet Aphelion Northern 2004

3 Races to Count

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Club	Winsford Flash	Rudyard Lake	Carsington	Chester	Redesmere	Pts
1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	2	4	1	1	1	3
2	107	Bill Webber	Winsford Flash	1	DNG	DNG	2	2	5
3	620	Alan Bennett	Staunton Harold	3	2	3	DNG	3	8
4	100	Steve Bellamy	Winsford Flash	5	3	DNG	10	4	12
5	803	Pete Hayes	RYA	4	7	4	4	5	12
6	730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	7	6	DNG	3	DNG	16
7	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	9	4	6	6	6	16
8	488	Emma Coppenhall	Hunts	10	5	5	7	DNG	17
9	438	Guy Benson	Redesmere	12	10	DNG	13	9	31
10	820	Ros Stevenson	Winsford Flash	11	9	DNG	12	DNG	32
11	248	Catherine Bellamy	Winsford Flash	14	11	DNG	11	DNG	36

Comet Aphelion CENTRAL 2004

3 Races to Count

Pos	No	Helm	Club	Mudford	Banbury	Naseby	Cransley	Severn	Staunton Harc	Pts
1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	DNG	4	DNG	1	1	1	3
2	620	Alan Bennett	Staunton Harold	DNG	3	DNG	2	4	4	9
3	803	Pete Hayes	RYA	4	7	DNG	4	9	2	10
4	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	DNG	5	DNG	5	3	11	13
5	650	Phil Hossell	Severn	DNG	8	DNG	3	16	6	17
6	800	Henry Jaggars	RYA	DNG	6	DNG	7	5	8	18
7	730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	DNG	4	DNG	9	DNG	9	22
8	641	Paul Hinde	Severn	DNG	DNG	DNG	6	10	10	26

Comet Aphelion Eastern 2004

3 Races to Count

Pos	No	Helm	Club	Fishers Green	Crawley Mariners	Chipstead	Redoubt	Pts
1	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	1	DNG	1	1	3
2	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	2	DNG	2	2	6
3	555	John Windibank	Chipstead	6	1	3	3	7
4	803	Pete Hayes	RYA	8	3	4	4	11
5	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	4	6	7	7	17
6	800	Henry Jaggars	RYA	12	4	8	6	18
7	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners	7	7	5	8	19
8	549	Mike Thompson	Crawley Mariners	5	5	14	DNG	24
9	707	Derek Coleman	Coney	11	11	11	5	27

Sailing Away Series

An Export Success ?

Bought originally by Peter and Heather Toll, Comet 119 has now been acquired by Heather's brother, Malcolm Banfield. He and his wife Julia (formerly Rowe) were members at Chipstead SC in the late 1980s where they honed their sailing skills in Topper 18660.

Malcolm works for Renault in Paris and now with three children he and Julia live near St Germain-en-Laye. Two of the three children have attended Chipstead's 3-day summer course for Optimist novices – Chipmates – and now the whole family is taking regular advantage of the superb sailing facilities at the leisure complex of Saint Quentin-en-Yvelines.

The lake is a good size, possibly 3 or 4 times that of Chipstead and, as the surrounding land is relatively flat, winds are often fairly constant. Also, dare I say, sailing clothing, wetsuits and life jackets are comparatively inexpensive at the widely located Decathlon, sports goods hypermarkets, especially during a 'soldes'. Interest has been expressed at the club in the Comet; is this a possible export opportunity for Andy? Ralph Rowe – Comet 346



The F.A.T.E. Plate

As I am taking a break from the Comet open circuit, I wanted to give something back to an association that has given me so much and so the F.A.T.E Plate was born.

The award is to be presented Annually for "Endeavour in The Face of Adversity" and anyone who has seen Catherine Bellamy sail this year will realise that there can only be one winner.

During the National Championships held at Rutland she sailed on in tough conditions and even after several capsizes she was determined to finish! and most recently at Redsmere in force 4 conditions where several sailors retired Catherine battled on.

We sometimes concentrate too much on the top 6 placings and don't see those making their first move up the league tables.

Wendy and I hope that this will recognise the achievements of someone who never gives up.

Peter & Wendy Hayes (Last Boat 803)

Catherine is a Junior member of the Class and sails Comet 248 from Winsford Flash S.C.

NOTICE BOARD

Dates for your Diary 2005.

Sun	Jan	Pursuit Race at London Boat Show at ExCel
Sat 19th Feb}		Boat Caravan and Leisure Show at NEC
Sun 27th Feb}		
Sat 5th Mar}		The Dinghy Sailing Show at Alexandra Palace
Sun 6th Mar}		
Sat 16th April		Shearwater Fishers Green Hunts
Sat 23rd April		
Sun 24th April		
Sat 30th April}		Association Championships at Staunton Harold
Sun 1st May}		
Sat 7th May		Taplow Winsford Flash Banbury Crawley Mariners - to be confirmed Rudyard Sutton Bingham
Sat 7th May		
Sat 14th May		
Sun 15th May		
Sat 21st May		
Sat 4th June		
Sat 27th August}		
Sun 28th August}		
Mon 29th August}		

FOR SALE

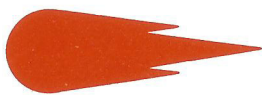
Sail No: 120 : Description: Comet Zero, Golden yellow hull, Good condition, located in Surrey. Extras include Jib Kit with furling gear, toe straps, two self bailers, auto ratchet mainsheet block, Iroko wooden fendering, full length keel band, boom top cover, launching trolley, buoyancy bag, Window in mainsail. 4 years old. One owner.

Price: £2,250 : Name: Arthur Spooner : Email: mwymer@swsolutions.co.uk Telephone no: 01372 279566

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Please send your contributions for the next issue of Perihelion by
25th February 2005

Thank you to all the contributors for your splendid support.



Comet Class Association

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