

**PERIHELION**  **77**



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**Comet Class Association  
Newsletter**

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### Information Comments Articles Results

Racing Results to Paul Hinde  
News Letter to John Windibank  
Racing rules Clinic Keith Lamdin

Website to Simon Ellis  
Money to Richard Smallwood

Open meetings and general information to Nora Jaggars

Comet Class Association Website:- [www.cometsailing.org.uk](http://www.cometsailing.org.uk)

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER 77

Winter 2005  
CONTENTS

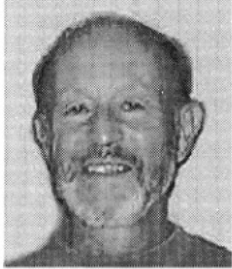
Reports		Page
Chairman	Henry Jaggars	2
Notes form the Committee	Norah Jaggars	4
<b>Features</b>		
Endeavour Trophy	Stephen Lemmon	6
Photographic Competition		12
Orbital 2005	Paul Hinde	19
Aphelion 2005	Paul Hinde	20
Chris Robinson	Chris Robinson	22
My best with Zest	Derek Coleman	23
<b>Perihelion Series</b>		
The F.A.T.E Plate	Henry Jaggars	3
The Hossell Plate	Henry Jaggars	5
Comets & Clubs Aylesbury	Chris Robinson	10
<b>Open meetings</b>		
Merthyr Tydfil	Mark Govier	14
Staunton Harold	N Fern	15
Pingewood & Kennet Valley	Andy Wilson	16
Burghfield	Chris Robinson	17
Chester	John Edwards	18
Rugby & Daventry	Christine Silver	18

### Photographs

Front	: Nationals 1992	: Sutton Bingham	: Anon
Page 3	: Nationals 2004	: Robin Ballam	: Anon
Page 6 & 9	: Endeavour Trophy	: Ian & Steve	: Sue Coppenhall
Page 10 & 11	: Aylesbury 1986	: Comet Nationals	: Chris Robinson
Page 14	: Merthyr Tydfil	: Open Meeting	: Len Bartlett
Page 20	: Staunton Harold	: Prize Winners	: Norah Jaggars
Head & Shoulder Pictures originally : Norah Jaggars			

## Chairman's Report

### WINTER 2005



The end of another year. Indeed, looking out today from our vantage point above the valley, sailing of any kind seems a very remote prospect as everything is white with snow, there is a hard frost, and no wind.

The season ended with a fine run of open meetings: Littleton, Merthyr Tydfil, Pingewood, Redesmere, Kingsmead (totally weed-free this year), Burghfield, and Staunton Harold. We travelled to five of these and were rewarded with reasonable weather, a good day's sport, and great company at each one. Of course some of these end-of-season meetings were also the final event in their respective Aphelion areas and it is always a pleasure to be able to award the trophies and mementoes personally.

While some of us were enjoying the racing at Kingsmead Ian Coppenhall and Stephen Lemmon were representing the Comet Class in the Endeavour Trophy event at Burnham-on-Crouch. Thank you both. This is a long-running annual invitation event to which we have been trying to get an invite for years! More details can be found in "Notes from the Committee".

Staunton Harold, as in the past couple of years, was the final event on our calendar and as such merits further mention, quite apart from being one of my old haunts. Their hospitality and organisation was as good as ever and a light to moderate breeze provided us with some great racing. Following presentation of the open meeting prizes by the club and some quick calculations by our results man, Paul, we were able to announce the final positions for both the Aphelion and the overall Orbital series and to hand out the trophies and mementoes to those qualifiers present. This

year's recipients of the Hossell and Fate Plates were also announced - see separate items in this edition. Well done to all of you and many thanks for all your support, I hope you enjoyed the year as much as I did. Those not present on the day will receive their mementoes via a friend or by post.

Staunton Harold was also the judgement day for our annual Photographic Competition and a team of eager and impartial volunteers was assembled from the galley helpers and other club members to undertake the task, which they did while the rest of us were out sailing.

The Photographic Competition had a good number of entries, about 70 in all, sent either directly to me or via our Perihelion editor. This year all but three of the entries were from digital cameras and were received as files on disk or as email attachments from which I made the prints for the judges to consider. Perhaps worth noting for the 2006 competition - yes, there will be one - is that if you want to do any cropping or more serious editing of your photos then please do so. I am not going to do it for you even if it could turn a fairly basic "snap" into an award-winning work of art! This year's winners were:

#### "Comet People"

1<sup>st</sup>, Stephen Bellamy (C100) for a photo of his daughter Catherine (C248), first winner of the Fate Plate.

2<sup>nd</sup>, Norah Jagers, line-up of happy prize winners at this year's Association Championships.

#### "Comets on the Water"

1<sup>st</sup>, Norah Jagers, fast action at this year's Association Championships.

2<sup>nd</sup>, Fran Gibbs, training day at Severn SC.

Well done! Your prizes are on the way. Thanks to everyone who sent us photos, we will certainly be making use of some of them, not just the winners, in our future advertising and displays. Keep them coming!

Are you waiting to be asked to help out at the NEC show in February? Well don't hold your breath, this year there will be no show, not for us or the RYA! Of course the "Boat, Caravan, and Leisure Show" will go ahead as normal but this time it will have (even) less boats than usual. The show's organisers have got too commercial and were not willing to give the RYA space at a reasonable price: space they have almost begged them to take up for the past 20 years or more! Our thanks to all our members who have lent boats and given of their time so freely in past years. It seems we

(and all the other clubs and associations) are just not needed on this occasion. We will, of course, be at the Dinghy Show as usual in March.

Once again, many thanks to everyone who took part in Comet events and to the clubs who welcomed us to their waters. Norah has already made a good start on the 2006 programme. A few old favourites, for various reasons, will be missing, but there promise to be one or two new venues to take their place. So, as always, it should be a very good line-up of events and the envy of many another class. See you there!

A Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all,

Henry Jagers

## The F.A.T.E Plate 2005

Presented by Peter & Wendy Hayes

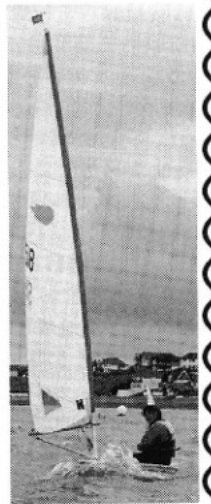
*Presented in 2004 and* awarded annually for Endeavour in the Face of Adversity

*This is the first time that the Committee has had the pleasure of making this award, and we were pleased to receive a number of nominations.*

*After due consideration the Committee decided to award the FATE plate to someone who has continued to sail competitively in spite of having been seriously ill, and having on -going health issues. Not only do they support the Class Association by attending as many events as they can (and getting family members to drive them on occasions), but they are extremely active in their home club where they regularly contribute to the training programmes for youngsters on both a formal and informal basis.*

*The winner of the FATE plate 2005 is*

**Robin Ballam**



## Secretaries Report

### Notes from the Committee:



1. The end of another season – and many congratulations to Ian Coppenhall who has gone home with almost all the silverware. Not only did he win all of the Aphelions, but he also took the Orbital trophy.
2. Brian Welham was second in the Orbital, closely followed by John Windibank. Congratulations to both of them, and a huge thank-you to all the helms who took part in events throughout the season. Your support makes all the planning worth while. Thank you.
3. This year, for the first time, we were invited to take part in the Endeavour Trophy. This is an invitation only event, hosted by the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Burnham-on-Crouch, for national champions only. This year the club used Topper Xenons for the racing. We were proud to have Ian, along with Stephen Lemmon, representing the Comet Class Association. They enjoyed their weekend, coming to grips with the spinnaker as well as being 2 in a boat (we understand that they are still speaking to one another!). Congratulations to both of them.
4. The Committee was pleased to award the Hossell Plate to Tony Ellison – details elsewhere.
5. This was the first year that the Committee had the pleasure of awarding the FATE plate, for which several nominations were received. After due deliberation, the plate was awarded to Robin Ballam.
6. This is the time of year when we start the serious planning for next year. We are delighted that the Nationals will be at Winsford Flash over the August Bank Holiday weekend – August 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, and grateful to the club for offering to host the event again. For the Association Championships we are pleased to be returning to Mudeford over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July. We recognise that this is nearer to the Nationals than we would like, but we were constrained by the tide times.
7. In terms of the Open meetings, the programme is slowly coming together (slowly because your Secretary has been busy with other things). Inevitably there will be some changes of venue. We are very sorry not to be going back to Sutton Bingham, but recognise that the low turnout was a factor, and that it is not practical for us to share with any of the other fleets for whom they are hosting events. Redoubt will not be holding an event next year mainly because their Comet fleet has diminished. Our thanks go to the club for all the support which they have given us. Pingewood and Kennet Valley are expected to disband, so there will be no meeting there in 2006. So ends a long tradition of Comet Open meetings on Burghfield Lake (which is the name of the water), firstly at Kennet Valley during the 1980s, and then at Pingewood from around 1993. Thank you to both clubs (which amalgamated a couple of years ago) for continuing to hold events for us, even when their own Comet fleets became less active.
8. So far we have one new venue for 2006 – Bexhill-on-Sea. We have to finalise the date but it will be over the weekend of July 22nd/23<sup>rd</sup>. You will find

information on the first events of the season elsewhere in this Perihelion.

9. We will not be having a stand at the Boating Caravanning and Leisure Show at the NEC in 2006. The area which was offered to the RYA was not suitable for them to host the variety of clubs they have in the past, and they decided not to go ahead. Although this ends a long association with the show, your committee had been debating the merits of our having a stand there as it was always difficult to see the results of our investment in volunteer time as well as the cost of the stand. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who have manned our stand over the years, and to Alan Bennett who has organised the rotas for the last few years. The RYA is considering the options for a stand at the Outdoor Show, which is a 2 day

event at the NEC, and we have asked to be kept informed.

10. This means that our only exhibition will be at the Dinghy Show at Alexander Palace over the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March.
11. Once again we have been invited to take part in an event to mark the finale of the London Boat Show, on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. The organisers are planning a Handicap Speed Trial, making use of GPS systems, which sounds very exciting. We have accepted the invitation, and look forward to some more information on what it entails in due course.
12. You will find the results of the Photographic competition elsewhere. Congratulations to Stephen Bellamy and Fran Gibb for their entries. And thank you to the team of judges at Staunton Harold. Happy New Boxing Day  
Norah Jagers Class Secretary

## The Hossell Plate 2005

Donated by Liz and Phil Hossell

**Donated in 2002 as an annual award to the person judged by the committee to have made the greatest contribution to Comet sailing, and to enhance the membership of the Comet Class Association.**

*The winner in 2004 was Karen Symonds for all her support with Perihelion, in keeping membership lists up-to-date and being a point of contact with Comet Dinghies.*

*This year the committee has chosen someone who worked alongside them for several years, actively promoting the Comet Class Association and bringing in new members. They also helped newcomers to learn about the Comet, put them in touch with members of the Association who could answer their queries about the boat and enabled them to go for trial sails. This person set up a system for owners to sell boats, and created an active market place for "previously owned" Comets.*

*The website which he created was judged to be one of the best, and the Association is pleased that his work is being continued. The winner of the Hossell Plate 2005 is*

**Tony Ellison.**

## Endeavour Trophy

Last weekend I was privileged to be invited to crew for Ian Coppenhall at the annual Endeavour Trophy held at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club on the River Crouch in Essex.

The winner of this invitation-only event is hailed as the Champion of Champions as entries are limited to the National Champions from the top dinghy classes. The criteria for whether a class is invited appears to be a combination of numbers of boats at the nationals, previous attendance at the Endeavour and who you know at RCYC!

with an asymmetric spinnaker, and as I used to race an RS200, Ian asked me to crew for him.

### Friday

We arrived at RCYC on Friday morning as a day of training and familiarisation had been arranged. Topper had brought the boats straight from the factory and after being allocated a boat for the weekend, a frantic couple of hours was spent peeling off the bubble wrap and working out how to put our boat together! And that was even before we had to work out how



The Comet class was invited for the first time this year, and as National Champion Ian was the helm. This year the event was to be sailed in brand new Topper Xenons, a two man hiking boat

to rig it! (a small amount of espionage helped us to make sure we rigged it the same way as the regular asymmetric crews!).

The training was run by top sailing coach Harvey Hillary, initially in a F1-2 in a tiny area bordered by moored yachts, the pontoon and river bank, on a ripping flooding tide often moving faster than the boats! A number of short training races were run with Harvey videoing all the boats ready for a debrief later that day.

The trouble was this: Ian and I had never sailed together in a boat before, Ian hadn't helmed a two-man boat for over three years and only had brief experience of an asymmetric boat. The other crews (except for a few single-handers) were National Champions sailing together and many of them in similar types of boats to the Xenon. We knew from the start that we had a humbling weekend ahead of us!

We were in trouble straight away at the start of practice race 1, being caught in the second tier being covered by the boats in tier 1, and we ended up pinned to the pontoon by the tide! With our pride almost as battered as the lovely new boat kindly provided by Topper we carried on the training races with terrible roll tacks, poor downwind skills and poor boat speed! We found ourselves battling the champions from the Blaze, Cadet, Laser Vortex and Supernova classes.

The video debrief was excellent and Harvey gave everyone excellent

advice on setting up mast rake, spreader angles, jib fairlead positions and rig tension – just like we do every week on the Comet – and recommended boat trim: Keep the shoulders out and the knuckle in!

### Saturday

We got to the club early on Saturday and set up the boat as Harvey had suggested and then the first day of racing began.

The course was set up a couple of miles downstream where the River Crouch meets the River Roach creating a nice wide area where a beat can be set up whatever the wind direction. The races were between 30 and 45 minutes and all the racing was on a classic windward-leeward course with a choice of two leeward marks, passing through the start-finish line each windward leg:

26 boats started race one in a F3 in a fast flood tide pushing the boats over the start line, so the regatta started with a general recall! The black flag went up and stayed up for the rest of the event. We still seemed to be lacking a bit in boat speed and went round the windward mark towards the back of the fleet, and spent the rest of the race going backwards downwind as the others managed to find the optimum angle between maximum boat speed and heading vaguely in the right direction. We finished last, but were saved by the fact that two boats were OCS, giving us 24<sup>th</sup> place. At least we weren't last! The race was won by Finn representative Nick Craig.

Race two was in similar conditions, and Ian picked the committee boat end of the line and tacked straight off onto port and headed out to what was beginning to be the favoured side of the course for both shifts and stronger tide. As we tacked onto the lay-line for the windward mark on Starboard we got a lovely view of seeing two thirds of the fleet behind us. We were 8<sup>th</sup> round the mark and Ian decided to follow the 29er crew downwind as they are used to sailing the downwind angles. We kept the pace up and finished in our best position for the weekend in 13<sup>th</sup>. The RS200 crew won the race.

The wind got up to a F4 for the third race and we started well and were holding 20<sup>th</sup> place when we broached on a gybe, the spinnaker flogged and the spinnaker pole snapped! We retired from the race and the Topper support crew fitted a new one in less than 5 minutes ready for the next race! Meanwhile Nick Craig took his second win.

Race four ended up in another retirement due to a seized spinnaker halyard block at the top of the mast. Another trip to the Topper support RIB, a quick capsized and a Stanley knife sorted us out whilst Nick Craig cruised to victory number three.

As we needed to start getting some results, we started race five conservatively in the second tier and stayed mid-fleet all race, only to find out later in the evening that we'd been given OCS! We started to protest the

race committee but realised that both the head race officer on the committee boat and his assistant at the pin end had recorded us OCS so we didn't have a leg to stand on! Any guesses who won the race?

We headed back to the club and came ashore after being on the water for over 7 hours – no wonder they call this the Endeavour! Royal Corinthians put on an excellent formal meal in the evening, and the guest speaker was Keith Musto who was encouraging everyone to start their Olympic campaigns.

Day two and Race six started in a F3 with the same tide pushing us over the start line, however we started so far back you could have fitted the QE2 between us and the line! This gave us some cracking clear air and we headed out to the right hand side of the course and got to the windward mark in 15<sup>th</sup> place. We dropped a few places going down the course, but some late kite drops and good choices of leeward mark brought us home in 14<sup>th</sup> after pushing the Albacore crew beyond the committee boat on the finish line to make sure of our place! Nick Craig went aground and only managed 10<sup>th</sup>, leaving the Mirror sailors to take their maiden win.

We got a good start in race seven but were forced out to the left hand side by a small shift. Meanwhile the majority of the fleet got a huge lift over on the right hand side of the

course and were suddenly on the lay-line for the mark! We tried to make the places back, but finished 24<sup>th</sup>. Laser champion Paul Goodison won the race.

On the first windward leg of the final race we tacked too early for the mark and had to put in two quick tacks. At the same time as we tacked, the Lark boys tacked too and we hit each other. The Lark hailed us in a rather colourful fashion,



asking what we were 'flipping' doing and suggesting our IQ was somewhat lacking! A bit of blemish on an event that was full of good spirits and the minimum of hails and calls that you get from a high standard of sailors. We got round the mark in 10<sup>th</sup> but lost it all by getting caught between

two sets of boats going for opposite leeward marks, causing us to come in on a dead run with no pressure in the kite. We finished in 17<sup>th</sup> whilst the RS200 team took victory.

The overall winner was, of course, Nick Craig representing the Finn who completed his year in which he won the RS400 nationals, the Finn nationals, the OK nationals and the OK worlds by becoming the Champion of Champions. Second was Andy Palmer-Felgate

representing the Laser 4000, and third was Laser National Champion Paul Goodison, ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the World and likely to be representing GBR in 2008. We finished in a respectable 24<sup>th</sup>, despite having to count so many RTDs!

Thank you to Ian and the Comet Class Association for giving me the chance to

compete at such a prestigious event against the top sailors in the country – a chance in a lifetime – and at least we came away with the T-Shirt!

Stephen Lemmon 620

# Comets & Clubs



## The Early Years of Comets at Aylesbury Sailing Club.

*John Windibank (our editor) asked me to write an article about the early years of the Comet at Aylesbury Sailing Club, so here are my own recollections. I've only covered the years I was actively sailing at Aylesbury, from 1985 (which I think coincided with the first Comet at Aylesbury) to the early 1990's when I moved to Coventry. As this was up to 20 years ago my memory may have gone awry, and I apologise in advance for any errors or omissions.*

No article on the history of the Comets can be complete without mentioning two key Aylesbury members who are also important contributors to the Comet Class Association. The first is Keith Lamdin, who became the Comet Class Association Chairman in 1986. He was responsible for the setting up of the Comet Open meeting circuit and the creation of the Perihelion newsletter, and is now our President. In the early years Keith also encouraged the Aylesbury Comet sailors onto the Open circuit. The other person is Margaret Hylton, who along with her husband Barry were Comet distributors from 1987 to 1996. They also sold spares for the Comet, which I certainly found most useful, as I can remember being able to replace a broken tiller extension between races at Aylesbury. Margaret has also been on the Comet Class Association committee.

As anyone who has been to an Aylesbury Sailing Club Comet Open will know, Aylesbury is a small family club on a small water. The reservoir is surrounded by trees on three sides, so the winds are often fickle. The Comet is ideally suited to this type of water. In the early 80's Aylesbury only permitted certain classes of dinghy. When I joined the club in 1985 the two principal racing classes were GP14s and Toppers. Although the other classes (Mirrors, Fireflies and Graduates) could race, they were mostly seen cruising. However, just before I joined the club a handicap class was introduced. The range of

dinghies in this class was quite restricted, they had to be under 14' in length and have a Portsmouth Yardstick between 118 and 125. So the fastest boat permitted was the Enterprise, while the slowest was the Comet. Importantly Lasers could not be sailed at Aylesbury. I think this was quite significant, as in many other clubs the Laser is the main singlehanded class. At Aylesbury the only singlehanded class available had been the Topper, which is too small for most adults. With the addition of the handicap class there was the opportunity for the singlehanded sailors to move into a bigger dinghy.

The first Comet at Aylesbury was Keith Lamdin's (No. 55, which he still owns), which I think he brought to the club in 1985. In 1986 the Comet Nationals were held at Aylesbury. This was due to Keith. I believe there were problems obtaining a venue and Keith offered Aylesbury. He was able to do this as at that time Aylesbury had at two week break in the summer when there was no racing. The Nationals was raced on one of these weekends. Although I didn't have my Comet at this time I remember going down to the club with my Dad to see the sailing. It was a windy day and I remember some sailors having difficulty beating away from the leeward mark, getting too close to the bank, running aground and having to be pulled out of the reeds by the rescue boat.

Keith won the Nationals that year and at the AGM immediately after the Nationals became the chairman of the Comet Class Association.

Aylesbury has held a Comet Open every year since and so has one of the longest running



Comet Open meetings. Initially this was officially a Comet Class Association event run by the Association during the two week break. Eventually the Comet became a class at Aylesbury and the Open was organised by the club. Aylesbury only hosts one or two Opens a year and it is seen as an important event that showcases the club. In the early years of the Comet Opens it was seen as extremely important that the home boats raced. If you couldn't make the Open, you lent your Comet to someone else. I cannot be certain, but it is probable that my boat (No. 63) has sailed in every Aylesbury Comet Open between 1987 and 2004. At the first Comet Open in 1987 there were 21 entries, with seven from Aylesbury. However, the results are listed in Perihelion 5 and I can only see six Aylesbury names listed:

1 <sup>st</sup> : Damon Perrin	5 <sup>th</sup> : Philip Robinson
6 <sup>th</sup> : Ian Hylton	8 <sup>th</sup> : Chris Robinson
12 <sup>th</sup> : Alex Leslie	16 <sup>th</sup> : James Withall.

Keith did not sail because of an injury, but he lent his boat to my brother Philip. Damon also borrowed a boat, and Ian was sailing his Mothers boat. In second place was Henry Jaggars (now our chairman) and in third place was Craig Moffat (National Champion in 1988).

Over the next few years the number of Comets at Aylesbury increased, Perihelion lists fifteen Comets at Aylesbury by the end of 1990, mainly adult Topper sailors switching to the Comet. The junior Topper sailors went to university and the Topper class withered away leaving the Comet as the main singlehanded class. Many of the sailors were women, but as they rarely travelled the Open meeting circuit they were not well known in Comet circles. However, Christine Stack was First Lady at the Nationals in 1993 and 1994 and Margaret Hylton was First Lady in 1989. Mysteriously the Clacton Gazette lists Margaret as the First Lady at the Nationals at Gunfleet in

1987, but does not appear in the Comet Hall of Fame; perhaps the prize for First Lady wasn't instituted until the following year.

The Comet Open Meeting Circuit started as we know it in 1987 with Opens at Denham, Chipstead, Aylesbury and Kingsmead, while the Nationals were at Gunfleet. There was also a Junior Open at Kennet Valley, although this wasn't exclusively for Comets. In the early years there was quite a large Aylesbury presence on the Open Meeting circuit. In addition to Keith and myself Margaret Hylton went to many meetings, although I don't remember her sailing much. Usually her boat was sailed by her son Ian, or by Damon Perrin (the first Association championship winner in 1989). My brother Philip also borrowed a boat from her a few times, and he won the first Kingsmead Comet Open in 1987. Another junior sailor was James Withall, who won the Orbital travellers series in 1990. No Aylesbury sailor has ever won a regional Aphelion trophy or become Junior Champion (although I have the 1988 junior trophy from the Nationals, but only because there were no juniors racing, and I was the youngest competitor).

All the original Comet sailors have now either left Aylesbury, or are no longer actively involved in the club. There is still a large Comet fleet at Aylesbury (27 boats according to our website). However, the club has now permitted Lasers, and the Topper class has undergone a resurgence with the junior members and there are now few Comets racing. Sadly there has not been any Aylesbury Comets on the Open meeting circuit for many years (apart from myself in 1999 when I was at the club for a year). Hopefully in the future this will change, and Aylesbury will be able to challenge for the Team Prize at the Nationals.

Chris Robinson Comet 63

**COMETS ON THE WATER****Winner**

Norah Jagers

Reaching for the  
Beat at  
Staunton Harold**Runner-up**Fran Gibbs  
Training Days  
at Severn SC**COMET PEOPLE****Winner**

Stephen Bellamy

Catherine receiving her  
F.A.T.E. AWARD**Runner-up**

Norah Jagers

Association 2005  
Prize Winners



# OPEN MEETING REPORTS

## Merthyr Tydfil Sailing Club Comet Open, Sunday, 25th September

Arriving at the club early in the morning showed a flat water with little sign of life. However as the day progressed the weather brightened and the wind filled in from the south-west. The wind could be described as "confusing".

For the first race With a large "hole" coming and going around the windward mark the leaders got clear away. A few places changed hands through the race in the middle of the fleet but Ian Coppenhall (636) of Hunts S.C. won, leading almost all the way round, with his father John Coppenhall (532) Hunts S.C. coming second and Alun Bevan (420) Merthyr tydfil S.C. third.

After a great lunch provided by the club, With the weather further brightening apart from one heavy shower, the second race started with slightly more gusty wind. In fact a few capsized before the start and several on the way round. The wind was a little more powerful in patches and the slightly longer course with an extra fetch kept the main group closer together but with many places changing through the race. This allowed Ian Coppenhall to win again, but not by as large a margin.



This time he was followed over the line by Alun Bevan who sneaked past John Coppenhall who fell out of his boat in a gust a few metres from the line.

After a quick tea-break the third race was held. A more consistent wind on the first leg allowed a more conventional rounding of the windward mark. On the first reach the race was led for a time by Rhiain Bevan (205) Roundhill S.C. and Jennifer Lemmon (763) Severn S.C. But this leading group was to be caught and partly overhauled by the later starters who came bearing down with a gust! Ian Coppenhall managed to sneak back near to the front again but only made third at the line. In the decider for second overall Alun Bevan managed to stay ahead of John Coppenhall by sailing higher and bearing down to the line.

### Top Six Results:

1. Ian Coppenhall (636) Hunts	2 pts	Thanks again to all those souls who helped with the generous catering, ran the races Top effectively and efficiently and manned the rescue boat that was not required.
2. Alun Bevan (420) Merthyr	3 pts	
3. John Coppenhall (522) Hunts.	4 pts	
4. Henry Jagers (800) R.Y.A.	8 pts	
5. Mark Govier (460) Merthyr	10 pts	Mark Govier, Comet 460 and Honorary Secretary Merthyr Tydfil S.C.
6. Roger Lemmon (812) Severn	11 pts	

## Comet Open - Staunton Harold Sailing Club 22nd October 2005

22 Comets converged on SHSC for the final Open of the season and for once they were met with a calm and steady South to South Westerly breeze rather than the heavy and gusty conditions as in the past.

For race 1 OOD Ian Priest set a convoluted figure 8 course using as much of the available water as possible. The normal start line hustle soon settled into a follow my leader beat to the first mark with no major wind shifts splitting the fleet. Once the initial rush was over the order mainly stayed the same throughout the race.

The light winds favouring the experienced or light weight sailors with Ian Coppenhall 636 (Hunts SC and National Champion!) 1st, Dan Moon 367 (Severn SC) 2nd and Steve Bellamy 100 (Winsford Flash SC) 3rd, Henry Jagers 800 (Beer SC) 4th and Jennifer Lemmon 763 (Severn SC) 5th.

As the day warmed the breeze began to die away a little but remained from the South so race 2 followed a similar course to race 1 but with the added complication that normal SHSC club racing was taking place on a different course but with several crossovers needing careful negotiation by all. Ian Coppenhall showed the fleet the way home again with Steve Bellamy 2nd and

Henry Jagers in 3rd with Dan Moon 4th and Emma Coppenhall 488 (Hunts) 5th. During the break between races the breeze moved round to the South West and strengthened slightly and at one point looked like the windward mark would be in the tight confines of a small creek but the wind gods smiled and open water was used. This bit of open water caused a major coming together as about 10 boats tried to round the mark at the same time just as the wind died causing many helms to do penalty turns. This bunched up the back end of the fleet so that at the next mark they were again scraping paint! Once that was sorted out the leaders were well on their way.

The Coppenhall family were in the ascendancy again with Mark Coppenhall (Hunts SC) leading Ian over the line with Josie Adams 624 (SHSC) in 3rd with Catherine Bellamy 248 (Winsford Flash) 4th and Emma Coppenhall 5th.

### Overall results

1st Ian Coppenhall	2nd Steve Bellamy
3rd Dan Moon	4th Mark Coppenhall
5th Henry Jagers	

N Fern (483) and last!!

## Comet Meeting at Pingewood Kennet Valley SC - 1st October 2005

9 visiting boats travelled to PKVSC for the latest round of the Southern Aphelion Trophy. Conditions brought bright sunshine with the occasional short burst of rain as the day wore on, and an autumnal feel in the winds of F3 from the West. PKVSC have lake marked by several large tree covered islands making for some challenging tactical conditions.

Race 1 saw a clean start with I. Coppenhall leading from H. Jagggers and J. Coppenhall at the windward mark. The close racing led to a collision between Coleman and Ballam but this did not stop I. Coppenhall starting what was to become a domination of the days three races, leading at the 2nd mark and pulling away from the pack. However he was caught and overtaken, albeit briefly, by Jagggers before pulling away at the front by the start of the 3rd lap. By this stage there was a chasing pack of Chapman, J. Coppenhall and Jagggers with the remainder of the fleet some way back. By the end of the 1st race I. Coppenhall had a significant lead over J. Coppenhall, 2nd, and H. Jagggers, 3rd.

Race 2 also saw a clean start with I. Coppenhall and Chapman taking different sides of the course towards the windward mark. John Windibank was the first to the windward mark with I. Coppenhall and J. Coppenhall following him round. I. Coppenhall took a different line around the island close to Mark 2 which paid major dividends as he rounded the 2nd mark with a 2 boat length lead over Windibank. At the start of lap 2 I. Coppenhall lead Windibank round the windward mark with Ballam taking the line taken by I. Coppenhall on the 1st lap towards Mark 2 and being rewarded with a gain of two boat

places. I. Coppenhall pulled away from the rest of the fleet with a number of the following pack taking Coppenhalls initial alternative line to Mark 2, most failing to gain any advantage and some losing places. The race ended with I. Coppenhall a long way ahead of J. Coppenhall and Windibank, with J. Coppenhall eventually taking 2nd and J. Windibank 3rd.

Race 3 saw greying and overcast skies and building cloud, and a windshift towards the northwest and occasional gusts close to F4. Coleman had a good start but an unfortunate tack on a large windshift saw him lose the early advantage. In the building wind there was plenty

of tacking to get to the windward mark, first round being I. Coppenhall followed by Windibank, Chapman and Jagggers. Several boats trying the alternative line to Mark 2 lost places when the wind shifted but this did not stop I. Coppenhall stretching out his lead. There was close racing for the second spot between Jagggers, J. Coppenhall, Chapman and Coleman, with Sturgeon having his best race so far. The remaining 3 laps saw I. Coppenhall stretching his lead and the rest of the fleet beginning to spread out with good planing conditions on the downwind legs in the gusts. Most avoided the alternative line to Mark 2, lessons being learnt on the risk in the shifting wind. The race finished with I. Coppenhall leading by a good margin over Windibank (2nd) and J Coppenhall (3rd). Close racing for 4th spot between Jagggers, Robinson and Chapman saw

Jagggers squeeze through to take 4th, Robinson, 5th and Chapman 6th.

Results:-

(1st) I. Coppenhall - Hunts,  
(2nd) J. Coppenhall - Hunts,  
(3rd) J. Windibank - Chipstead,  
(4th) H. Jagggers - Beer,

(5th) C. Chapman - Littleton,  
(6th) C. Robinson - Burghfield,  
(7th) D. Coleman - Coney,  
(8th) R. Ballam - Crawley Mariners,  
(9th) J. Sturgeon - Hawley Lake.

Regards, Andy Wilson  
(Race Office, PKVSC)

## BURGHFIELD COMET OPEN 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005

Fifteen competitors competed at the Burghfield Comet Open on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The weather was ideal, with a fairly steady force three wind straight down the lake.

In the first race Ian Coppenhall was first to the first mark followed by Stephen Lemmon. These two pulled away from the rest of the fleet, but Stephen Lemmon was unable to overtake Ian Coppenhall. Initially Brian Welham and John Coppenhall battled for third place, but they were eventually overtaken by Nick Warren. John Coppenhall was fourth.

In race two Stephen Lemmon was first to the windward mark followed by John Coppenhall and Peter Mountford with a pack of boats close behind. Stephen Lemmon pulled away to win, but the other two were caught by Brian Welham who was second and Henry Jagggers. However, on the last beat John Coppenhall passed Jagggers to take third, and John Windibank took fourth place from Henry Jagggers on the finish line.

Going into the last race the favourites to win overall were Ian Coppenhall or Stephen Lemmon. However, John Windibank was first to the first mark, with Ian Coppenhall and Stephen Lemmon rounding the first mark alongside each other. They quickly overtook John Windibank and looked set to battle it out for first place for both the last race and overall. However, at the first leeward mark Stephen Lemmon became tangled up with a

dinghy from another open being run at the same time, and this cost him two places. Although he eventually pulled back to second place he was too far behind to challenge Ian Coppenhall for the lead. John Windibank held onto to third place, which gave him the same number of points overall as Nick Warren and John Coppenhall. As all three had a third and fourth place each, John Windibank's third place in the last race gave him third place overall. Hence, the first three places in the third race mirrored the first three positions overall: Ian Coppenhall, Stephen Lemmon, and John Windibank.

Final Positions:

I.	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts
II.	Stephen Lemmon	Severn
III.	John Windibank	Chipstead
IV.	Nick Warren	Littleton
V.	John Coppenhall	Hunts
VI.	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake
VII.	Mark Coppenhall	Hunts
VIII.	Henry Jagggers	Beer
IX.	Chris Robinson	Burghfield
X.	Peter Mountford	Staunton Harold
XI.	Roger Lemmon	Severn
XII.	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners
XIII.	Clive Chapman	Littleton
XIV.	John Sturgeon	Hawley Lake
XV.	Jennifer Lemmon	Severn

Veterans Prize: John Coppenhall  
Merit Award: Jennifer Lemmon

Chris Robinson Comet 63

## COMETS AT CHESTER

There was an excellent turnout of 11 Comets for the Northern Area Aphelion Trophy event held on the river Dee at Chester on 16h. July. With visitors travelling from Peterborough, Congleton and Alderley Edge competitors were faced with testing light north westerly winds which provided an entertaining days sailing for participants and spectators alike. In the opening race Bill Webber showed excellent river skills in overcoming an early capsized to overhaul Ian Coppenhall on the final lap with John

race to finish in that order of the six lap race. With the Race Officer changing the course for the third race and following an abandonment early into the race due to extreme interference from a large pleasure craft the final race was completed in a blustery westerly wind. Webber took an early lead to stay well ahead of Ian Coppenhall and Brian Herring.

John Edwards 633 Chester

Coppenhall taking third spot from the following tightly packed group. In the second race in a strengthening northerly wind Ian Coppenhall built up a useful lead on Webber and Dave Jobling who had borrowed the boat for the

### Final Results :-

1	107 Bill Webber	Winsford Flash	2 pts
2	636 Ian Coppenhall	Hunts S. C.	3 pts
3	532 John Coppenhall	Hunts S. C.	7 pts
4	730 Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	8 pts
5	488 Emma Coppenhall	Hunts	8 pts
6	100 Steve Bellamy	Winsford Flash	11 pts

## Comet Open at Rugby and Daventry SC. 17th September 05

This was the first Comet Open at RDSC and we were pleasantly surprised to see 12 boats preparing to race. Thanks to all who travelled ( particularly to Henry and Norah) and supported the event. The weather was kind and the wind variable in strength and direction but racing was keen. Results were as follows:

- 1 I Coppenhall Hunts SC
- 2 B Herring Winsford Flash
- 3 A Bennett Staunton Harold

Thanks to all at the Club who volunteered to help on the day and made a success of the inaugural event. Everyone said they enjoyed their day and commented on the friendliness of Comet sailors

CHRISTINE SILVER

# Comet Orbital 2005

Pos	No	Helm	Club	Best 6 Results						Pts	Event
				1	2	3	4	5	6		
1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	18
2nd	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	1	1	1	2	3	3	11	13
3rd	700	John Windibank	Chipstead	1	1	1	3	3	3	12	9
4th	620	Alan Bennett	Staunton Harold	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	11
5th	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	1	2	3	3	3	3	15	23
6th	800	Henry Jaggars	Beer	2	2	3	4	4	4	19	18
7th	745	Nick Warren	Littleton	2	2	4	4	5	5	22	9
8th	100	Stephen Bellamy	Winsford Flash	1	2	2	5	6	9	25	6
9th	488	Emma Coppenhall	Hunts	3	3	5	5	5	6	27	11
10th	780	Peter Mountford	Staunton Harold	3	3	5	5	6	7	29	8
11th	730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	3	4	4	6	7	8	32	10
12th	650	Phil Hossell	Severn	4	4	6	7	7	9	37	9
13th	707	Derek Coleman	Coney	2	6	7	7	7	10	39	10
14th	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners	3	6	8	8	9	10	44	9
15th	622	Clive Chapman	Littleton	2	5	9	9	10	13	48	7
16th	496	Peter Thomley	Welwyn Garden City	6	6	8	8	8	14	50	6
17th	63	Chris Robinson	Burghfield	5	6	9	9	12	11	52	7
18th	812	Roger Lemmon	Severn	5	6	9	9	11	12	53	8
19th	271	Jennifer Lemmon	Severn	6	8	8	10	10	15	57	7
20th	549	Michael Thompson	Crawley Mariners	3	3	6	10	18	19	59	6
21st	820	Ros Stevenson	Winsford Flash	9	10	10	14	21	27	91	7

Well its all done and dusted for another year and there were 97 Comet class members who entered 30 events, and many other class sailors borrowed boats and thoroughly enjoyed racing with us. There were 21 qualifiers, two up on last year but the result was the same with Ian Coppenhall winning his 5th consecutive Orbital Trophy. Brian Welham was runner up for the second year running but he had 3 very good wins this year including a win over Ian at Littleton. John Windibank had his best result for years and is just pleased that he is still competitive. It seems to me that Alan Bennett with his long list of second places is poised if anyone slips up to break through to a winning steak and he is always one to watch. John Coppenhall was our top traveller this year and competed in 23 events and with one win he is sailing better than ever. Henry Jaggars has probably taken part in more comet events than anyone and his wonderful commitment to the class saw him complete 18 this year and if your ahead of Henry in a race

you know you have had to sail well. Nick Warren improves all the time and threatens to break through to win his first comet open. Steven Bellamy had one win this year and joins the lengthening list of top helms from Winsford Flash. Emma Coppenhall was the first lady again this year and her results speak for themselves so watch out you fellows there's an Emma about. 10th this year was the quiet man of comet sailing Peter Mountford from Staunton Harold, he lets his sailing speak for him and I'm getting used to seeing the back of his boat disappearing ahead of me. Thanks to all the other old friends I haven't mentioned for lack of space but just two points more. One of the best bits of sailing I saw (*mostly from a capsized position*) this year was on a wickedly windy day at Taplow when Clive Champion astounded us all with a masterful display of sailing only Bill Webber denied him a win. Thank you Steven Lemmon, he completed five Orbital events so did not qualify but he also competed for us at the Endeavour trophy a technical qualifier perhaps. *John Windibank*

# Aphelion 2005 Results



Happy prize winners following the last race of the season at Staunton Harold Sailing Club

## Northern Aphelion 2005

24 entries 2Mino's

Rank	Sail No	Helm	Club	Winsford	Rudyard	Chester	Arden	Redesmere	Points
1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	1	1	2	1	DNC	3
2nd	100	Stephen Bellamy	Winsford Flash	3	2	6	DNC	1	6
3rd	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	4	DNC	3	4	DNC	11
4th	730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	6	4	4	DNC	DNC	14
5th	248	Catherine Bellamy	Winsford Flash	DNC	8	8	DNC	2	18
6th	438	Guy Benson	Redesmere	DNC	7	9	DNC	4	20

Sailed: 5 Discards: 2 To qualify: 3

## Western Aphelion 2005

Rank	Sail No	Helm	Club	Shearwater	Sandwell	Sutton Bingham	Severn	Merthyr Tydfil	Pts
1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	DNC	1	DNC	1	1	3
2nd	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	4	3	DNC	3	3	9
3rd	800	Henry Jagers	Beer	3	DNC	4	12	4	11
4th	812	Roger Lemmon	Severn	DNC	6	DNC	7	6	19
5th	420	Alun Bevan	Merthyr Tydfil	9	DNC	DNC	16	2	27

Sailed: 5 Discards: 2 To qualify: 3

32 Entries

Sixteen clubs produced qualifiers in the Orbital and Aphelion Trophies this year and three clubs were equal as top travellers. They were Hunts, Winsford Flash and Severn all with 3 qualifiers. Generally qualifying in the Aphelion's was down apart from Central which had a 20% rise in qualifiers. Ian Coppenhall continued on his record breaking way and has now competed 25 Aphelion wins in 6 years. Ian's record is beginning to sound like the quiz Egg Heads with the saying "can anyone beat him". We this year the answer is yes but only occasionally. Good sailing.

## Eastern Aphelion 2005

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Club	Fishers Green	Chipstead	Redoubt	Hampton Pier	Littleton	Kingsmead	Pts
1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	1	1	DNC	1	2	DNC	3
2nd	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	4	3	1	DNC	1	6	5
3rd	700	John Windibank	Chipstead	DNC	4	DNC	DNC	3	1	8
4th	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	7	DNC	DNC	4	6	3	13
5th	745	Nick Warren	Littleton	DNC	5	DNC	DNC	8	2	15
6th	488	Emma Coppenhall	Hunts	3	6	DNC	DNC	7	DNC	16
7th	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners	9	8	3	DNC	DNC	10	20
8th	622	Clive Chapman	Littleton	DNC	9	DNC	DNC	10	9	28
9th	707	Derek Coleman	Coney	13	DNC	DNC	DNC	11	7	31

41 entrants 4 Mino's

Sailed: 6 Discards: 3 To qualify: 3

## Central Aphelion 2005

3 Races to qualify

Pos	No	Helm	Club	Hunts	BanburyAylesbury	Rugby & Daventry	Cransley	Staunton Harold	Pts	
1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	4	4	1	1	DNC	1	3
2nd	620	Alan Bennett	Staunton Harold	2	2	2	2	2	DNC	6
3rd	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	6	4	4	6	1	12	9
4th	800	Henry Jagers	Beer	4	DNC	6	4	6	5	13
5th	488	Emma Coppenhall	Hunts	3	5	DNC	7	DNC	6	14
6th	730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash	6	8	DNC	3	7	11	16
7th	496	Peter Thornley	Welwyn Garden City	8	6	6	8	DNC	DNC	20
8th	650	Phil Hossell	Severn	10	7	DNC	DNC	4	DNC	21
9th	780	Peter Mountford	Staunton Harold	DNC	3	DNC	6	DNC	15	24
10th	624	Josie Adams	Staunton Harold	11	DNC	DNC	DNC	8	7	26
11th	205	Rhian Bevan	Roundhill	12	DNC	DNC	12	DNC	17	41
12th	820	Ros Stevenson	Winsford Flash	14	DNC	DNC	10	DNC	21	45

## Southern Aphelion 2005

Pos	No.	Helm	Club	Taplow	Crawley	Hampton	Mudford	Pingewood	Burghfield	Pts
1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	DNC	DNC	1	DNC	1	1	3
2nd	700	John Windibank	Chipstead	6	1	DNC	DNC	3	3	7
3rd	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	7	4	4	1	DNC	4	9
4th	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	DNC	5	3	DNC	2	6	10
5th	745	Nick Warren	Littleton	4	2	DNC	DNC	DNC	5	11
6th	800	Henry Jagers	Beer	10	DNC	DNC	2	4	8	14
7th	622	Clive Chapman	Littleton	2	DNC	DNC	DNC	5	13	20
8th	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariners	9	6	DNC	DNC	8	12	23
9th	246	John Sturgeon	Hawley Lakes	DNC	DNC	7	DNC	9	14	30

Sailed: 6 Discards: 3 To qualify: 29 entries 1 Mino



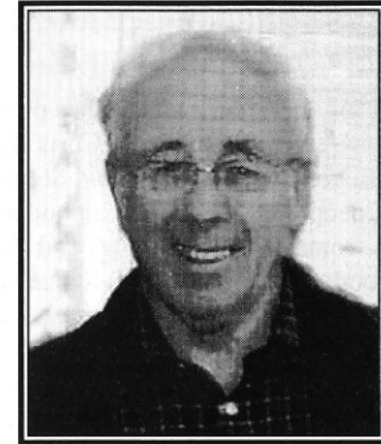
### Chris Robinson

As one of your newest committee members, here is a short introduction to myself. I learnt to sail at Aylesbury Sailing Club when I was fifteen when my parents bought a Mirror dinghy. My brother and I quickly monopolised the boat, and we raced it at Aylesbury Sailing Club. However, we argued quite a bit, and by the end of the year my brother had brought a Topper. I fancied something a bit bigger and faster. The Comet seemed the ideal boat, and I bought number 63, an exdemonstrator, from Andrew Simmons at the end of 1986. Apart from a break when I went to university I've been sailing the Comet ever since, first at Aylesbury, followed by three years at Tamworth Sailing Club. For the past five years I've been at Burghfield Sailing Club.

My first open meeting was Chipstead in 1987. I can remember a brand new boat turning up, number 100 as I have. Over the years the standard of sailing at the open meetings has risen considerably. In 1990 and 1991 I got two 4<sup>th</sup> places overall at the Nationals, but now I'm lucky if I can get a top ten position in one race at the Nationals. However, what has not changed is the friendly nature of the competition. Whether your at the top of the fleet, or bringing up the rear (and I've done both!) you will always be made welcome.

Over the years I've been to most of the clubs on the open meeting circuit at least once. However, I've managed to miss a few. So my new years resolution for 2006 is to go to three opens at clubs that I've never managed to visit: Fishers Green, Severn and Merthyr Tydfil. See you there!

Chris Robinson Comet 63



### My Best with Zest

This is my last year  
I have done my best, with a lot of zest,  
Now its time for someone else to take the reins,  
Having new ideas keep it moving, well afloat,  
So get rid of this old goat.

The people that you meet are such a nice treat  
No airs or graces the same old faces  
Wish there were more  
But moving some is quite a chore.

Now I am moving on  
Still sailing and racing where I can  
My body is still quite up to it  
No I am not saying that I am really fit  
Or about to quit  
No pills to take nothing to swallow  
Who knows what's tomorrow.

Derek Coleman 10/05

## Editorial

Thanks to everyone for all the brilliant articles pictures and contributions you have sent in this month. Chris Robinson has earned a Christmas rest with great contributions and Stephen Lemmon is firmly on my list of people who can write a good article. We have lots of great reports from the open meetings and Paul Hinde has come up with the goods again with the results he has so assiduously kept throughout the year. Derek Coleman never ceases to amaze me and although he is off the committee now we all look forward to seeing his smile as he shows us how to concentrate in light airs handle the rough weather. Sorry I didn't have a photo of everyone for the articles and I still have a problem with getting the right names attached to photographs.

Try and meet my deadlines for sending in articles as I need to set aside space to produce and format the articles. It has been a particular problem with this one as a lot of you were late and it became a problem for me the printers and Comet Boats who distribute everything as the time squashes into Christmas.

So everyone have a good Christmas and if you get bored send me an article and if the phone rings it will probably be me chasing up an idea that you could write to us all about. I will see some of you at the ExCel Boat show and good luck to our representatives in the racing there.

Thanks

John Windibank



## NOTICE BOARD

Comet Dinghies : South Molton, Devon Tel 01769 574358 Fax 01769 574358  
email info@cometdinghies.com www.cometdinghies.com

### Dates for your Diary 2006:

Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Finale of the London Boat Show, ExCel
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> /Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> March	RYA Dinghy Sailing Show, Alexandra Palace
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Open meeting at Shearwater
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Open meeting at Fishers Green
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Open meeting at Hunts
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Open meeting at Taplow
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Open meeting at Crawley Mariners
(Banbury have moved their	Open meeting to 30 <sup>th</sup> September)
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> /Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Association Championships at Mudeford
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> – Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	National Championships at Winsford Flash
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Annual General Meeting

## COMETS FOR SALE

Comet 142 Blue hull, folding launching trolley, top cover, in good condition and ready to sail. Lying at Sutton Bingham SC near Yeovil, Somerset. I paid £750 two years ago, yours for £500. Mitchell Langhelt 01258 472344 (Daytime) 01258 820579 (Evenings) or mitchell@sutcliffeandco.co.uk

Comet 208 for Sale, navy/white, excellent condition, folding launching trolley, top cover, rigged for racing, Frensham Pond S.C. £850 Please contact Sarah Terry on 07786 158 200 or email judyturner2004@hotmail.com

Comet dinghy, Sail No 328, Red hull with cream decks, 2 x Sails (one nearly new), launching trolley, road trailer, top cover, Comet hand book, boat park and licence paid at Durleigh Sailing Club, Somerset until Dec 31st 2005. £995 ono Contact Steve Briggs 01278 663511 or email [bosunbriggs@aol.com](mailto:bosunbriggs@aol.com)

For the up to date list of Comets for sale check our Website  
Comet Class Association Website:- [www.cometsailing.org.uk](http://www.cometsailing.org.uk)

## Perihelion 78

Please send your contributions for the next issue of Perihelion by

**25th February 2006**

To John Windibank, Class Editor, 2 Dogwood Close  
Northfleet, Kent. DA11 8PJ email [jm@windi.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jm@windi.fsnet.co.uk)



**Comet Class Association**

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association