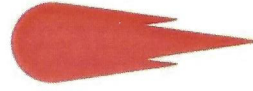
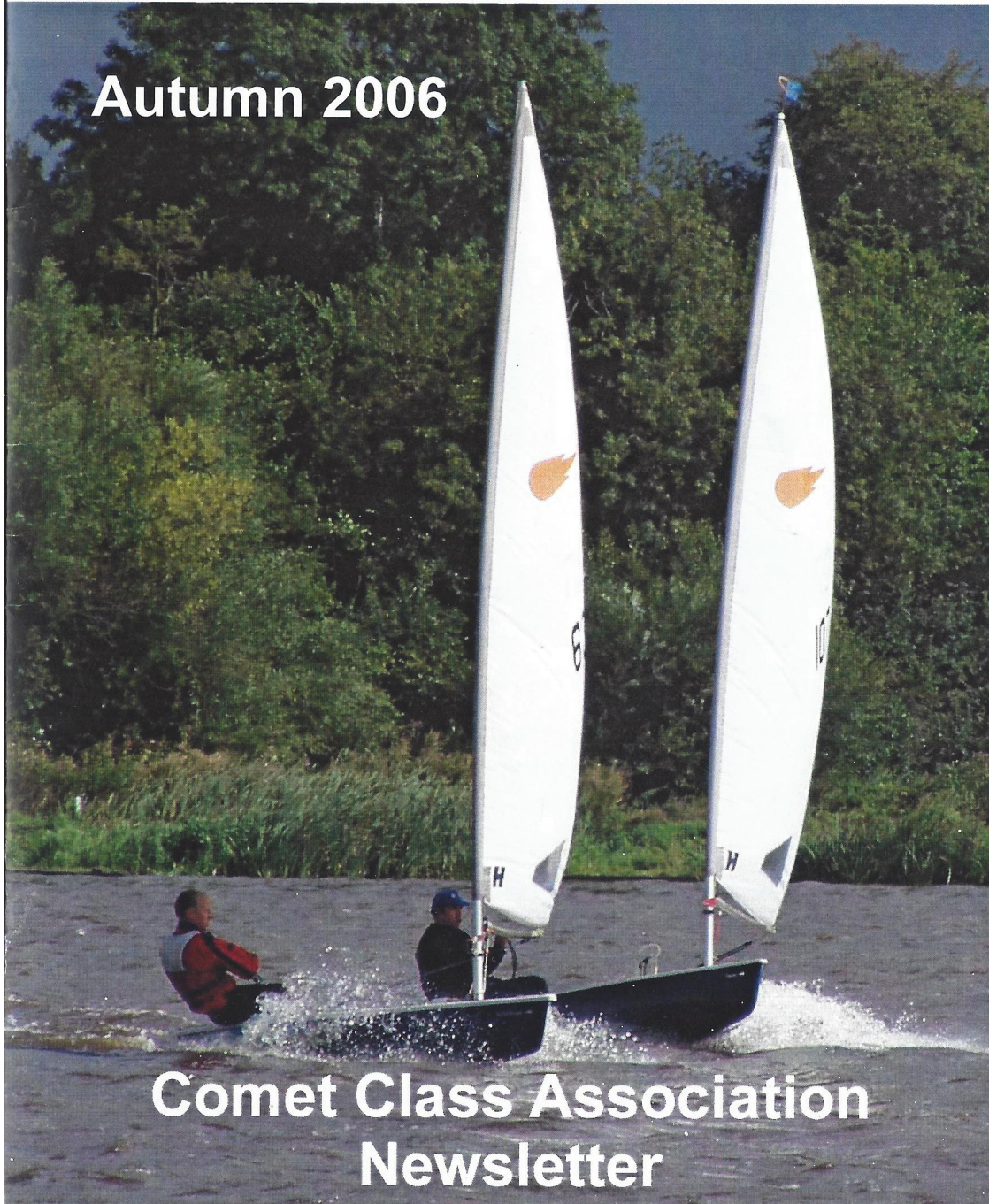


**PERIHELION**



**80**

**Autumn 2006**



**Comet Class Association  
Newsletter**

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The Details of the new organiser are to be confirmed but Advertisements can be sent to Richard Smallwood, as a temporary measure.

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### Information Comments Articles Results

Racing Results to Paul Hinde Website to be confirmed  
News Letter to John Windibank Money to Richard Smallwood  
Racing rules Clinic Keith Lamdin  
Open meetings and general information to Nora Jaggars

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

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER 80 Autumn 2006 CONTENTS

<b>Reports</b>		<b>Page</b>
Chairman	Henry Jaggars	4
Notes from the Committee	Norah Jaggars	6
 <b>Championships</b>		
Association Championship Mudeford S.C.	Mike Roach	8
National Championship Winsford Flash S. C.		10
Xtras at the Championships		15
 <b>Open meetings</b>		
Chester	John Edwards	12
Bexhill	Ken Wyatt	12
Rugby and Daventry		13
Hawley Lake	Dave Gilbert	14
First Six	Paul Hinde	15
 <b>Xtra Pages</b>		
Xtra! Xtra! Read all about it!	John Sturgeon	16
Emma's Wedding	Sue Coppenhall	18
 <b>Notice Board</b>		
		19

### Photographs

Front	: Ian & Bill Neck & Neck:	Comet Nationals 2006	: Tina Wilkins
Page 9	: Mudeford	: Association 2006	: Mike Roach
Page 11	: Winsford Flash	: Comet Nationals	: Norah Jaggars
			: Henry Jaggars
			: Tina Wilkins
Page 15	: Xtras	: Winsford Flash	: Norah Jaggars
			: Henry Jaggars
Page 16	: Stephen Harvey Extra	: Mudeford	: Mike Roach
Page 18	: Emma's Wedding	:	: Sue Coppenhall

Head & Shoulder Pictures originally : Norah Jaggars & John Windibank

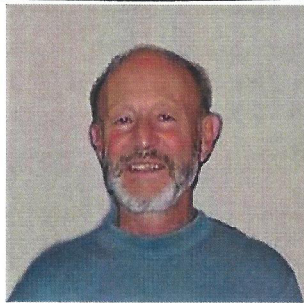
## Chairman's Report

The Comet is different, the Comet remains the same, long live the Comet!!

This year' unusually well-attended AGM passed the motion regarding changes to the measurement rules *nem con* and without amendment. This means that the Comet can now legally have a centre main sheet as an alternative to aft sheeting provided it is in accordance with the wording of that motion.

This is a big step for our Class but one which we (and the builder) hope may attract more youngsters and other newcomers to the delights of Comet sailing. Some of you have tried the centre sheeting under the dispensation which was in force, some disliked it and have already changed back to aft sheeting, a few have stuck with it and say they prefer it. Whatever your preference, and that of newcomers to the Comet, you now have the choice.

Apart from the motion on centre sheeting, which we had thought might be a controversial issue but infact turned out not to be, the AGM gave me the opportunity of thanking all our committee members and many others for the support they have given over the past year and for all the work they do for the Association. We said goodbye to Ros Stevenson who has served as trophy buyer and general member for a number of years and welcomed Brian Herring onto the committee as our new Northern region representative (although he says



he is willing to serve only for one year). The rest of the committee and the officers' positions remain unchanged.

As you probably know, Chris Robinson has been temporarily in charge of the Comet website for the past month or so. The position of webmaster will shortly be taken over by Linda and Roger Pullen. They manage Staunton Harold SC' website and have volunteered to do ours. Many thanks to them!

There was some discussion under "other business" regarding the status of both the Comet Mino and the new Comet Xtra as separate classes and following this we will be coopting Steve Harvey onto the committee to represent the Xtra and are seeking a volunteer to represent the Minos. Any offers?

Many thanks to Winsford Flash for hosting our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary National Championships. I can't think of a better way to have spent three days over the bank holiday and I trust all the other competitors think the same – however they fared on the water. Personally I did not fare well at all! Whereas I generally like to say we had a variety of wind strengths, on this occasion that variety was experienced even on the first day during the course of each race, and by the time we reached the last day the wind could best be described as fierce! Exhilarating sailing though, and at least the water was warm. 43 Comets took

part and there was close competition for the lead right up to the last race between Ian Coppenhall and Bill Webber with honourable mentions going to Alex Reeve, Jonathan Latham, and others. Congratulations to Ian Coppenhall, our 2006 National Champion. And congratulations to all the competitors for taking part.

Where else have I been sailing since my last report? Hawley Lake and Bexhill proved to be two excellent new venues but although on consecutive days this year the conditions could not have been more different. No wind and torrential thunderstorms for Hawley then a warm sunny day with a perfect sea breeze at Bexhill. I enjoyed visiting both and hope that more of you will support these events next year should the clubs decide to stage them, which I hope they will.

The Association Championships at Mudeford had a bit more wind than I would have liked but I enjoyed some good sailing, albeit reefed on the second day. Congratulations to our new Association Champion, Chris Robinson, and many thanks to Mudeford SC for a well organised weekend. The only question is why so few of you turned up? Cransley were as hospitable as ever and their event was good as usual. Windy though! Indeed, so windy that I and several others sailed with a Mino rig... did very well indeed!

I also chose the Mino for my entry in the Beer Regatta race this year and did not do well. The wind dropped off, and with a big sea still running, the handicap was not good in the slow handicap fleet of Toppers and Laser Radials. Never mind,

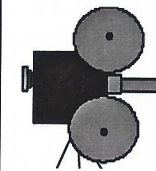
I won it last year with the Comet. Severn SC put on a splendid event for us this year. There was the "Night" on the Friday evening for those who arrived early, the excellent "Night" on the Saturday evening for those who stayed late with a taste for exotic food... up to gale force winds (yes, force 8) for the sailing. Yet everyone had a go, variously reefed or not – which didn't quite work – and it was great fun. Well, on that river you' never more than about 30 ft from a bank so what' it matter, and as I said for Winsford, the water was warm!

So the season draws slowly to a close, with, as I write, 8 events still to come. Hope to see more of you before it ends but remember to phone before travelling just in case of any problems and to help clubs with their catering. Don' forget the 2006 Photographic Competition. Deadline for receipt of entries is 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Good sailing,

Henry Jagers

### Photographic Competition



Entries, as many as you like please, to me or the Editor by the 20th October. Send as prints, files on disk or CD (scanned or direct

from digital camera), or email. (If emailing me lots of large files perhaps you could give prior warning!)

Categories are :-

**"Comets on the Water"**  
**"Comet People".**

*Open to anyone!*

Henry Jagers

## Secretaries Report

### Notes from the Committee:

1. The Association Championships were held over a windy weekend in July when not many helms braved the elements. As usual Mudeford made us very welcome, and provided an excellent event. Chris Robinson is our 2006 Association Champion – his first major trophy. Congratulations!

2. We have just returned from a super weekend at Winsford Flash. Thank you to everyone involved with making the Nationals such a memorable occasion. The races were exciting for the spectators, and the helms enjoyed the challenges set for them.

You will find more information elsewhere in this edition of Perihelion. Congratulations to Ian Coppenhall, our 2006 National Champion.

3. Paul Hinde still has some results missing. He needs all of the placings so that he can gather information for the Aphelions and Orbital trophies. Paul asks for information on the individual races so that he can validate scoring systems. If it helps, he is happy to email you a blank result sheet for you to fill in and return to him.

4. The Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Ros Stevenson has retired after several years on the committee, and our thanks go to her. Brian Herring from Winsford Flash has agreed to join the Committee as the representative from the Northern Aphelion area, for one year only. So, please start thinking about a replacement for him! Apart from that your committee is unchanged:

Chairman:	Henry Jagers
Secretary:	Norah Jagers
Treasurer:	Richard Smallwood
Results:	Paul Hinde
Trophies:	Clive Chapman
Members:	Chris Robinson Brian Herring

John Windibank, the editor of Perihelion, is not a member of the Committee, which enables him to be more independent.

Henry made a presentation to Ros in recognition of her work on the Committee. He also extended thanks to Simon Ellis for all his flair and hard work as Webmaster.

5. Your Treasurer, Richard Smallwood, has announced that he wishes to stand down at the next AGM. He has been our Treasurer and Membership Secretary for 5 years and is finding that his other interests now take much more of his time and energy. Please talk to him about the work involved if you are interested in taking on the post.

6. The motion relating to the measurement rules was presented to the AGM and, after some discussion, agreed. This means that the Comet can have a centre main sheet as an option. The one helm at the Nationals who had centre sheeting shared their positive experience of using it. We will be interested to hear how other helms get on with it in due course.



7. The motion also tidied up a couple of other issues, including the new grab holes which Andy has put into new boats. Obviously existing grab rails will continue to be within measurement. It also allows for the end of the toe strap to be held up, which a number of helms already do in various ways!

8. As part of Any Other Business at the Annual General Meeting it was suggested that it would be helpful to have a formal representative from the Xtras and Minos on the Committee. Up until now there has always been someone on the Committee who has regularly used a Mino sail (Alan Browning and Ros Stevenson). Steve Harvey has volunteered to represent the Xtras. Please may we have a volunteer from the Mino sailors?

9. In terms of the Xtra, Andy is clear that this is a different boat. However, we are happy to represent the helms in the same way as we do the Minos. Obviously we understand that they may form a class in their own right in the future. In the meantime we have agreed that:

- they may join Comet events, with their own prize structure if more than one starts.
- competitors will not be allowed to change rigs during a competition
- Minos and Xtras will not be eligible for national prizes
- Minos and Xtras will be eligible for qualifying mementoes
- CCA will keep a record of anyone wanting to sail a Mino/Xtra throughout a series, to ensure that they receive the appropriate memento.

It was good to see 4 Xtras on the water at Winsford Flash. Several people took the opportunity to “have a go” between races, and we look forward to hearing informed opinions.

10. Following the last edition of Perihelion Linda and Roger Pullen from Staunton Harold have offered to take on the maintenance of the website, something which they have successfully done for SHSC for several years. Chris Robinson, who has been acting as temporary webmaster, is in the process of handing things over to them. Thank you Linda and Roger.

11. The new Open meetings at Hawley Lake and Bexhill made an interesting weekend. The lack of wind at Hawley Lake was compensated for by the grandstand view of the Farnborough Air Show (we won't mention the thunderstorm) and some fascinating practice runs by some athletic water skiers between races. Bexhill gave us 4 races and proved that they can offer launching at all states of the tide. The organisers of both venues said that they were glad that not too many visitors turned up so that they could get a feel for organising the event, and both indicated that they hope to see us again next year. Let's hope that Swarkestone feels the same after we've been there!

12. We have had a couple of tentative responses to the request for the Association Championship next year. Hopefully there will be more to report in Perihelion 81.

Norah Jagers Class Secretary

# COMET ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006

Mudford Sailing Club

After a fortnight of very hot dry weather with only light breezes, it was something of a relief to have a bit of rain and a good F3 - 4 on the first day of the Comet Nationals. Christchurch Harbour is the ideal place for these little boats: just deep enough for good racing, just big enough for challenging courses and with a wide variety of conditions and water states throughout the day. And it's very pretty!

Race Officer Mike Roach set a "tour the Harbour" course on day 1 and Chris Robinson quickly established a decent lead, with Pete Thornley second and Stephen Harvey 3<sup>rd</sup> in one of the new Comet Xtras. This is a standard Comet hull with a new and very attractive mylar rig, somewhat smaller than the dated cloth triangle, and with forward sheeting as a bonus. After a short break Chris again took an early lead with Stephen and the Xtra second and Pete 3<sup>rd</sup>. Clive Chapman edged ahead of Henry Jaggers and Josie Adams had her best race in 7<sup>th</sup> place. The final race of the day was a win for the Xtra with Steve just a few seconds behind.

The Comet Association had decided that the Xtra was not sailing on a par with the standard Comets and since there was a separate prize for the mini-class, Steve's results were extracted from the main fleet. General opinion was that the Xtra was slightly easier to sail (although forward sheeting is also available on standard Comets which will make it much easier to balance these tippy little boats) and the rig was certainly more responsive, but marginally slower downwind in light airs. In stronger winds the smaller, better structured sail certainly seemed to perform better, very much akin to the situation in the Byte C2 fleet with the introduction of an even more radical mylar sail but no change so far in the PN.

After a pleasant evening's social in a nearby Pub (where the race committee beat the Comets at pool), Sunday showed some teeth, with a sunny Force 4 to 5 blowing directly over Hengistbury Head.

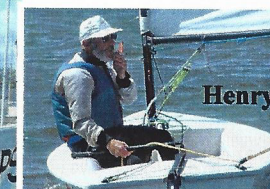
Here the Xtra showed how development had improved the breed, with Steve scoring 2 wins and looking very much in control in a perfect breeze. Chris Robinson sailed well just behind Steve to get 2 firsts for the main fleet, with Pete Thornley second (and sitting out the last race as his discard) and Derek Coleman 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brian Welham was just one point behind and Clive Chapman close in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Mike Roach

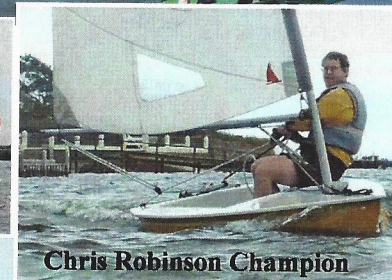
Full results were:

Sailor	No.	Boat	Race					Total	Disc	Total	Place
			1	2	3	4	5				
Chris Robinson	63	Comet	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	4	1
Pete Thornley	834	Comet	2	2	2	2	13	21	13	8	2
Derek Coleman	707	Comet	4	8	3	3	3	21	8	13	3
Brian Welham	711	Comet	3	3	4	4	13	27	13	14	4
Clive Chapman	622	Comet	5	4	6	5	2	22	6	16	5
Henry Jaggers	800	Comet	6	5	7	7	4	29	7	22	6
Josie Adams	624	Comet	8	6	8	6	5	33	8	25	7
Michael Baxter	174	Comet	7	7	5	13	13	45	13	32	8
Alister McKinnon	665	Comet	10	9	9	13	13	54	13	41	9
Cynthia Harness	828	Comet	9	13	13	13	13	61	13	48	10
Emer Power	62	Comet	13	13	13	13	13	65	13	52	11
Stephen Harvey	764	Xtra	3	2	1	1	1	8	3	5	1

# ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP 2006



Peter Thornley



Chris Robinson Champion



Josie Adams



Clive Chapman



Cynthia Harness



Derek Coleman

# COMET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006 RESULTS

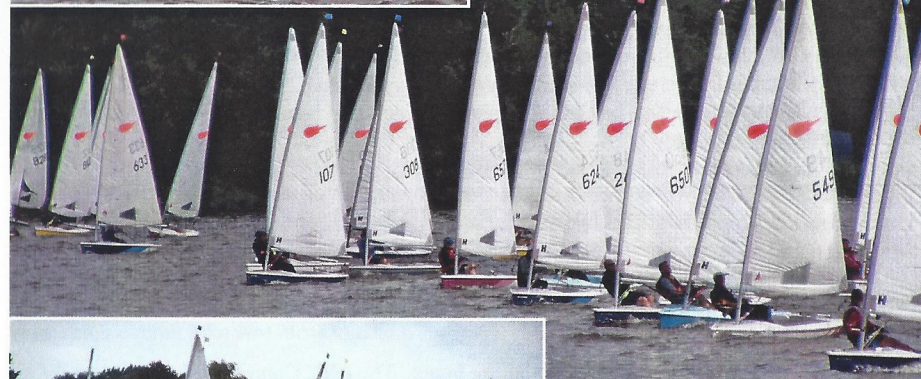
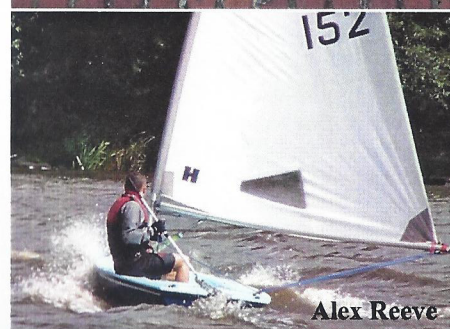
	No.	Name	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total Score	
1st	636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	11	7
2nd	107	Bill Webber	Winsford Flash	4	1	5	3	1	1	3	18	9
3rd	152	Alex Reeve	Taplow Lake	3	1	6	5	4	3	1	66	16
4th	349	Jonathan Latham	Winsford Flash	8	4	4	2	9	7	6	40	23
5th	168	Stephen Lemmon	Severn	12	5	2	13	3	11	10	56	31
6th	809	Simon Thompson	Crawley Mariner	2	13	7	16	12	4	9	63	34
7th	716	Tim Lowe	Redesmere	7	8	17	9	44	5	5	95	34
8th	620	Alan Bennett	Staunton Harold	DNC	7	15	4	8	13	8	99	40
9th	555	John Windibank	Chipstead	6	10	10	7	11	10	7	61	40
10th	657	Mark Wilkins	Chipstead	15	3	12	19	6	6	44	105	42
11th	308	Dave Harris	Severn	5	12	3	15	10	14	14	73	44
12th	321	Alastair Mitchell	Winsford Flash	17	14	13	11	5	18	4	82	47
13th	427	Mark Coppenhall	Hunts	9	9	8	14	13	12	15	80	51
14th	217	Steve Hawley	Severn	20	22	14	6	14	8	11	95	53
15th	100	Steve Bellamy	Winsford Flash	14	6	16	22	7	15	13	93	55
16th	711	Brian Welham	Taplow Lake	16	11	9	10	15	44	44	149	61
17th	63	Chris Robinson	Burghfield	10	17	22	24	17	9	12	111	65
18th	650	Phillip Hossell	Severn	11	23	20	8	16	44	DNC	166	78
19th	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	13	15	23	17	23	21	20	132	86
20th	549	Michael Thompson	Crawley Mariner	18	16	19	26	19	17	18	133	88
21st	585	Les Owen	Winsford Flash	19	18	11	12	32	44	DNC	180	92
22nd	812	Roger Lemmon	Severn	25	20	44	23	21	19	16	168	99
23rd	707	Derek Coleman	Coney SC	23	19	18	33	20	20	25	158	100
24th	834	Peter Thornley	Welwyn Garden	22	27	27	18	18	44	44	200	112
25th	488	Emma Brisley	Hunts	31	29	24	20	28	22	19	173	113
26th	622	Clive Chapman	Littleton SC	33	31	35	31	24	16	17	187	119
27th	730	Brian Herring	Flash Winsford	26	25	29	27	22	44	21	194	121
28th	518	Robin Ballam	Crawley Mariner	21	28	28	25	44	28	26	200	128
29th	624	Josie Adams	Staunton Harold	24	21	30	29	34	25	DNC	207	129
30th	673	Tristan Cooper	Severn	32	34	31	30	25	23	22	197	131
31st	248	Catherine Bellamy	Winsford Flash	28	32	25	28	27	24	29	193	132
32nd	800	Henry Jaggars	Beer SC	30	37	21	21	30	44	DNC	227	139
33rd	815	David Harrison	Winsford Flash	29	24	33	34	26	44	27	217	139
34th	171	Andy Millington	Redesmere	27	36	36	38	35	26	23	221	147
35th	724	Helen Leivers	Severn	34	26	32	39	36	44	28	239	156
36th	205	Rhian Bevan	Roundhill	38	33	44	42	29	DNC	24	254	166
37th	828	Cynthia Harness	Swarkestone	37	30	34	32	33	DNC	24	254	166
38th	271	Jonathan Cooper	Severn	36	44	26	35	31	DNC	DNC	260	172
39th	649	Diana Thompson	Crawley Mariner	40	35	37	DNC	DNC	27	DNC	264	176
40th	643	Keith Appleby	Carsington SC	35	44	38	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	293	205
41st	641	Paul Hinde	Severn	39	44	39	41	44	DNC	DNC	295	207
42nd	633	John Edwards	Chester S &CC	41	44	40	40	DNC	DNC	DNC	297	209
43rd	763	Jennifer Lemmon	Severn	44	44	44	36	DNC	DNC	DNC	300	212

The results were supplied by Winsford Flash SC

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2006



PRIZES		
Prize	Boat	Name
National Champion	636	Ian Coppenhall
Lady Champion	488	Emma Brisley
Junior	321	Alistair Mitchell
Ancient Mariner	555	John Windibank
Veteran	620	Alan Bennett
Committee	812	Roger Lemmon



# Open Meeting Reports

## COMETS AT CHESTER

There was an excellent turnout of 9 Comets for the Northern Area Aphelion Trophy event held on the river Dee at Chester on 15h. July. With visitors traveling from Peterborough, Sheffield and Alderley Edge competitors were faced with testing light variable easterly winds which provided an entertaining days sailing for participants and spectators alike.

In the opening race Ian and Mark Coppenhall established an early lead from the rest of the bunch later developing into a battle royal with numerous positional changes before Ian crossed the line ahead of Mark with Bill Webber in third spot and the rest of the fleet a considerable distance behind.

The second race saw Mark establish an early lead from Ian which he held to the finish with Bill again the third boat home.

With the Race Officer changing the course for the third race the closely fought race was the best of the day resulting in Ian and Mark coming through the fleet to take the honors from Dave Jobling.

### Final Results :-

1 636	Ian Coppenhall	Hunts S. C.	2 pts
2 427	Mark Coppenhall	Hunts S. C.	3 pts
3 107	Bill Webber	Winsford Flash S. C.	6 pts
4 633	Dave Jobling	Chester S. & C. C.	7 pts
5 532	John Coppenhall	Hunts S. C.	11 pts
6 730	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash S. C.	12 pts
7 488	Emma Coppenhall	Hunts S. C.	13 pts
8 330	Ian Oldfield	Chester S. & C. C.	14 pts
9 820	Ros Stevenson	Winsford Flash S. C.	15 pts

John Edwards 633

## Comet Open at Bexhill Sailing Club

The Bexhill Sailing Club hosted its first Open for Comets on 23rd July. The Open was run in conjunction with an Open for the Topaz. The weather was perfect sunny, steady winds and a flat sea.

BSC's fleet of Comets was joined by 4 visiting boats. The BSC Comets could not make the home advantage count and the days racing was dominated by John Windibank (Chipstead) who won all the races.

There was some competition for the second place but Henry Jagers (Beer) ceded the second place only once during the day when Chris Robinson (Burghfield) pipped him in the third race. The best racing was between Jeffrey Smith (Crawley Mariners) and Bexhill's Barry O'Herlihy. Despite some close tussles, Barry was only able to wrest the fourth place from Jeffrey in the third race.

Ken Wyatt

## The Rugby and Daventry Sailing Club Comet Open Meeting

8th July 2006

Eight boats arrived at Rugby & Daventry Sailing Club on Saturday 8th July 2006. The weather was fine but cloudy with a South West wind force 2-3 and a forecast of no more than force 4. This gave the race officer an easy task for starting and finishing at the clubhouse.

The first race start was good for seven boats but one was over. The race officer gave the recall signal and Mark Coppenhall (427) thought the signal was for him and promptly returned and made a fresh start, whilst the offending boat did likewise. This cost Mark the lead for the first lap which was taken by junior Rob Cottrell (453). By the end of the second lap Mark had overtaken the fleet and was in first place closely followed by Cottrell. In the next few legs Mark pulled out a substantial lead and the close racing for second and third places was left to Cottrell and Brian Herring. (703). Then Emma Coppenhall swiftly worked her way through the fleet and overtook both Cottrell and Herring to finish in second place followed by Herring and Cottrell in third & fourth place.

After lunch the wind had freshened a little for the start of the second race. Mark Coppenhall took command of this race from the start gun followed by his sister Emma with Cottrell 3rd and Herring fourth. The Coppenhall pair pulled out a good lead leaving Cottrell and Herring to battle out third and fourth places. On the second lap Cottrell managed to overtake Herring on the Windward mark. On the following two legs Herring managed to catch Cottrell and overtake him on the reach. At the back of the fleet there were a few capsizes to make the day interesting for the Patrol boat crew. In the closing stages of the race the Coppenhall's father John (532) managed to sneak past Cottrell and secure fourth place.

The third and final race again started in a fresh wind which died back to a 2-3 later in the race. Herring made a flying start and maintained it to the Windward Mark, and to the end of the first lap. On rounding the last mark of the lap he was in pole position hotly pursued by Mark Coppenhall who had both his sister and father right on his transom. John called for water at the mark and rounded in front of Emma into third place. Mark Coppenhall using some good tactical sailing managed to get the better of Herring up the next beat and by the time he arrived at the leeward mark had a fifteen boat length lead on Herring. As the lap progressed he gradually increased his lead to at least 20 boat lengths by the end of the lap. Meanwhile John Coppenhall sailed away from his daughter leaving some 25 yards of clear water between the two boats. Then on the final downwind leg John Coppenhall realised that if he could beat Herring he would knock him into fourth place overall. He managed to overtake Herring so the final line up at the finish was Mark Coppenhall first, John Coppenhall second, Brian Herring third, and Emma Coppenhall fourth.

The result overall with two races to count.

First	Mark Coppenhall	Hunts S.C.
Second	Emma Coppenhall	Hunts S.C.
Third	John Coppenhall	Hunts S.C.
Fourth	Brian Herring	Winsford Flash S.C.
Fifth	Robert Cottrell	Roundhill S.A.
Sixth	Ros Stevenson	Winsford Flash S. C.
Seven	Josie Adams	Staunton Harold S.C.
Eighth	Rhian Bevan	Roundhill S. A.

## Comet Open Meeting – Hawley Lake SC – 22/07/06

Five visiting boats joined two home boats for this first ever Comet open meeting at Hawley Lake.

The Hawley wind shifts were in evidence from the start of the day when it was difficult to even set a course with an upwind start, let alone head to wind! As is not uncommon at Hawley, all three races started in different directions and from different start lines. The course being reversed for the second race and reverting back for the final one, albeit from a start line a couple of hundred yards from the first two.

The first race was sailed in a moderate breeze with only a few 180° shifts! Henry Jagers showed the fleet a fast disappearing transom on lap three (out of six), having initially tussled with Brian Welham and Clive Chapman, continuing to pull away to a clear win. Brian stayed ahead of Clive to take second. The remaining four were in a wider spread group with Carol Butcher bringing up the rear, but catching fast up to fellow club member John Sturgeon. As Carol was catching John approaching the gybe mark, he broached into a capsize, allowing Carol past. The Race Officer deemed this to be a face saving capsize, which was the only one of the day.

The first race finished with the onset of lowering and more threatening cloud cover, just in time for the Red Arrows aerobatic team to display for the club – using their low level routine. This has got to be a first for a Comet open, surely. I understand that the crowds at the nearby Farnborough Air Show also gained some benefit from the Hawley Lake Air Display!

Red Arrows departed to be replaced by some thunderstorms, delaying activities for some time, thus allowing a very leisurely lunch. Hawley Lake is an army (Royal Engineers) facility, so some rapid contacts were made with the Met Office for reports before deciding the appropriate time for a resumption.

Race two was under way in very light airs, reducing the race to five laps and permitting Brian Welham to display his first class light wind skills and tactics. Brian moved (slowly) past early leader Robin Ballam with Clive Chapman holding third place. By the end of the fourth lap, Henry Jagers had moved past Clive into third place. A fourth, fifth and sixth place battle then developed with Clive finding a small area with even less wind to drop to sixth behind Carol and Chris Robinson.

Race three was started in even lighter winds as a four lapper. As the wind dropped to almost nothing, the Race Officer considered shortening on three laps. But then the wind picked up, just long enough to deceive, before dying away to nothing. The race was shortened to three and a half laps. In a near repeat of the second race, early leader Robin was passed by Brian on lap 2 with Henry holding, and keeping third place throughout and John Sturgeon moving up from fifth to fourth by the end.

Brian was the overall winner with Henry getting the better of Robin on a tie break for second place.

Dave Gilbert (Race Officer)

## FIRST SIX AT OPEN MEETINGS

Taplow Lake (S)  
711 Brian Welham  
555 John Windibank  
745 Nick Warren  
518 Robin Ballam  
532 John Coppenhall  
750 Richard Smallwood  
Att: 14

Crawley Mariners (S)  
555 John Windibank  
711 Brian Welham  
809 Simon Thompson  
518 Robin Ballam  
532 John Coppenhall  
549 Michael Thompson  
Att: 21

Bexhill (S)  
555 John Windibank  
800 Henry Jagers  
63 Chris Robinson  
31 Jeff Smith  
69 Wendy Moreton  
Att: 8

Hampton (S)  
711 Brian Welham  
308 Dave Harris  
532 John Coppenhall  
800 Henry Jagers  
518 Robin Ballam  
168 Stephen Lemmon  
Att: 10

Sandwell Valley (W)  
Correction  
532 John Coppenhall  
620 Alan Bennett  
644 Nigel Ford  
142 Michael Collier  
Att: 6

Cransley (C)  
427 Mark Coppenhall  
488 Emma Brisley  
650 Phil Hossell  
730 Brian Herring  
532 John Coppenhall  
205 Rhian Bevan  
Att: 8 & 2 Mino

Hawley Lakes (E)  
711 Brian Welham  
800 Henry Jagers  
518 Robin Ballam  
622 Clive Chapman  
63 Chris Robinson  
614 Carol Butcher  
Att: 7

Rugby & Daventry (N)  
427 Mark Coppenhall  
488 Emma Brisley  
532 John Coppenhall  
730 Brian Herring  
453 Robert Cottrell  
820 Ros Stevenson  
Att: 8

## XTRAS at the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006

	No.	Name	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total	Points
1st	833	Ross Harvey	Cotswold	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	5
2nd	764	Stephen Harvey	Cotswold	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	17	11
3rd	841	Ros Stevenson	Winsford Flash	3	3	2	2	3	DNC	DNC	23	13
4th	843	Andy Simmons	North Devon	4	4	4	4	DNC	2	DNC	28	18



Ross Harvey  
Xtra Winner



## XTRA PAGES

### Xtra! Xtra! Read all about it!

Well perhaps not all about it, but here are a few jottings from an early adopter.

First I should say I am not a very experienced sailor and I started sailing seriously at an age when most people have given up. So I am not as nimble as younger sailors, nor have I acquired the movements in a boat that come naturally to older sailors who start young. So, my approach to a boat is: is it easy to sail? Is it reasonably competitive against Solos, Enterprises, GP14s and Lasers? Is it enjoyable to take out, i.e. is it fun to sail? And, those of you who have seen me at Open Meetings will appreciate my last criterion, is it easy to right after capsizing? The Comet fits that bill but after having an Xtra rig for a short while I think it is generally better for me.

My first introduction to the Xtra was at one of Andy's open days at Burghfield. The wind was fairly strong and gusty so I used a transom main not the new centre main, as I have no experience of them. The boat felt comfortable in the conditions especially when beating very close to the wind and I felt more in control than had I been in my own Comet. I enjoyed the boat so much I was reluctant to bring it in.

Needless to say, shortly afterwards I bought a new sail and spars to fit onto my own boat, but keeping its old transom main. Andy delivered them on a Saturday. The next day I was out at Hawley for the Sunday races.

The reaction when I raised the new sail was amazing. Some members thought I had bought a new boat. Everyone agreed it looked good and the 14-16 year olds who sail Lasers were particularly impressed. They thought it a thoroughly modern boat. So how did it go? Much to my surprise, for a first outing, it went much better than usual and I scored my best results of that series. One of the youngsters in his Laser was a bit surprised I was keeping up with him. He was even more surprised when he luffed me up and found himself slowing and me going ahead



Stephen Harvey at Mudford

because I could sail closer to the wind. Now when I go out with the standard Comet rig people ask why I am not going out with the new sail.

So what are the advantages? The first is clearly the greater headroom under the boom. I hardly ever catch my head now. Raising the mast is easier. The shorter mast is lighter, and needs no sail attached when stepping. The sail is zipped round the mast and raised with a halyard and this is easy once you have the knack of securing the halyard in the cleat at the top of the mast. The transparent Mylar sail gives greater visibility all round, improved control over the boat, at least in my hands, and has less tendency to back suddenly if the wind heads the sail. If you do capsize, and yes I have done that a couple of times, the Hawley mud just washes off without getting into the fabric. Righting is much easier with the smaller sail and I find I capsize less often.

How does it compare on the water? Even though I have been on full stretch hiking out once or twice in strong winds the boat feels more controllable. I get the impression it does not run quite as fast as the standard sail in lighter winds but recently, in strong winds, I have had it planing, with a bit of dagger board down, and no adverse behaviour. The old death roll seems less evident too. Running by the lee seems very stable and the transition back to normal running is smooth.

How does it do against other boats? I have not had many outings when another Comet was racing so I cannot compare properly. During the spring races my stalking horse was a Solo. I think I have done better against that with the Xtra sail. The advantage seems to come from better control in strong winds rather than a faster boat. I have noticed that a Bosun (PN 1198), sailed by the clubs slow handicap champion, is slightly faster running but slower beating than the Xtra.

What have I discovered about this sail? Raising the sail is easy enough once you have got the mast sleeve zip started. Getting it down can be a bit trickier if the halyard is firmly caught at the mast top cleat. That happens on windy days when you have pulled everything tight during the course of a race. It is probably best to tip the boat over whilst it is still on the water and free the halyard. You can lightly re-cleat until you want to get the sail down when a sharp tug or two outwards will release the halyard once ashore.

What modifications have I made from the standard rig? The Mylar sail forms its shape quickly so when the clew and outhaul are attached it can easily catch the wind instead of merely flapping loosely when left ashore or moored. I have added a hook for a quick release of the outhaul and a quick release clew strap to make coming ashore in stronger winds easier for me and safer for the boat. I also added a small block to the new outhaul hook to reduce friction and to give a smooth outhaul action. I put the usual elastic from the kicking strap attachment to the clew to pull the clew towards the mast when running. In light winds this helps quickly form a bowed shape on the stiffer sail.

Changes? Andy mentioned on delivery that he thought tapered battens might improve the set of the sail. I think he is right and would like to try some. The top batten could certainly be a little more flexible to give an even better shape. Anything to get more power with the same control! Also, I might make the boom an inch or two longer so that when the sail stretches my modified outhaul will still let me flatten the sail, otherwise I cannot think of any at the moment.

It seems to me that in its 25<sup>th</sup> year Andy has come up with an excellent rejuvenation of the boat that is fun to sail and should have wide appeal.

And for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary? What about a Mylar sail for the full size mast with a composite upper section to spill the wind when it is too strong? The Xtra Super Plus! That should go well in light summer zephyrs but might be just a shade too powerful for me in winter.

**John Sturgeon (Comet 400)**

## EMMA'S WEDDING



Emma and Chris Brisley Comet Sailors all John Emma Ian Rhian Mark Jennifer



CONGRATULATIONS



Good Fortune  
and  
Fair Winds

### Perihelion 81

Please send your contributions for the next issue of Perihelion by

**20th November 2006**

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

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### Dates for your Diary 2006:

16-Sep	Sat	W	Burghfield	Chris Robinson	01635 865733
23-Sep	Sat	E	Littleton	Clive Chapman	02082 550428
24-Sep	Sun	W	Merthyr Tydfil	Mark Govier	02920 778459
30-Sep	Sat	C	Banbury	Phil Henman	01926 640271
7-Oct	Sat	S	Kingsmead	Dan Goodman	02087 370778
8-Oct	Sun	N	Redesmere	Geoff Smith	01619 805415
28-Oct	Sat	C	Staunton Harold	Nigel Fern	01530 469691

## COMETS FOR SALE

### Comet 655

Grey with red stripe. Complete with full rig, and recently purchased Mino rig, folding launching trolley, praddle & top cover. Exceptional condition £1,450. Located Hampshire.

Contact David Pizzey 01264 364954 email [david.pizzey@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.pizzey@ntlworld.com)

### Comet 284

Vge, dark blue hull, white deck, new race rigging, cover, launching trolley, berthed at Littleton Sailing Club (Surrey). £900 David Williams tel: 01483-722911 e-mail [dcjwilliams1@btinternet.com](mailto:dcjwilliams1@btinternet.com).

### Comet 803

Purple/grey Hull, Keelband, camcleats, 2x Hydes, 1x Morrison, praddle, little hawk, padded toe-straps, extending tiller, foot-rail + anti-slip finish to cockpit sole. spare lower mast, storage bin, folding launch trolley, top cover. In good condition £1,525 ovno. Portsmouth 02392 788436 / Mob 07876 795030.

### Comet 661

Comet Cascade, pink/grey, very good condition, Mino and Standard Rigs, grab rails and padded toe-strap, praddle, hawk, telescopic tiller, spar and foil bags, cover, combi trailer and number board. £1,400 ono. Location Presteigne (Welsh Borders). Call 01544 260833 (evenings) or 07990 563587 (anytime).

### Comet 492

Blue hull, in excellent condition, includes combi trailer & 3 sails (1 brand new). Malvern, Worcestershire; £1,200 ono. Contact: Mark Witcomb on mob: 07726744041 or email: [witcomb\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:witcomb_mark@hotmail.com)

### Comet 255

("MacToo"). Light blue hull / silver grey deck, built 1989, c/w keelband, praddle, Little Hawk wind indicator, telescopic tiller extension, inspection hatch, top cover, spar bag, folding trolley, road trailer and easy-load car rack. All in good condition. Stored at Twyford, Berkshire. £850 ono.

Nick Orde, Tel. 0118 934 2856, or e-mail: [nick.orde@bg-group.com](mailto:nick.orde@bg-group.com)

### Comet 228

Comet 228 2 sails, one barely used, and launching trolley £700 ono please contact Christchurch Dorset 01202482781

### Comet 373

Red hull, full size and two year old Mino rigs, folding trolley, cover and spar bags. Good condition, £950 now at Thorney Island Sailing Club, Emsworth, Hampshire

Jane Edmunds - 02392 476676 (home), Email: [jane.edmunds@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:jane.edmunds@ukonline.co.uk)

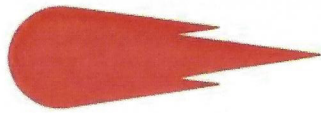
### Comet 450

(1991) White/ Blue & Includes Launching trolley, Praddle, Road Trailer, Cover. 2 middle aged owners. Lying Bude £1150 ono Contact David Tucker 01288 355861

### Comet Zero 104

Built circa 2000, regularly used and in excellent condition lying at Cotswold Sailing Club. Blue hull, launching trolley, boom-up cover, full suit of sails including a kite, and ready to go. £1500. Owner purchasing a new Comet Versa.

Contact Peter Talbot on 01242 238044. e-mail [peter.talbot1@virgin.net](mailto:peter.talbot1@virgin.net)



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