

The Comet Association Championship

Sutton Bingham Sailing Club hosted the Comet Class Association Championship on 7th & 8th May. The event attracted sailors from as far afield as Yorkshire and Essex with 12 different sailing clubs represented. The Comet is a lively single-handed dinghy sailed by a men and women and at this event ages ranged from 16 to 79!

Three races were sailed on Saturday with a light easterly breeze gradually building and veering towards the south-east during the third race.

In the first race local sailor, Chris Jones, using a borrowed boat, took an early lead but was closed down by Eddie Pope and light wind specialist, Chris Hatton who took line honours.

In race two Chris Jones made another good start. A lap into the race Michael Ettershank caught up and a close tactical battle ensued. Approaching the leeward mark Chris Jones forced Michael Ettershank into a rule infringement requiring penalty turns. Chris Jones went on to win the race with Michael Ettershank holding off Chris Robinson and Eddie Pope for second place.



Chris Hatton

There was a solid force three south-easterly for the third race requiring a reconfiguration of the course to give two good upwind legs. Michael Ettershank led this race from start to finish having picked up a good wind shift on the first beat, followed by Chris Jones. Chris Robinson, Paul Hinde, Nigel Austin and Dave Harris were closely bunched behind with much place swapping on every lap.



Richard Steptoe



Ben Palmer chased by Peter Mountford

On Saturday the club laid on a BBQ for competitors and a sailing quiz including plenty of questions on Comets - not just the dinghy, but meteors and musicians too!

On Sunday the action was dominated by Sutton Bingham Sailing Club's Chris Jones who revelled in the increasing breeze to take two bullets. Ben Palmer, Nigel Austin, Chris Robinson and Dave Harris featured in the pursuing bunch and there was much jostling for position amongst the competitive fleet. This included an incident which could have been a lot more serious when one boat capsized onto the committee boat just before the start of the final race.

At the prize giving ceremony, where prizes were awarded down to 17th place, Rob Jamieson, Principal Race Officer, Lou Hart, Event Organiser and Sutton Bingham Sailing Club were congratulated by the Comet Class Association for a well managed event.



Andy Roxburgh, Commodore SBSC presents winner Chris Jones with the winning trophies.