

**PERIHELION**  **106**

*Comet Class Association  
Newsletter*

**Spring 2013**



## OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

**President** KEITH LAMDIN

1, Japonica Court  
Marine Parade East  
Clacton on Sea  
CO15 5AF (Comet 55)  
Tel: 01255 421862

**Secretary** NORAH JAGGERS

Green Bank,  
9, Clinton Rise,  
Beer, Seaton,  
Devon EX12 3DZ  
e-mail: [cometdinghy.class@btinternet.com](mailto:cometdinghy.class@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01297 20858

**Results** PAUL HINDE

40 Impney Way  
Droitwich Spa  
Worcs. WR9 7EJ (Comet 844)  
e-mail: [paul\\_hinde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul_hinde@yahoo.co.uk)  
results to: [cometresults@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cometresults@yahoo.co.uk)  
Mobile: 07703 654899  
Tel: 01905 778842

**Committee** RHIAN BEVAN

30 Sycamore Close  
Kettering  
Northamptonshire NN16 9ST  
(Comet 724)  
e-mail: [rhianbevan@hotmail.com](mailto:rhianbevan@hotmail.com)  
Tel: 01536 518591

**Committee** JOHN STURGEON

6 Adams Drive  
Fleet  
Hants  
GU51 3DZ (Comet 400 & C246)  
e-mail: [j.sturgeon@ntlworld.com](mailto:j.sturgeon@ntlworld.com)  
Tel: 01252 623253

**Website Organizer**

SUE COPPENHALL  
e-mail [webmaster@cometsailing.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@cometsailing.org.uk)

**Chairman** CLIVE CHAPMAN

Ladyfield  
High Street  
Bourton  
Gillingham  
Dorset  
SP8 5AT (Comet 704 & 821)  
e-mail: [clivechapman@outlook.com](mailto:clivechapman@outlook.com)  
Tel: 01747 841062

**Treasurer** HELEN LEIVERS

40 Impney Way  
Droitwich Spa  
Worcs.  
WR9 7EJ (Comet 857)  
e-mail: [helen.comet@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen.comet@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tel: 01905 778842

**Committee**

MICHEAL ETTERS HANK  
40 Ferryfield Road  
South Woodham Ferrers  
Chelmsford  
Essex CM3 5RZ (Comet 84)  
Tel 01245 329797  
e-mail: [michalettershank@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michalettershank@yahoo.co.uk)

**Trophies** BRIAN WETHERLEY

Elm Lea Farm  
Cerne Wick  
Cirencester  
Glos, GL7 5QH (Comet 654)  
e-mail: [theweatherleys@btinternet.com](mailto:theweatherleys@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01285 861472

**Magazine Editor** BRIAN WELHAM

19 Lake End Way  
Crowthorne  
Berks  
RG45 7LP (Comet 711)  
e-mail: [bwelham@sky.com](mailto:bwelham@sky.com)  
Tel: 01344 761642

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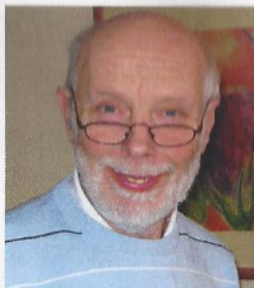
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Newsletter articles and comments to Brian Welham  
Racing rules Clinic to Keith Lamdin  
General information to Nora Jagers  
Class Association Sue Coppenhall [webmaster@cometsailing.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@cometsailing.org.uk)  
Website:- [www.cometsailing.org.uk](http://www.cometsailing.org.uk)

## Chairman's Report

### Hello All

Welcome to the new season.

Here we are at the start of another sailing year and hopefully by the time you read this the weather would have cheered up a little. I seem to remember that March last year was our summer month!



In January I had the pleasure of sailing in the Bloody Mary Pursuit along with 337 other entries. Quite an experience. I am pleased to say the Chris Robinson, Nigel Austin and Bob Dodds also sailed their Comets. We started at 12:15 and the race ended at 14:30. It was a breezy day favouring the high performance boats. The Foiling Moths set off at 13:30 and covered the same distance in one hour as the Comets did in two and a quarter hours. It was certainly a spectacle and as the race progressed very choppy around some of the marks. All was going well until I reached the penultimate mark then cold hands let slip the main sheet and an obliging gust put me in the water. I righted the boat and finished 235<sup>th</sup>. Bob finished one place behind Chris who was 218<sup>th</sup> and Nigel is to be congratulated in finishing 209<sup>th</sup>. I'm not sure if there is anything in it but Brian and Dee Weatherly were sailing their Comet Race as they came along side me I capsized and as they reached Bob he capsized and when they got to Chris he also ended up in the water. Clearly they are a boat to be behind. I am hoping that next year that the winds are very light and the Comet can show its paces more effectively.

Were you at the Alexander Palace Dinghy Show? The Comet stand was manned by Comet helms over the weekend. The new "Zippered sail" was on display. My thanks must go to John Sturgeon for organising us so well. It was great for all of us to talk to helms from all over the country. It's amazing how many visitors find the Comet tactile and have to run their hands across it as they pass.

For the helms who have managed to sail through the winter I hope the winds were kind to you. I feel that it has been a long cold winter and spring is a little reluctant to show itself.

I, like many of you have been preparing my boat and equipment for the events coming up. I've looked at the Race Programme on the Comet site and have targeted venues I wish to visit. Up River SC is new venue and some of the older helms will remember sailing at Frensham Ponds. Cotswold SC is the venue for the Association Championships and the Nationals are being held at Fishers Green. Both clubs have excellent waters and facilities.

This year our aim is to get as many new helms to waters other than their own. It will be interesting to see which club produces the most away visits over the season. If you are attending an Open try to take a friend. We will count up at the end of the season. Double points for new helms! A prize for the most successful club!!

If you have a boat to sell don't forget to use our website and advertise it free of charge. There is a strong demand for "nearly new" Comet Dinghies.

This year we are trying to get Comet 1 to more venues. The Association is on the lookout for a double trailer, so if you have one you wish to sell or know somebody who does please get in touch with a Committee member. Names and numbers in the Perihelion or on the website.

It was with great sadness that we learnt about Phil Hossell's death after a short illness. A large group of Comet helms attended his funeral in Gloucester. Phil was an active helm and served on the Comet Committee. He was a popular and a very highly valued member. Our thoughts are with Liz his wife and his family at this sad time.

### Clive Chapman C704 & C821

This is most of your committee for this year



Rhian Brian Clive Paul John Norah Michael

## Secretary's Report

### Notes from the committee:

1. The season will already have begun with the Open meeting at Sutton Bingham on March 24th. Let's hope that it was enjoyed by all who took part!
2. Once again it was good to see Comets at the Bloody Mary. Well done to all of you who took part – and congratulations to Dee and Brian Weatherley who did so well in their Comet Race.
3. Your Committee met in February and discussed a number of issues including the future of Perihelion, given the increasing cost of production and postage. The committee agreed that it would be advantageous if Perihelion could be produced electronically and accessed on the website. However, this could only happen if there was a "Members Only" section on the website while retaining the public information which is already available. Clive has undertaken to look at how this can be achieved and how much it will cost.
4. The Committee agreed the Aphelion areas for this year, and you will find the details elsewhere in the magazine. There are 23 Open meetings across the country, so we hope that you will be able to attend at least one other than at your own club. Sailing with other Comet helms has proved to be one of the best ways of improving your own performance. If you are going to an event, why not invite another Comet sailor from your club to go along with you?
5. Rhian Bevan and Helen Leivers have asked me to remind you about the Comet Facebook account. Do use it as a way of keeping up-to-date with events, find out who is planning to attend meetings, tips, travel plans, and much more.
6. We're looking for a volunteer to sail Comet No.1 – "Numero Uno" – at the championships. She has been restored by Brian Herring and will be at the Association Championships in May and hopefully at the Nationals in August. Please let me or Clive know if you're interested.
7. You will have read about Andrew's design for a zippered sail in Perihelion 105. This will require a change in the Measurement Rule which cannot be done until the Annual General Meeting on August



25th 2013 . In order to enable helms who chose the zippered sail to remain within class, your Committee has agreed to a dispensation. The agreement was made at the committee meeting on 16th February 2013 and will remain in place until the AGM.

8. Once again thank you to everyone who helped with our stand at the Dinghy Show, at the beginning of March. John Sturgeon did a great job of organising everything – thank you.
9. The Nationals 2013 will be held at Fishers Green Sailing Club over the August Bank Holiday (24th – 26th ) weekend. A lot of you are already familiar with the club and the water and they are hosting an Open meeting in April which will give you all an opportunity to try out the facilities.
10. The Annual General Meeting will be at Fishers Green SC on Sunday 25th August 2013 at 1730 or 1 hour after the end of the last race, whichever is later.
11. The Association Championships will be at Cotswold SC on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th May. Cotswold has featured on the Comet calendar for some years, and is easy to reach from both the M4 and M5.
12. If your club is running an Open meeting, please ensure that someone writes a report on the day and that it is sent to Brian Welham to include in Perihelion. Without your contributions the newsletter won't exist.
13. Clive commented, in Perihelion 105, that we need to find ways of encouraging helms to take part in Open events. He and Paul Hinde are looking at possibilities for giving additional points to someone at their first Open meeting away from their own club. Please talk to Clive and Paul if you have ideas on how an incentive system could work.
14. The committee was saddened to hear of Phillip Hossell who has been such a consistent supporter of the Association for 20 years. The Comet Class Association was well represented at his funeral and Liz has been very grateful for all the messages of love and support from Comet sailors around the country.

**Norah Jagers Class Secretary**

## Builders Report

I've just returned from the Dinghy Show, the sun is shining and at last Spring and the new sailing season are just around the corner. Both Comets at the Show were pre-sold, a new one for Cransley and the other was delivered to Redditch on the way home.



There was a lot of interest in the new Zipper sail option and the current batch (and non-zipper ones) are all gone. There is another batch of each due early May.

There should be a new Spare Parts Price List with this newsletter. Hyde have held their prices to me so the sail prices stay the same. I've also held the prices on spars and covers. Our rope prices are still very competitive.

As the Comet fleet generally gets older, their rigging, ropes and blocks can be changed by several owners over the years. When we supply our centre mainsheet conversion and economy race rigging kits we have to assume everything on the dinghy is exactly as it left us, 10, 20 or even 30 years ago. Not surprisingly, this is rarely the case. If a new owner of an older dinghy isn't sure of what is needed, it can often be good to send the rigging including mainsheet back to us so we can check it out, and only supply what's really needed. The other alternative is to send some photos of all the rigging by e-mail. Lets all hope we have a decent summer and some great sailing.

**Andrew Simmons**

### Perihelion 107

Please send your contributions for the next issue of Perihelion by

**1st July 2013**

To Brian Welham, Class Editor, 19 Lake End Way  
Crowthorne Berks RG45 7LP e-mail [bwelham@sky.com](mailto:bwelham@sky.com)

## COMET SPARES, REPAIRS AND ACCESSORIES

Don't forget all spares and accessories are held in stock and can often be with you in less than 24 hours if you order in the morning.

**New Dinghies** A selection always in stock

**Comet** £3850

**Comet Xtra** £3950

**Comet Mino** £3700

**Standard Sail** £300

**Standard Sail with Zipper** £340

**Zippered Sail conversion kit** £25 (includes dyneema halyard removable masthead block, cleat rivets and instructions)

**Mino Sail** £270

**Xtra Sail** £383

**Xtra Conversion Kit & Sail** £405 (This includes halyard and parts needed to convert your top mast and shorten your bottom mast and boom).

To continue to be able to sail as a Std Comet you will need a

**shorter Xtra bottom mast** £160

(The original top mast may fit, and can have a block shackled on and still be used for a Std Comet Sail) If it doesn't fit then

**(An Xtra top mast** £90

**A shorter Xtra boom** £130 *but the std boom can be used.*

### Repairs

Accident damage and refurbishing gladly undertaken.

Write, phone or e-mail but include a daytime phone number

**Comet Dinghies : Horsepond Meadow**

**South Molton, Devon EX36 4EJ**

**Tel 01769 574358**

**Fax 01769 574358**

**e-mail [cometdinghies@btconnect.com](mailto:cometdinghies@btconnect.com)**

The photographs in this issue were printed with the kind permission from the following.

Page 13 (both)

Anita Ettershank

Page 14 (both)

Gil Cummings

Pages 22 & 23

Mark Govier

Page 25

Steve Gregory

Pages 26, 27, 28 & 29 (all)

Brian Welham

## COMET ORBITAL & APHELIONS

### Trophy series 2013

#### Rules for qualification and scoring

#### Orbital and Aphelions:

Open meeting overall results as determined by the host club, will be used after removal of the places for those helms who were not Comet Class Association members on the day of the event.

#### Orbital

To qualify for a position and a memento for this, our overall travellers' series, you require entry in a minimum of six events including open meetings from at least two of the Aphelion areas. You must also have entered either (or both) of the National or Association Championships.

Your six best overall results (from opens and championships) will be used to determine your Orbital position.

Ties will be broken by the most 1sts, 2nds, 3rds, etc. in those six best results. Ties remaining after this will be broken by the better place at the National Championships or failing that by the better place at the Association Championships.

The trophy, other prizes, and mementoes will be awarded on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Staunton Harold SC following the prize giving for that event.

#### Aphelions

To qualify for a position and a memento for an Aphelion, our regional travellers' series, you require entry in a minimum of three of the open meetings designated for that region. You may compete in any or all of the areas.

Your three best overall results from a region will be used to determine your position in that region.

Ties will be broken in favour of the helm with the most 1sts, 2nds, 3rds, etc. in their best three results. If a tie remains it will be broken by the best place nearest the end of the series.

The trophies, other prizes, and mementoes will be awarded at the final venue in each region (see below) following the prize giving for that event.

#### Cancelled events

If one or more of the scheduled events in a region is cancelled then all of the competitors in that Aphelion will be awarded average points for those events. This will be an average of their finishing positions from the events that they have attended in the affected Aphelion.

This year there are 23 Open meetings in 5 Aphelion areas. Please support the clubs which have put so much energy and effort into hosting events for us.

#### NORTH

Apr 11	Sat	Winsford Flash
Jun 22	Sat	Attenborough
Jul 13	Sat	Chester
Oct 5	Sat	Redesmere

#### SOUTH

Apr 27	Sat	Burghfield
May 4	Sat	Maidenhead
Jul 28	Sun	Mudeford
Aug 31	Sat	Bewl Valley
Oct 12	Sat	Hawley Lake

#### CENTRAL

Apr 21	Sun	Hunts
Jun 16	Sun	Frensham Pond
Jul 27	Sat	Banbury
Aug 10	Sat	Cransley
Sep 7	Sat	Severn

#### WEST

Mar 24	Sun	Sutton Bingham
Apr 13	Sat	Shearwater
Sep 22	Sun	Merthyr Tydfil
Sep 29	Sun	Baltic Wharf

#### EAST

Apr 20	Sat	Fishers Green
May 12	Sun	Crawley Mariners
Jun 15	Sat	Chipstead
Jun 23	Sun	Up River
Oct 19	Sat	Staunton Harold

## Up River Yacht Club First Comet Open 23rd June 2013

As Up River Yacht Club is holding its first Comet Open Meeting on the 23rd June this year Brian has asked me to write a few words about the place.

If you're thinking of traveling to the club it's about half an hour from the M25 Junctions for the A12 / A127 and A13 in the village of Hullbridge, safely tucked away from the parts of Essex somewhat unfairly well known for fake tans, anti-social behavior orders and binge drinking. Traveling down from via Cambridge on the M11 / A14 is also relatively easy for those of you in the midlands with the club just 2 hours from Kettering.

The post code to feed into a satnav is SS5 6PA.

The sailing area itself is on the River Crouch, which has a tidal flow fast enough to make an interesting difference to racing but not enough to get frustrating. The tide can go out far enough to walk along the river bed, and it has been known for cruiser owners to walk their tenders though the mud back to the ramp. To the best of my knowledge, this has not occurred to any Comet sailors. We tend to sail in different parts of the river throughout the day so getting different conditions therefore giving everyone a decent shot for glory or embarrassment throughout the day.

The club has all the usual mod cons of changing rooms, a canteen serving good home made food and probably the cheapest bar in the south east. Spectators can view the vast majority of the racing area up close from the paths running from the club alongside the river.

The club website is [www.upriver.org](http://www.upriver.org)

Hope to see you there.

**Michael Ettershank C 84**

## This is what the sailing at the Up looks like

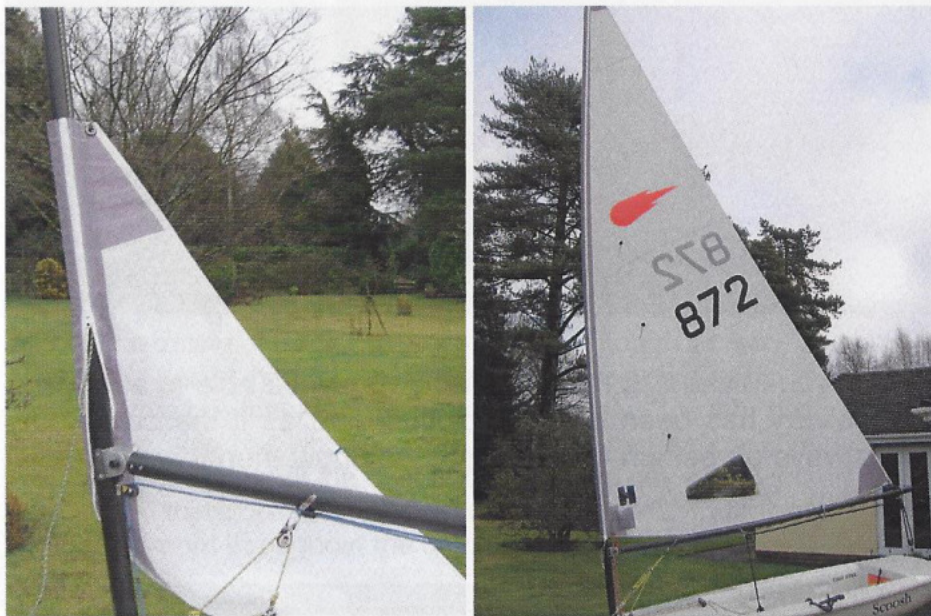


Thank you Michael. It is a pity that I will not be able to attend as my holiday has been booked for this date as if the conditions are always as benign as these photos show then it would have suited me very well. **Ed**



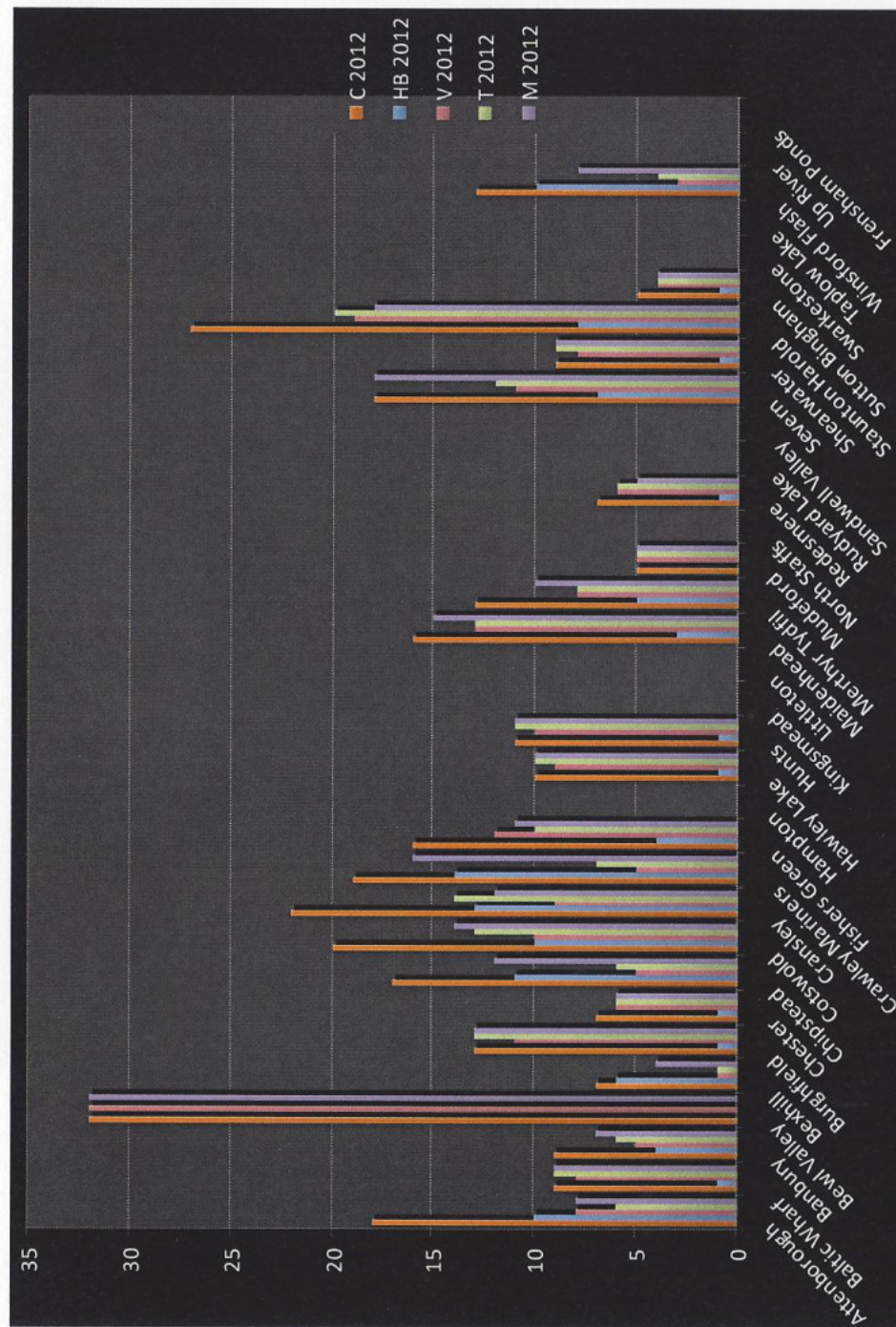
## Zippered Standard Sail - dispensation

This note is to confirm that your committee is proposing to put an amendment to the measurement rules for consideration at the next AGM to allow the use of zippered sails for the standard rig. However, they are offering a dispensation to anyone using this type of sail before the vote at the AGM.



As you can see from the photos above the Comet can be left with the mast permanently in position and then the sail hoisted. This will certainly be of interest to the smaller helms who find the stepping of the mast in stronger winds challenging. I initially thought that it would not help those of us who trail to open meetings but it will certainly be easier to step a clean mast especially on windy days. You will also see that the zippered sail also sets as well as the original sail.

Good luck if you plan to purchase this new option. **Ed**







## COMET CLASS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association  
[www.cometsailing.org.uk](http://www.cometsailing.org.uk)

### Application for Membership

New Member                      Renewal                      (Please mark as appropriate)

#### Category of membership Applied for:-

FULL (£17)

FAMILY (More than one family member using the same boat) (£23)

ASSOCIATE (Non-Owner) (£17)

#### Personal Details:-

Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss, Other.....Forename (or name by which known) .....

Surname .....

Address.....

.....

.....

County ..... Postcode.....

**If you have already paid then why not tear it out  
And give it to another of your members who  
should be In the association**

Telephone..... email.....

Boat Sail No(s).....Boat Name(s).....

Main Sailing Club.....

Remittance £..... (£17 Full/Associate Member or £23 Family Member)

Signature..... Date .....

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to Comet Class Association

Please return this form with your remittance to the Hon. Treasurer:

Helen Leivers  
Hon. Treasurer, C.C.A.  
40 Impney Way  
Droitwich Spa  
Worce  
WR9 7EJ

Membership of the Association and acceptance of the rules by a member will deem to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1984.

Open Meeting	13	12	11	10	09	08	13	12	11	10	09	08	13	12	11	10	09	08	
Attenborough	N	N																	
Baltic Wharf	W	W	W	W	W														
Banbury	C	C	C	C	C	C													
Bewl Valley	S	Na	E	C	S	E													
Bexhill	E	E	E	E	As														
Burghfield	S	S	E	E	E														
Chester	N	N	N	N	N	N													
Chipstead	E	E	E	E	E														
Cotswold	As	C	C	W															
Cransley	C	C	As	C	C	C													
Crawley Marners	E	E	S	E	S														
Fishers Green	E	E	E	E	E														
Hampton	S	S	C	S	C	S													
Hawley Lake	S	S	C	S	C														
Hunts	C	C	C	C	Na														
Kingsmead					S	S													
Littleton					E	S	As	E											
Maidenhead	S	S	S	S															
Merthyr Tydfil	W	W	W	W	W	W													
Mudford	S	S	S	S	S	W													
North Staffs					N	N													
Redesmere	N	N	N	N	N	N													
Rudyard Lake					N	N													
Sandwell Valley						W													
Severn	C	As	C	W	W	W													
Shearwater	W	W	W	W	W	W													
Staunton Harold	E	E	N	C	C	C													
Sutton Bingham	W	W	W	W	W	W													
Swarkestone					N	N													
Taplow Lake					S	S													
Winsford Flash	N	N	N	N	N	N													
Up River	E																		
Frensham Ponds	C																		

## Comet PY rises to 1190

Many of you will be racing your Comet against other classes of boat at your club in handicap racing and many of you will also have thought that the rating you have been allocated is wrong or that other classes have advantages over your Comet.

Now that they can use computers to analyse the returns the RYA is publishing updated lists of Portsmouth Yardsticks for dinghies every year. These numbers are not the definitive figures for handicap racing but they give a guidance to your race handicap "committee". There are a number of factors that will influence the figures supplied to RYA

The topography at that club, (inland, surrounded by trees, costal, high up reservoir)

The time of day when they race and the wind conditions at that time.

The skill level of the helms in that class at that club.

The number of races recorded (Comet used 3400 races which was 13<sup>th</sup> out of about 90 classes listed)

The Portsmouth yardstick that the RYA has been allocating to the Comet has been going down from 1173 when I first noticed the rating to 1179 in 2012 to the latest figure of 1190 for this year. This could be that the helms whose timings are sent to the RYA are getting slower or the earlier figures were incorrect. There is another possible reason is that the other classes are getting faster. This is quite possible as newer boats of other classes may have been "tweaked" with better sails, spars etc. One advantage we see from the Comet is that a 20 year old boat is fully competitive against that latest one Andy has made, so it is just skill level that sorts the "men from the boys".

Those of you who sail against Solo's and don't understand why they go so quickly will be pleased to see their PY has been reduced to 1148 whilst the Miracle which used to be on the same PY as the Comet has moved up to 1200. I think that the skill level in the Miracle fleet has not diminished so the faster boats must be getting faster. If you have ever sailed against an International Moth (Foiling) then their latest PY of 600 will not be a surprise.

There is a website offered by the RYA that will enable your club to measure the PY that should have been used for each class of boat in your races and so I would encourage your club to enter your results and see if the standard PY is the right one for Comets (or any other class) on your water. [www.pys.org.uk](http://www.pys.org.uk). The RYA now recognise that their PY may not be right for your club and are encouraging us to use one that is right for our water, classes and sailors.

**Ed**



# 2013 Programme Comet - Mino - Xtra!

Date	Day	Venue	Aphelion Region	
24 March	Sun	SUTTON BINGHAM SC	West	
13 April	Sat	SHEARWATER SC	West	
20 April	Sat	FISHERS GREEN SC	East	
21 April	Sun	HUNTS SC	Central	
27 April	Sat	BURGHFIELD SC	South	
4 May	Sat	MAIDENHEAD SC	South	
11 May	Sat	WINSFORD FLASH SC	North	
12 May	Sun	CRAWLEY MARINERS YC	East	
<hr/>				
26 May	Sun	<b>COTSWOLD SC</b>	<b>Association Championships</b>	
27 May	BH Mon			
<hr/>				
15 June	Sat	CHIPSTEAD SC	East	
16 June	Sun	FRENSHAM POND SC	Central	
22 June	Sat	ATTENBOROUGH SC	North	
23 June	Sun	UP RIVER YC	East	
13 July	Sat	CHESTER SC	North	
27 July	Sat	BANBURY SC	Central	
28 July	Sun	MUDEFORD SC	South	
10 Aug	Sat	CRANSLEY SC	Central	
<hr/>				
24 Aug	Sat	<b>FISHERS GREEN SC</b>	<b>National Championships</b>	
25 Aug	Sun			AGM
26 Aug	BH Mon			
<hr/>				
31 Aug	Sat	BEWL VALLEY SC	South	
7 Sept	Sat	SEVERN SC	Central	
22 Sept	Sun	MERTHYR TYDFIL SC	West	
29 Sept	Sun	BALTIC WHARF SC	West	
5 Oct	Sat	REDESMERE SC	North	
12 Oct	Sat	HAWLEY LAKE STC	South	
19 Oct	Sat	STAUNTON HAROLD SC	East	

With the exception of the two Championship meetings, which are CCA members only, the above meetings are open to all Comet (Standard, Mino, or Xtra rig) sailors. Members' results qualify them for our travellers' series: the regional Aphelion trophies and the overall Orbital Trophy.

## Enjoy your sailing - Race with Us!

Dates correct 19/02/2013, confirm before travelling  
Comet Class Association 2013

## Changes to the racing rules January 2013

Those of you who race regularly will know that the Racing Rules of Sailing are up-dated every 4 years. *Just after the Olympic Games* in an attempt to clarify the discrepancies and anomalies that the last set of rules threw up and to make it easier for us to interpret them when we are on the water!

This year there appears to be fewer changes but we should all know what they are and use them to our advantage if possible. A couple of rules that I have noticed is a; the insistence that we all apply a 3 boat length circle round marks (the 2 or 4 length local rule is not available ) and b; the calling for water at a continuous obstruction must be allowed for by all the boats affected not just the closest. There are other changes which I am not qualified to rule on but the RYA have issued a set of guidance notes (8 pages) on the changes to the rules. I would suggest you all look at these notes to ensure that the Comet fleet continue to keep the reputation of applying the racing rules and accepting the penalties when we make an error of judgement. Know your rules

The RYA notes can be found from their website (free of charge as a PDF file) go to

[www.rya.org.uk/racingrules](http://www.rya.org.uk/racingrules)

then on the right hand side of the screen you will see **GUIDANCE** click this

Then under a picture of 5 young men you will see **GENERAL GUIDANCE** click this

Then the 4th option down is **Changes to the Racing Rules (January 2013)** click this

You will then get the 8 page PDF which I recommend you read

Ed

## Merthyr Tydfil Sailing Club Open Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

“Nadine” was ominously forecast to blow in across the lake from the east. Not a good direction at Pontsticill where the wind will be coming over that largest hillside in the valley. It didn't quite perform as the forecast suggested and the wind was light with awkward gusts; not quite as bad as might have been expected. We welcomed nine visitors from sailing clubs across southern Britain to join four locals on the water.

The first race started allegedly to windward, but that depended on which end of the line you'd chosen. It was a lottery; but after rounding the first mark and heading little further away from the east bank the wind sorted itself out into a slightly more consistent direction. Then came the second “down-wind/up-wind” leg (yes it randomly changed). John Coppenhall (532, Hunts. S.C.) got round the first lap ahead of Peter Dalton (668, Frampton-on-Severn S.C.). But by the time the second and final lap was completed Peter Dalton had got ahead and was followed over the line by Peter Mountford (864, Staunton Harold S.C.) with the lead local Alun Bevan (420, Merthyr Tydfil S.C.) crossing in third.

Because of the forecast for deteriorating conditions as the day progressed we opted to follow on quickly with the second race. Held over the same simple triangular course, mainly because, given the conditions any variation would just add to the confusion of the wind. This time the start was a little more consistent for everyone and provided for slightly better racing. Ben Palmer (597, Baltic Wharf S.C.) got round the first lap ahead followed by Peter Dalton and Peter Mountford. On the second and final lap Chris Robinson (867, Burghfield S.C.) managed to squeeze through into second place pushing Peter Dalton back into third, but Ben Palmer held on to first place.

We then all came ashore for some welcome hot lunch and drinks. The one thing that was right about the forecast was the temperature which was decidedly cool. But the generous helpings of warm food got us all going



again. The race officer again reviewed the course and the wind but again opted for the simple triangular form as there was no consistent wind anywhere on the water.

For the third race there were several who opted instead to put their boats away and put on warm dry clothes. But for those that did race the same fluky conditions welcomed them back on the water. In this race Peter Dalton crossed the line in first place on every lap. (see photo). On the first lap Chris Robinson was close behind him but dropped out of the top three in the second and final laps. Alun Bevan had got into second place at the end of the second lap but Peter Mountford overtook him for the final lap with Ben Palmer working his way up from fifth to third place at the end.



The shore crew then helped everyone quickly recover their boats and get packed away. We then enjoyed a nice selection of home-made cakes with tea in the warm clubhouse before the prize-giving. Many thanks again to the visitors for making the effort to visit us and all those who helped who added warmth and sparkle to what was a damp autumn day.

### Mark Govier, Comet 460,

#### Overall Result Table

Sail	Helm	Club	R1	R2	R3	Total	Result
668	Peter Dalton	Frampton SC	1	3	1	2	1
597	Ben Palmer	Baltic Wharf	8	1	3	4	2
864	Peter Mountford	Staunton Harold	2	7	2	4	3
867	Chris Robinson	Burghfield SC	4	2	4	6	4
420	Alun Bevan	Merthyr Tydfil	3	6	5	8	5
317	Kevin Morris	Merthyr Tydfil	5	4	7	9	6
532	John Coppenhall	Hunts SC	6	5	6	11	7
460	Mark Govier	Merthyr Tydfil	10	8	13	18	8
821	Clive Chapman	Shearwater	9	9	13	18	9
800	Henry Jaggars	Beer SC	7	13	13	20	10
654	Brian Weatherly	Cotswold SC	11	13	13	24	11
426	Roger Edwards	Merthyr Tydfil	12	13	13	25	12
468	Andrew Brazier	Merthyr Tydfil	13	13	13	26	13

## Frensham Pond 2013 Comet Open – 16th June

The Frensham Pond Sailing Club used to be a regular for the Comet open circuit, with names like Jake Sutton, Richard Smallwood being local stalwarts of the class. Richard is still a keen member of the club (now racing in the somewhat more sedate 2.4 fleet), but was most enthusiastic about the prospect of welcoming Comets back to Frensham this year.

The pond is deceptively challenging, being bordered by an interesting mix of large trees, a sandy ridge and a strategic gap letting wind funnel in from the SW – all leading to some interesting effects. The most notorious is known as the Southerly Frensham Capsize – and for the consideration of a pint, I may well be prepared to divulge what can cause it.

Our friendly club was RYA Club of the Year in 2009, it has a lot of enthusiastic classes, including the Solos, with whom we are sharing the open meeting and a great clubhouse from which to watch proceedings for any armchair sailors

Frensham is in a beautiful setting on the Surrey/Hampshire border, just South of Farnham and is a great place to bring non-sailing partners and family. The walk around the pond is not to be missed and for the more energetic, there are acres of sandy heathland to explore and – if warm enough – even a sandy beach with a swimming area ! (not quite what you'd expect in Surrey)

Frensham Pond is artificial, having been created in the early Middle Ages by damming the Whitmore Stream at what is now the west end of the Pond. The Bishop of Winchester stocked the Pond with carp and drained it annually to trap the fish. These were then transferred alive in barrels to local monasteries and kept in 'Stew Ponds' to provide Friday lunch for the monks and local population.

The club was formed in 1953 and still has at least one founder member - who remembers his father using a real gun firing blanks to start the races !

Extract from the publication: Frensham Pond Sailing Club: The first Fifty Years

In the mid 90s, the Comet became popular at Frensham, with some Graduate sailors who had difficulty finding crews switching to them, within the Z class. When the Comets faded away after five years or so, most of the owners acquired other single-handed boats. However, Hiley Jones and Peter Guyett continued, with some success, in handicap racing against the Solos. Comets had flourished at Frensham for a number of years lead by Geoff Sutton whose son Jake was National Champion in 1998. Geoff was for several years Z Class captain and during his tenure the Comet National Championships were held at Frensham. However in the late nineties and the early part of the new century, the Comets and Graduates declined until only one or two were sailing on a regular basis.

<http://www.sailfrensham.org.uk/>



**Steve Gregory C 57**

## The Comet Stand at the Dinghy Show

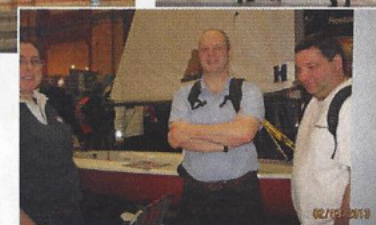


The Comet Class Association was present again this year promoting the class to all who expressed an interest at the Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace on 2nd and 3rd March. We shared the space (as usual) with Comet Dinghies who provided the 2 Comets plus in conjunction with the Comet Combined Class Association a Comet Versa and a Trio.

John Sturgeon who is the organiser for our association provided the Versa (which he sails as well as his Comet) and was already at Alexandra Palace when I arrived to help on Friday at about 1.00 pm. The place we had been assigned to was deserted except for the Versa on it's combi trailer. However, John, ably assisted by me and his wife Jacki soon had the cover off, the rigging in place and the 3 sails hoisted to dry them off from the rain water on them.

Then came a long wait as Andy Simmons had been delayed on his way up from Devon and did not arrive until about 4.30 pm. Unfortunately I had to go before then so all the final rigging and display that greeted me on my arrival at 9 am on Saturday is due to the splendid work of John and Andy and both wives.

On the Saturday we had, myself, Michael Ettershank, Rhian Bevan plus John and Sue Coppenhall who brought along their son Ian who is threatening to come to some of the open meeting in the west of the country.



For those of you who have not yet visited the Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace, here are a few tips.

Buy your ticket in advance as it is cheaper.

Arrive as early as possible as there is a lot to see and it gets crowded.

If you come by car, again arrive early, as the free car park will get full and the street parking is limited and the other car parks are some distance away.

There are frequent free buses from the main car park which is at the bottom of a steep hill and it helps carrying goodies back to your car.

However, why not help on the Comet stand and you will get in for free and there is always time to visit other stands during the day.

On arrival there is always a special display in the entrance hall. This year it was devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Mirror dinghy design.

I only went on the Saturday but it seemed to me that it was busier than usual. We had lots of interest potential new sailors for the boat and of course many of our current members visited to look at the zippered standard sail (on display) and generally to meet other members. We would like to thanks the members who manned the stand

Clive Chapman, Nigel Austin, John & Sue Coppenhall, Rhian Bevan, Michael Ettershank, Brian & Dee Wetherley and of course John, Andy and Brian but not forgetting John's wife Jackie.

## Editorial

Hi,

Can I please say thank you for the photo on the front cover of Phil Hossel who we lost this year. Phil was a good friend of the Comet Association and with his wife Liz made a formidable team at both Severn Sailing Club and on the Open circuit. It is in tribute to his long association with Comets that I have put a photo of him on the cover of P106.



I am not sorry that I did not compete in the Bloody Mary as it was a very cold day and now that we have to have 8 boats on the water to get a class prize my contribution would not have helped. I watched from the shelter of the club house and was impressed by the tenacity of our members (even with Brian & Dee W who chose a Comet Race rather than the Comet).

### Pictures from the Bloody Mary at QMSC



I was looking forward to going to Up River but I will be away that weekend but I am sure the return to Frencham Pond will be great. It is a very good place to sail do go to their re-introduced Comet Open meeting.

I added a photo of your committee to the bottom of Clive's report but I am afraid Helen was not able to come to that meeting as she had fallen and pulled a hamstring but is recovering fast.

I have shown another view of the zippered std sail with the reminder that if you purchase one you have a dispensation from the measurement rules for at least until the AGM in August. Comet 864 was displayed with a zippered

std rig at the Dinghy Show and created some interest. You will see that in his advert Andy has priced it with the one-off cost of converting your rig to take a halyard.

For those of us who take part in handicap racing it should be helpful to have the 2013 RYA PY reduced to 1190 whilst the Solo and Lasers have moved very little. Does your club submit results to the RYA? Are the Comet results included? If not can you encourage your club to make submissions as the more results that they receive the more representative will be the PY assigned to our class.

On pages 15 and 18 there is some information about how many helms took part in the Open meetings from 2008 to the present. On page 15 we have shown a graph of the helms who sailed the opens. Have a look at your local clubs. On the other page we have broken down the numbers to show how many were local boats, how many were visitors, how many were CCA members. (local boats don't have to be members and although they can win their own open those points don't get carried on for the Aphelion and Orbital competitions) and finally we shown how many of the helms travelled to other open meetings. We are trying to encourage more helms to travel and this could be of interest to everyone.

I have included another membership form so that if you did not complete your form earlier then here is another opportunity but equally as important here is a chance to pull it out and give it to another member of your club who should be a member but currently is not.

I still need your articles, memories, anecdotes and reports to ensure that it is enjoyable to read this magazine. We are often praised for the quality of Perihelion but without your input it is difficult to fill with quality material.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU SEND YOUR OPEN MEETING REPORTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PERIHELIONS**

**Brian Welham Comet 711**  
**01344-761642 [bwelham@sky.com](mailto:bwelham@sky.com)**

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Sale of my boat based at Rollesby Broad Sailing Club. I am only the second owner - the previous owner did not sail it for four years re health reason and I have owned it for two years and find it too heavy for me re launching. It is in good condition, has a new cover (in 2011) new rudder stock, halyards etc.

It also has a launching trolley. The price I am asking is £1,400 My email address is [VJordan2491@aol.com](mailto:VJordan2491@aol.com) Tel: 01493 856329





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