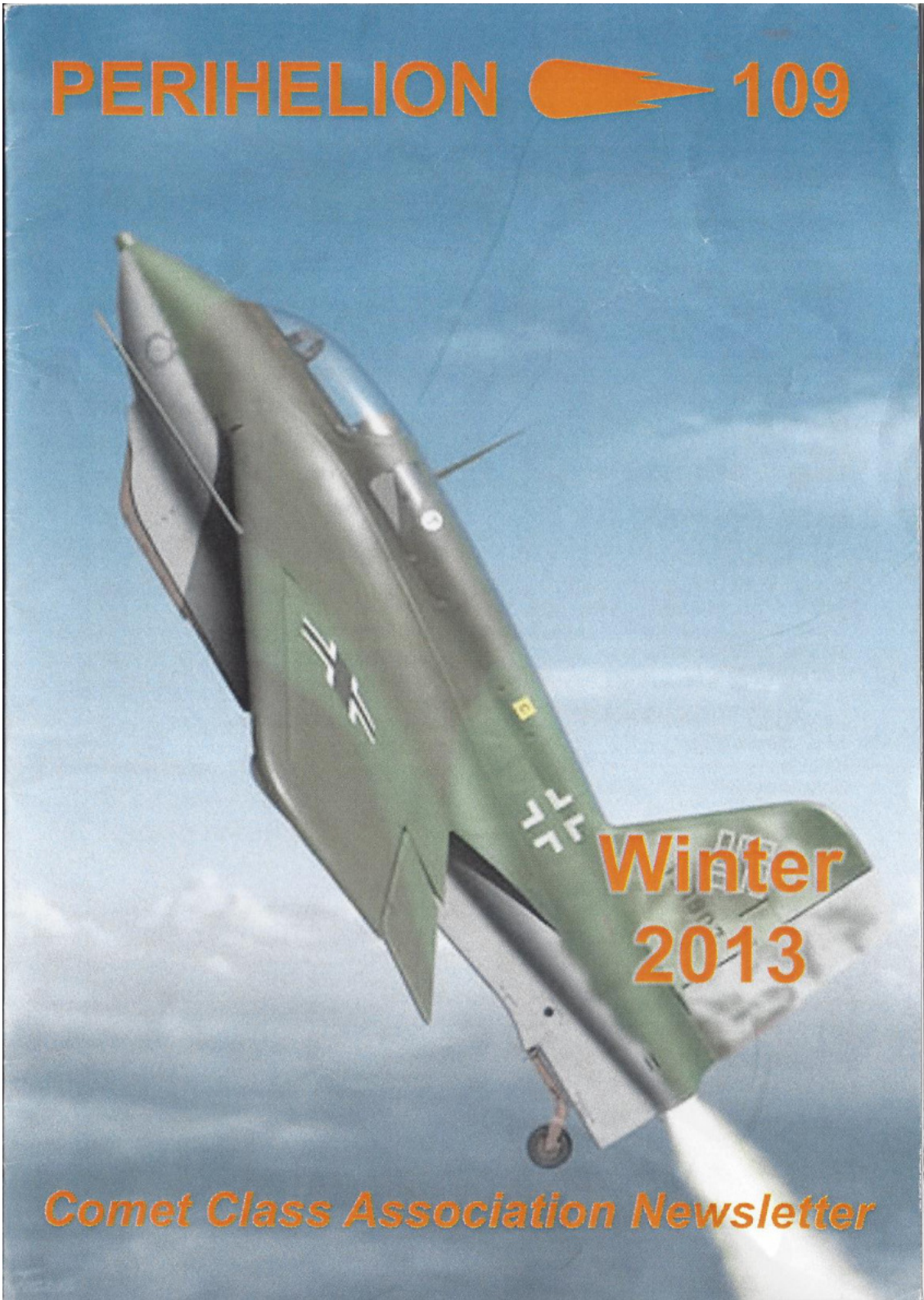


**PERIHELION**  **109**

**Winter  
2013**

***Comet Class Association Newsletter***



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## Chairman's Report

### *Hello All*

By the time you are reading this I am sure it will be 2014 and the start of another year. Happy New Year. I hope Santa was able to bring you all you wished. I can't believe that I have entered my final year as your Chairman. It doesn't seem two years ago at Portland that I took up the role. How time flies (must be an age thing). I honestly can say I've enjoyed every minute of it. I've had the opportunity and pleasure of going to some wonderful new clubs and meeting new members and old friends. Naturally we are on the lookout for a new chairman. Any ideas?



By being Chairman I thought I was bound to win some Open events like Chris and Henry before me. Regrettably it's not position that wins Opens but talent. My results this year have not been threatening the top helms. I am however already looking forward to the new season. I missed some of the Opens I enjoy participating in because of family commitments. My New Year's resolution this year is to attend more and make sure I visit all our new venues this year

Crawley Mariners won the new Travellers trophy. As a club they recorded more visits to Opens and Championships than any other club, don't forget its one point for each non club venue you attend and double points for any new helm travelling. If all members made three new resolutions. i.e.

Participate in their own club's Open.

Travel to a local Open.

Encourage a new helm to compete.

Then our excellent participation figures would improve even more. Several clubs last year missed out on the team prize at the Nationals for the want of one more club helm.

Henry Jagers and Bob Dodds must be congratulated on sharing the Pingewood trophy which is awarded for the most Open events attended. Between them they must have travelled thousands of miles. I am always impressed just how far our helms travel in order to compete.

The Association will be at the Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace in March sharing the Comet stand with Andrew Simmons the Comet builder. If you would like the opportunity to help man the stand and chat to potential new Comet helms then you would be more than welcome. You are not expected to sell but to pass on your enthusiasm for the Comet and the Association. My experience over the last three years is that I have met people from all over the country; old club friends I haven't seen for years and many Comet sailors. I have also had the opportunity to look round the show which is the finest Dinghy Show in the country. John Sturgeon is organising this so if you are interested please contact him. His details are on the inside cover.

With over 20 Opens the Comet fleet sails at many different clubs all over the country each year. What would interest many of the travelling helms is to know a little more about the club and its history. i.e. when it was formed; how it got its name; anything noteworthy about it. We are not looking for pages of notes but a potted history that could fill a paragraph or two in each Perihelion.

If you think you can do this for your club then please contact the Ed. (Brian)

Having read the names of the winners of the Hossell Plate, it is a reminder of just how lucky the Association is having committed people in the clubs to organise our Opens. A big thank you to all.

The Committee is in the process of getting quotes to upgrade our website and hopefully an improved website will be in place for the new season.

If you are sailing during the winter, enjoy. With the leaves off the trees and only the committed helms sailing I always think it is a wonderful time to sail.

Alternatively, it may be time to lay up the boat and attempt a few repairs you were meaning to get round to but were too busy when sailing. Whatever you are doing, don't forget to renew your subscription.

Enjoy your Comet where ever you sail.

**Clive Chapman C704 & C821**

## Secretary's Report

### Notes from the committee:

1. So, the 2013 Comet season has been completed. The sailing season in Beer continues until the end of the year for the Lasers, but Comet 500 has just come home from the beach. A small posse of the local fishermen gathered to watch Henry put her onto the car, using the Easi-Loader. They were most impressed!
2. Congratulations to Ian Stone, who has completed a superb year by winning the Orbital Trophy.
3. The Aphelion results indicated some close racing again. Eddie Pope won the Northern and Central Aphelions for a second year. Ian Stone won the Southern and Eastern events and Bob Dodds won the Western Aphelion. Congratulations to you all, and "Well done" to everyone who qualified. It shows such a commitment to Comet sailing.
4. Once again your committee has decided not to have a stand at the London Boat Show. We understand that the Battle of the Classes has been moved to the Southampton Boat Show, so John Sturgeon has been asked to find the details.
5. We will have a stand at the Dinghy Show, which will be held at Alexandra Palace over the weekend of March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. John Sturgeon is organising it for us, and is busy with risk assessments and all the other required paperwork. The Combined Comet Classes have decided not to have a stand in 2014.



6. The programme for 2014 is taking shape. We're really sorry that Banbury has decided not to hold an event for us next year. So far, all the other clubs who helped this year are planning Open meetings. Olton Mere is proposing to host a meeting for the first time, thanks to Nigel Ford, and we're still sorting out the exact date. Eddie Pope is also looking at the possibility of our sharing an event with the Byte fleet.
7. The Association Championships will be at Staunton Harold Sailing Club on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Staunton Harold has hosted this event before, very successfully, so please support us if possible. The club is based in a lovely area with plenty of walks for the energetic and is within easy driving distance of several National Trust properties, as well as Melbourne House and Staunton Harold House and the Ferrers Centre.
8. We haven't done so well over the Nationals. Our first two choices are unable to help us, so we've just gone back to the drawing board! We're still hoping to hold the event over the August Bank Holiday. Watch this space!!
9. Some of you will be keen to keep sailing through the winter. It would be good to have a Comet fleet at the Bloody Mary, which will be on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2014. Brian will be delighted to have your report of the event too!
10. As always, our thanks go to all the clubs which have hosted events for the Association during the year. Our Aphelion circuit depends on all the hard work behind the scenes by race officers, rescue boat crews and galley works. Thank you all.

Have a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2014.

**Norah Jagers Class Secretary**

## Builders Report

As usual it's a quiet time of year at Comet. The repair work has eased up, but we still get the orders for spares etc.



A recent trip involved a Trio and Duo trailer deliveries and returning a Versa with a new spinnaker added. The return trip saw a visit to the Classic Car Show at the N.E.C. A lot of the stands are the "owners clubs" or "enthusiastic clubs" of past makes, some old and others surprisingly recent. It always impresses me how passionate they are about their particular brand although the phrase "love is blind" sometimes comes to mind.

I've always had an interest in classic cars so a couple of years ago I felt I was sufficiently old enough to buy a Morgan. It's certainly an acquired taste and a lot of people don't "get it". I know I didn't 20 or even 10 years ago. Unlike a modern car it's a car you can fiddle with and hopefully improve!

I like a challenge, so in this quiet period last year I decided to make a removable roof or hardtop. It's a four seater so probably has never been done before. It was built a bit like an upside down dinghy from plywood with a centre keel and ribs. Inside it's varnished but outside it was sheaved with GRP and painted to match the car. It goes on in the autumn but by the Spring I know I'll be keen to take it off and feel the wind in my hair! (slight joke).

This years "challenge" in this quiet period is to finish off an 18 1/2' sailing yacht called a Caprice. It was moulded in about 1969, but never finished. I bought it in 1980 and did a fair bit of work fitting it out back then but things got busy with Comets and work stopped. It will be ready when it's ready but hopefully will be launched by the summer.

In the New Year though, I must build two new Comets, no customers yet but hopefully sold before they get to the Dinghy Show in March, one on the Class Stand, the other rigged as an Xtra on my trade stand.

Not everyone realises our Comet Sails come from the Philippines. Hyde used to be in Essex but for quite a few years have been made in Cebu with about 250 employees. Although they were lucky at the factory, quite a few employees come from the other, badly effected areas. Production hasn't been hugely effected, we've plenty of standard sails in stock and a batch of Xtra's are due in February. Anyone wanting sails or anything else for the Dinghy Show, please let me know. Sail prices are held the same for now but could rise in the Summer. See you at the Dinghy Show.

**Andrew Simmons**

### **Perihelion 110**

Please send your contributions for the next issue of Perihelion by

**Friday 7th Mar 2014**

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

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

**P15  
P24  
P25**

**Bill Lynn  
Mark Govier  
Linda Welham**

## Down Wind Sailing in a Comet

Twenty years ago in the early 90's when I first started to sail Comets it was not unusual for even the best sailors to have trouble controlling the boat in stronger conditions when running before the wind. I remember at a Taplow Open meeting, the first half a dozen boats all capsized at the same time when a moderate gust came through. (I was on the bank at the time helping).

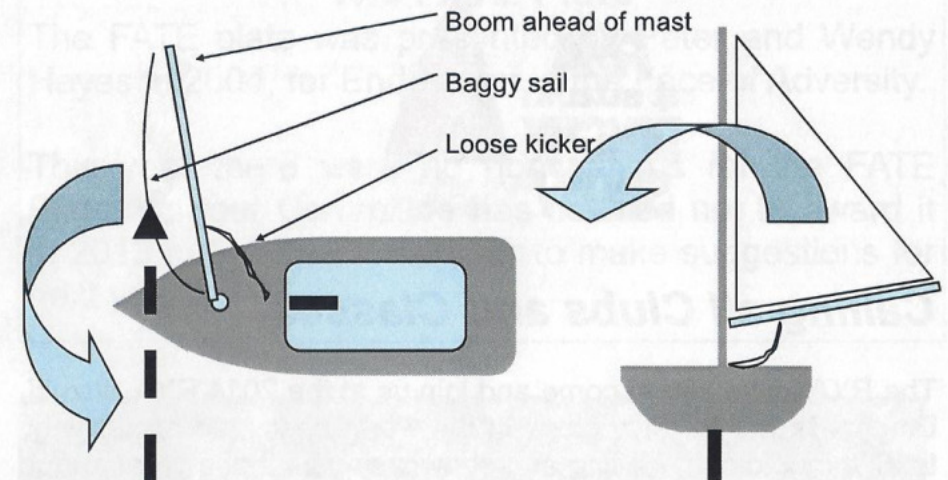
The problem was that the conventional running set-up for dinghies at that time was to ease off the kicking strap and to allow the boom to go forward to square with the mast (or even further). This technique works well with Toppers and Lasers even today. However, the Comet has a mast that is well forward of the centreboard and very close to the bow. This feature works very well for beating (thank you Andy for this design benefit) but the downside is that there is less buoyancy in the bow and any excess pressure on the sail from wind astern causes the bow to drop and the boom to lift into the air and the boat to capsize to windward without warning. This is a very unpleasant occurrence and I am sure we have all experienced it at some time. I hate this as it is impossible to do a dry capsize when this happens.

Today, although the boat and rig (on the standard Comet) have not changed we rarely see the front of the fleet capsize on a run although I did see our current National, Association and Junior Champion capsize on a run at the last open meeting of the year! (*I don't know why but he was fighting for the lead at the time and may have tried too hard*).

So, "Why don't the best helms capsize these days?" The secret is to not let the sail pressure go too far towards the bow when the wind is strong. This is achieved by flattening the sail with the outhaul, applying kicker and not allowing the boom to go too far forward when you are on a run. The secret is - *Kicker on and sheet in and outhaul on*. All these actions keep the pressure away from the bow and closer to the centreboard which is where the boat turns. The boat then tends to broach rather than suddenly capsize which means that you have time to steer the boat back onto the direction that you intended.

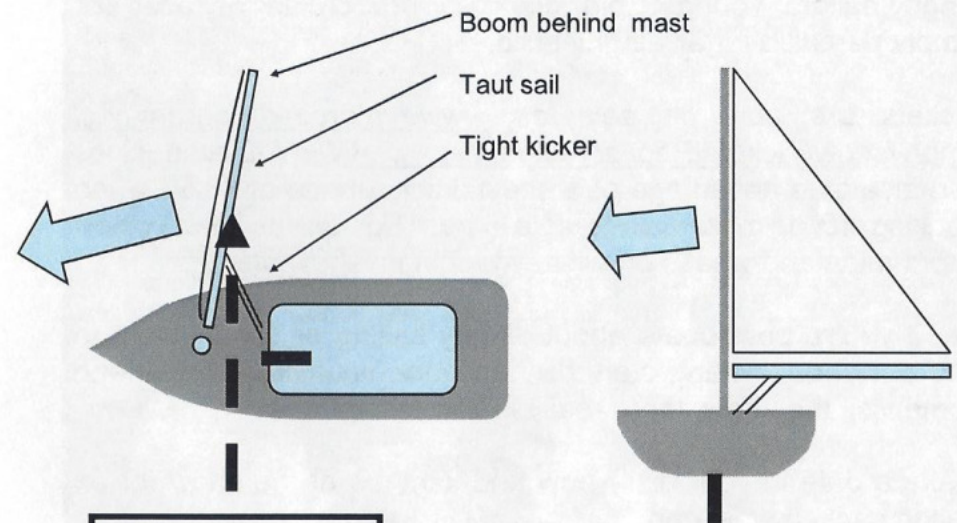
Our best and more experienced Comet sailors know this but I hope it helps those who are concerned about how to handle this super little boat on a windy day.

**C711 Brian Welham**



This is where the wind pressure is exerted on the boat — *Well ahead of the mast*

**This is what not to do!**  
*Not easy to control*



This is where the wind pressure is exerted on the boat. — *Behind the mast*

**This is what you should do!**  
*More easily controlled*



## Calling all Clubs and Classes

The RYA invite you to come and join us at the 2014 RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show, the only show in the world dedicated exclusively to all things dinghy sailing and showcasing all that's great about British dinghy sailing.

Held at the magnificent **Alexandra Palace** in London over the weekend of **01-02 March 2014** the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show, in association with Yachts and Yachting, has something for all dinghy sailors; young or old, novice or pro, cruiser or racer; it's simply paradise for all dinghy sailors!

Tickets are now on sale at: [www.rya.org.uk/programmes/dinghyshow/Tickets/Pages/Tickets.aspx](http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/dinghyshow/Tickets/Pages/Tickets.aspx). RYA Affiliated clubs can also take advantage of a special ticket price of £8.50 when booking 10 or more tickets at a time. For all the latest show information and what's on, visit [www.dinghyshow.org.uk](http://www.dinghyshow.org.uk).

So, if you're passionate about dinghy sailing or simply want to find out about getting started, then book your tickets now and come visit the show; there really is something for everyone.

Make a date in your diary now and joins us at the show for an action packed weekend.

## The FATE Plate

The FATE plate was presented by Peter and Wendy Hayes in 2004, for Endeavour in the Face of Adversity.

This year there were no nominations for the FATE Plate, so your Committee has decided not to award it in 2013 but please remember to make suggestions for next year.

## 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)**

## Comet Open at Baltic Wharf Sailing Club

29th Sept 2013

In addition to the two Comets now at Baltic wharf Sailing Club, 10 visitors found their way to Bristol and around the diversion in the city. While the visitors rigged their boats, the OOD and Ben had a discussion with the harbour master and other groups that had arrived to use the water. Whilst the harbour master phoned the ferry boat companies it was left to the OOD to reach agreement with the scouts, sailing schools and canoeing instructors. Luckily the easterly wind allowed the now "traditional" race to the head of the harbour, with the new visitors being told when you reach a bridge "STOP!".

A clean start was had by all with a beat in fresh breeze to the first bend. Ben Palmer lead until the breeze dropped which allowed Chris Robinson to pass. Chris proceeded to sail into a hole with no wind allowing Ben to repass. This situation continued throughout the fleet with boats gaining and loosing seemingly insurmountable leads. On the return run competitors were stretched out with seven boats across the dock all trying to overtake each other. Ben held the lead at the finish. Chris held on to second place despite a close battle with Henry Jaggars and Izac Dodds. Izac narrowly loosing out to Henry on the final mark to finish 4th.

Lunch was from the Cottage Inn public house at the top of the slipway used by Baltic Warf to launch into the dock. This gave the OOD the chance to set a new course. A simple figure of eight with two windward marks and two leeward marks was chosen. The break also gave the OOD time to dry his camera out after dropping it over the side trying to get an action shot.

The course was set with the top marks where the scouts were learning and bottom mark where the sailing school was teaching! The various students adding additional hazards and tactical choices with some competitors giving instructions to the students when trying to pass around and between them. Chris led from the first lap to the end with the rest of the fleet close behind. Ben took second ahead of Brian Welham

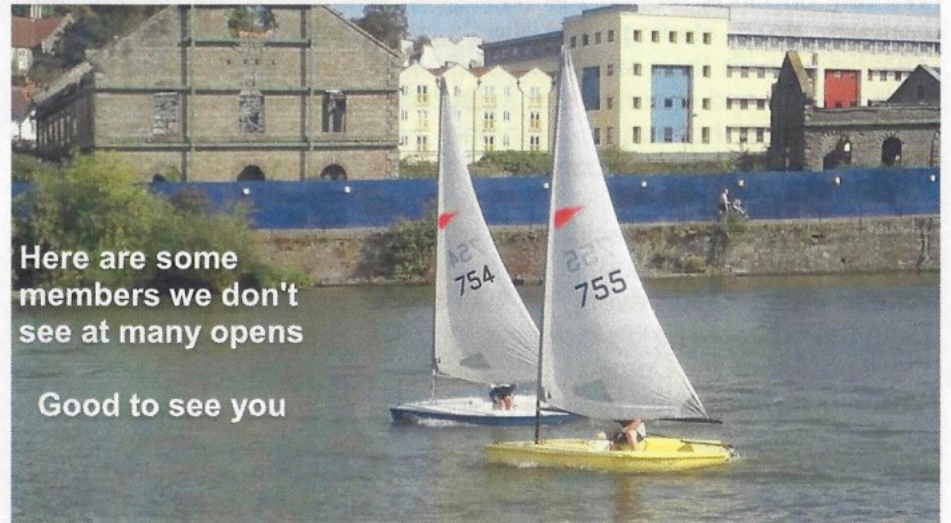
All was set for the final race with Ben or Chris both able to win with a first and second each.

At the start, three boats were over the line and had to go round the ends. John Coppenhall, Chris and Ben all fought for 2nd, 3rd and 4th but Henry made a clean get away and maintained the lead to the end. Clive Chapman

and Mary Starkey were caught by one of the gusts on the gybe mark and capsized.

Ben managed to pass Chris on the last run to take third and hold until the end by three seconds to take the win on tie break over Chris. Henry took third place overall. Over all winners Ben Palmer Chris Robinson and Henry Jaggars.

### C597 Ben Palmer



| Place | Helm            | Boat | Type  | Club            | R1 | R2 | R3 | Total |
|-------|-----------------|------|-------|-----------------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1st   | Ben Palmer      | 597  | Comet | Baltic Wharf SC | 1  | 2  | 3  | 3     |
| 2nd   | Chris Robinson  | 867  | Comet | Burghfield SC   | 2  | 1  | 4  | 3     |
| 3rd   | Henry Jaggars   | 800  | Comet | Beer SC         | 3  | 4  | 1  | 4     |
| 4th   | Brian Welham    | 711  | Comet | Maidenhead SC   | 5  | 3  | 7  | 8     |
| 5th   | Bob Dodds       | 869  | Comet | Crawly Mariners | 6  | 5  | 5  | 10    |
| 6th   | John Coppenhall | 533  | Comet | Hunts SC        | 8  | 7  | 2  | 9     |
| 7th   | Clive Chapman   | 821  | Comet | Shearwater SC   | 7  | 6  | 6  | 12    |
| 8th   | Izac Dodds      | 701  | Comet | Crawly Mariners | 4  | 8  | 9  | 12    |
| 9th   | David Elmes     | 755  | Comet | Bristol Avon SC | 10 | 9  | 11 | 19    |
| 10th  | Caroline Bullen | 799  | Extra | Baltic Wharf SC | 12 | 10 | 8  | 18    |
| 11th  | Mary Starkey    | 754  | Comet | UW SC           | 9  | 12 | 10 | 19    |
| 12th  | Mick Parnell    | 358  | Comet | Bristol Avon SC | 11 | 11 | 12 | 22    |



## Hossell Plate and Pingewood Trophy 2013

The **Hossell Plate** was donated in 2002 by Liz and Phillip Hossell as an annual award to the person judged by the committee to have made the greatest contribution to Comet sailing, and to enhancing the membership of the Comet Class Association.

We rely on clubs around the country to host events for us, and the contacts do a sterling, and thankless, job by sorting out dates, negotiating with their sailing committee, organising race and rescue boat crews, and ensuring that someone will do the catering. So this year we are honouring everyone who has helped the Class Association by being the contact for their club.

The Committee has decided to award the Hossell Plate to three people who have worked hard to promote Comet sailing by organising the Open events at their clubs for 20 years. They have been the contacts for their clubs during that time, even though two of them no longer sail Comets.

### The winners of the Hossell Plate 2013 are

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Nic Cross</b>    | Shearwater Sailing Club         |
| <b>John Edwards</b> | Chester Sailing & Canoeing Club |
| <b>Mark Govier</b>  | Merthyr Tydfil Sailing Club     |

The **Pingewood Trophy** is awarded each year to the person who has entered the most events during the season. John Coppenhall has maintained exclusive rights to the trophy for many years, so this year it was nice for the committee to award it elsewhere.

### The winners of the Pingewood Trophy 2013 are

**Bob Dodds**, who lives in Worthing and sails at Crawley Mariners  
**Henry Jagers**, from Beer, both entered all but 2 of the Comet events. They will share the trophy.

*Paul Hinde is considering working out the mileage travelled should there be a tie in the future. Henry has just had his car serviced and found that he had driven 8000 miles over the last 12 months. He only uses the car for transporting his Comet.....*

## Comet events 2014 (confirmed so far)

### April

|    |     |                |
|----|-----|----------------|
| 5  | Sat | Fishers Green  |
| 12 | Sat | Shearwater     |
| 13 | Sun | Sutton Bingham |
| 26 | Sat | Burghfield     |

### May

|    |     |                               |
|----|-----|-------------------------------|
| 3  | Sat | Maidenhead                    |
| 10 | Sat | Winsford Flash                |
| 24 | Sat | Associ Champs Staunton Harold |
| 25 | Sun | Associ Champs Staunton Harold |

### June

|    |     |                  |
|----|-----|------------------|
| 8  | Sun | Crawley Mariners |
| 14 | Sat | Chipstead        |
| 21 | Sat | Attenborough     |

## **Comet Class Open Meeting Merthyr Tydfil SC 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013**

We are a very lucky club, situated at Pontsticill near Merthyr Tydfil in the Brecon Beacons National Park on one of the largest reservoirs in the country it is beautiful when all is quiet and still. Unfortunately such conditions are not helpful to sailors but we Comet types are fairly patient... Nine visitors travelled from sailing clubs across southern Britain to join a few locals.

After the briefing there was a hint of a breeze from the southwest so a temporary mark was put in place and we started toward this. There was a close fought start with just enough wind for most people to keep up momentum but very quickly Ben Palmer (597, Baltic Wharf SC) got clear away. Somehow Peter Dalton (668, Frampton-on-Severn SC) managed to capsize on the second leg. By now Ben Palmer had opened up a noticeable lead from Bob Dodds (869, Crawley Mariners) and Henry Jagers (800, Beer SC). A little further back was Izac Dodds (701, Crawley Mariners) and John Coppenhall (532, Hunts SC) then a gap to five further boats. The combination of light winds and the angle of the course which became more fetch and broad-reach did not offer many opportunities for overtaking so the finish order was, Ben Palmer followed by Bob Dodds and Henry Jagers.

We then all came ashore for some lunch and drinks. This year, despite the classic warm front mist the temperature was comfortable. Given the light winds though maybe generous portions of baked potatoes, chilli and salad followed by spiced apple crumble and custard should have been substituted by something with helium in it! The winds remained light after lunch, but there were ripples over a more generous portion of the water. The race officer kept the same windward mark but then made this the tip of a P shape course which did offer more options for tactics.

The fleet were all very close again at the start and there was some gentle luffing going on, unfortunately Paul Hinde found himself the wrong side of the line at zero and had to return. The rest of the fleet moved away pretty much in a bunch but this time John Coppenhall got to the windward mark first. The puffs of wind came and went and this spread the fleet out over almost a whole lap. But at the finish, in steadily dying wind, John Coppenhall was still at the front, followed by Bob Dodds then Ben Palmer.

The third and final race of the day was held in what amounted to, basically, nothing but a zephyr. You could barely detect the wind on your face. What was happening, and it became more obvious as the third race progressed, was that the ridge of high pressure was now sitting directly over us. There was a clean start this time with Bob Dodds and Chris Robinson (867,

Burghfield SC) just ahead of a large group of boats. Ben Palmer and Roger Edwards (426, Merthyr Tydfil SC) somehow got left behind though. By the end of the second leg, Bob Dodds had got ahead of John Coppenhall and Peter Dalton in wind that by now had virtually stopped. On the third leg the boats behind were to some extent catching up, but the race officer thankfully shortened the course to finish at the third mark. Bob Dodds crossed first, followed some time later by John Coppenhall and then Peter Dalton while a couple of others from the back of the fleet almost caught up with them by sticking close to the bank and benefiting from a tiny easterly drift of air molecules.

| Sail | Helm            | Club       | R1 | R2 | R3  | Tot |      |
|------|-----------------|------------|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| 869  | Bob Dodds       | Crawley    | 2  | 2  | 1   | 3   | 1st  |
| 532  | John Coppenhall | Hunts SC   | 5  | 1  | 2   | 3   | 2nd  |
| 597  | Ben Palmer      | Baltic     | 1  | 3  | 10  | 4   | 3rd  |
| 668  | Peter Dalton    | Frampton   | 6  | 4  | 3   | 7   | 4th  |
| 800  | Henry Jagers    | Beer SC    | 3  | 5  | 7   | 8   | 5th  |
| 701  | Izac Dodds      | Crawley    | 4  | 7  | 5   | 9   | 6th  |
| 460  | Mark Govier     | Merthyr    | 8  | 10 | 4   | 12  | 7th  |
| 867  | Chris Robinson  | Burghfield | 7  | 8  | 6   | 13  | 8th  |
| 844  | Paul Hinde      | Severn     | 9  | 6  | DNF | 15  | 9th  |
| 857  | Helen Leivers   | Severn     | 10 | 9  | 8   | 17  | 10th |
| 420  | Alun Bevan      | Merthyr    | 11 | 12 | 9   | 20  | 11th |
| 426  | Roger Edwards   | Merthyr    | 12 | 11 | DNF | 23  | 12th |

Everyone was then helped to quickly recover their boats and get packed away for their journey home. The prize giving was accompanied by friendly chatter over sandwiches, tea and cakes. Many thanks again to the visitors for making the effort to visit us and all those who helped who added greatly to a day of frustrating sailing.

At least the chap out boat fishing had a good day with one pike and a few perch!

**Mark Govier, Comet 460**



Very light conditions that suit some helms

### ***Merthyr Tydfil Open***



Very light conditions also make beautiful pictures



The last race with everyone chasing Michael at the second mark

### ***Staunton Harold Open***



The same race but a little later from a second camera angle



It was very busy on the water that day!

## Comets at Staunton Harold Open 19th October 2013

Twenty seven boats including 19 visitors from around the country, attended the final open meeting of the year on Saturday October 2013. This event has become known as the third Championship of the Comet Class sailing on a superb lake, the venue for the 2014 Class Association Championship in May. The Nationals in 2013 only had 6 more boats!

Many of the helms attending have won Open meetings and Championships in the past with the current National Champion Ian Stone attending.

The day was very mild with medium southerly winds most of the day and fortunately the rain held off until mid prize giving.

Race one had a long beat up to the first mark in open water. Jonathan Latham got away nicely and had a good lead. On the following long run Alan Bennett managed to catch him breaking away from Ian Stone and a couple of other boats, so it was nose to tail at the end of lap one.

Alan managed to pass Jonathan on the beat with Ian and Bob Dodds getting past by the end. Alan had a good one minute one leg lead at the finish. Eddie Pope had a 5<sup>th</sup> and Henry Jagers his best result in 6<sup>th</sup>.

After lunch in race 2 with a new windward mark in use under a bank which made the approach very tricky. Ian and Eddie had a good first beat and managed to break away together from the rest of the fleet. Nigel Fern was up with the lead group at first before dropping back to his best result in 9<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan managed to get away from the pack and held a healthy position in third. Alan however broke from the pack, got by him on the final beat and was closing on the leaders as the race ended with Ian first across the line.

Race 3 was back to back with another windward mark with all starboard roundings and stronger winds. Ian managed to cross

the fleet on port at the start but capsized on the first reach when a gust hit him and he lost 7 or 8 places. Michael Ettershank had a very good race leading for much of the time before being overtaken by a recovering Ian towards the end. Eddie managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> and Alan was able to discard his 6<sup>th</sup> place.

The prize giving for the event and also the Area and National Travellers series followed the racing.

### Alan Bennett C128

#### Results

| Rank | SailNo | HelmName           | Club           | R1  | R2  | R3  | Total | Nett |
|------|--------|--------------------|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|
| 1st  | 152    | Ian Stone          | Maidenhead SC  | -2  | 1   | 1   | 4     | 2    |
| 2nd  | 126    | Alan Bennett       | SHSC           | 1   | 3   | -6  | 10    | 4    |
| 3rd  | 804    | Eddie Pope         | Ogston SC      | -5  | 2   | 3   | 10    | 5    |
| 4th  | 869    | Bob Dodds          | CMYC           | 3   | -7  | 4   | 14    | 7    |
| 5th  | 349    | Jonathan Latham    | Winsford       | 4   | 4   | -11 | 19    | 8    |
| 6th  | 711    | Brian Welham       | Maidenhead SC  | -10 | 6   | 5   | 21    | 11   |
| 7th  | 701    | Izac               | CMYC           | -9  | 5   | 9   | 23    | 14   |
| 8th  | 84     | Michael Ettershawk | Eyott          | -15 | 14  | 2   | 31    | 16   |
| 9th  | 864    | Peter Mountford    | SHSC           | 8   | -11 | 8   | 27    | 16   |
| 10th | 844    | Paul Hinde         | Severn SC      | 7   | -10 | 10  | 27    | 17   |
| 11th | 800    | Henry Jagers       | Beer SC        | 6   | -13 | 12  | 31    | 18   |
| 12th | 875    | Nigel Austin       | Cransley       | -14 | 8   | 13  | 35    | 21   |
| 13th | 867    | Chris Robinson     | Burghfield SC  | 16  | -18 | 7   | 41    | 23   |
| 14th | 532    | John Coppenhall    | Hunts SC       | 11  | 12  | -14 | 37    | 23   |
| 15th | 845    | Nigel Fern         | SHSC           | 17  | 9   | -19 | 45    | 26   |
| 16th | 556    | Andrew Beaumont    | Attenborough   | 12  | -23 | 17  | 52    | 29   |
| 17th | X400   | John Sturgeon      | Hawley Lake SC | 13  | -17 | 16  | 46    | 29   |
| 18th | 821    | Clive Chapman      | Shearwater SC  | 18  | -20 | 15  | 53    | 33   |
| 19th | 724    | Rhian Bevan        | Cransley       | -22 | 16  | 18  | 56    | 34   |
| 20th | 754    | Mary Starkey       | Upton Warren   | -24 | 15  | 23  | 62    | 38   |
| 21st | 205    | Elinor Pawluk      | Cransley       | -21 | 19  | 20  | 60    | 39   |
| 22nd | 564    | Sarah Austion      | Cransley       | 20  | -21 | 20  | 61    | 40   |
| 23rd | 176    | Peter Stein        | Cransley       | 19  | -25 | 22  | 66    | 41   |
| 24th | 527    | Dave Waymont       | SHSC           | -23 | 22  | 23  | 68    | 45   |
| 25th | 275    | Luke Harmer        | SHSC           | 28  | 24  | 25  | 77    | 49   |
| 26th | 452    | Peter Newton       | SHSC           | 25  | 26  | -27 | 78    | 51   |
| 27th | 761    | Steve Lilly        | SHSC           | 26  | -27 | 26  | 79    | 52   |

## RACING

**If you are new (or an old hand) to racing then here are some of the things that you should think about before and during the event.**

### Before you leave the shore.

Are all the fittings secure and working?

*Have you checked the toe straps, the horse and the rudder and all other lines?*

Do you know the course or can you record it on the water?

*Have you written out the course onto something you will be able to read on the water or have you taken something with you to record the course displayed on the committee boat?*

Are you properly attired and equipped?

*Do you have the right clothing and buoyancy for the weather and location?*

Do you know the weather forecast?

*Will the weather change for the better or worse?*

Do you know the start procedure?

*Is it 5,4,1 go or is it a local variant?*

### On the course.

Have you sailed the first beat?

*Before the race is the time to see if the wind is different on one side and the effect the local topography has on the wind.*

Have you looked at other boats on other parts of the course?

*You may not be able to visit all parts of the course but looking at other boats may help you guess what it may be like.*

Do you know the course?

*Before the start ensure you know the course (you may be in the lead with no one to follow!)*

### At the start line.

Do you know the best end of the line to start?

*This subject is too variable to give a simple rule. If in doubt you should be on Starboard at the right hand end of the line.*

Have you timed your approach more than once?

*Having decided where you will start you should time 2 or 3 approaches at half speed so that if you are obstructed or the wind drops then you will still have time to get to the line on time.*

Have you decided where you will start?

*You should be in clear air with room to harden up or bare away and going at full speed as the gun goes off.*

Are the rig settings right for the start?

*All the setting of the rig should have been completed well before the start.*

### After the start.

If you didn't get it perfect, what do you do to reduce the loss?

*If you did not get it right then you will be in the middle of the pack and you will need boat speed to get you back to the front of the fleet. The best way to get boat speed is to find clearer air.*

### Up the first beat.

Are you sailing in clear wind?

*Don't let yourself be trapped in dirty air as this will slow you down.*

Do you know the correct side of the course to sail?

*Having sailed the first beat before the start procedure you should know if one side is favoured.*

How will you approach the top mark?

*Will you arrive on starboard for a port turn or will you have to duck lots of starboard boats who have right of way. You need to think where you will be well before you approach the mark.*

How do you avoid losing speed at the turn?

*A bare away round a windward mark should be a shallow turn as a sharp turn reduces your speed. Once round you should lift the centreboard as it only add drag to the boat and again slows it down. Once the board is up then you should adjust the rig.*

### On the first reach or run.

Are you on the right tack?

*Be aware that Comets often sail faster "by the lee" than on the conventional tack.*

Can you avoid being blanketed?

*Be aware of the boats behind but try to ensure that your course gives you the right of way at the next mark.*

Do you need to blanket boats ahead?

*You should always try to slow the boat ahead. If you are within 6 or 7 boat lengths and your burgee is pointing at them you will slow them down and it will be easier to pass them on the next beat.*

Will you get the inside overlap at the next mark?

*Decide early and if you will not get it (for sure) then steer to give you the next best rounding!*

## Orbital & Aphelion results 2013

| Orbital 2013 - Final Results |      |                    |                  |   |    |   |     |   |                        |                           |        |
|------------------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|---|----|---|-----|---|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Rank                         | Sail | Helm               | Club             | Best Open Meeting Results used to calculate final positions |    |   |     |   | Association - Cotswold | Nationals - Fishers Green | Points |
|                              |      |                    |                  | 1   | 2  | 3 | 4   | 5 |                        |                           |        |
| 1st                          | 152  | Ian Stone          | Maidenhead       | 1   | 1  | 1 | 1   | 1 | 1                      | 1                         | 6      |
| 2nd                          | 804  | Eddie Pope         | Ogston           | 1   | 1  | 1 | 1   | 1 | (4)                    | DNC                       | 8      |
| 3rd                          | 867  | Chris Robinson     | Burghfield       | 1   | 2  | 2 | 2   | 1 | (6)                    | (11)                      | 10     |
| 4th                          | 869  | Bob Dodds          | Crawley Mariners | 2   | 2  | 2 | 2   | 1 | (5)                    | (7)                       | 11     |
| 5th                          | 532  | John Coppenhal     | Hunts            | 1   | 1  | 4 | 4   | 4 | (16)                   | (12)                      | 16     |
| 6th                          | 800  | Henry Jagers       | Beer             | 1   | 2  | 4 | 3   | 3 | (15)                   | (14)                      | 16     |
| 7th                          | 864  | Peter Mountford    | Staunton Harold  | 2   | 2  | 4 | 1   | 4 | (10)                   | DNC                       | 17     |
| 8th                          | 597  | Ben Palmer         | Baltic Wharf     | 4   | 5  | 1 | 5   | 3 | (11)                   | (13)                      | 19     |
| 9th                          | 711  | Brian Welham       | Maidenhead       | 4   | 3  | 1 | 3   | 4 | (14)                   | (16)                      | 20     |
| 10th                         | 84   | Michael Ettershank | Eyott            | 4   | 4  | 3 | 3   | 4 | (8)                    | (17)                      | 21     |
| 11th                         | 400  | John Sturgeon      | Hawley Lake      | 5   | 7  | 8 | 5   | 7 | DNC                    | (24)                      | 37     |
| 12th                         | 701  | Isaaz Dodds        | Crawley Mariners | 5   | 6  | 6 | 8   | 7 | DNC                    | (22)                      | 38     |
| 13th                         | 704  | Clive Chapman      | Shearwater       | 8   | 9  | 7 | 6.5 | 8 | (20)                   | (21)                      | 45.5   |
| 14th                         | 844  | Paul Hinde         | Severn           | 9   | 10 | 9 | 6   | 8 | (13)                   | (15)                      | 51     |
| 15th                         | 654  | Brian Weatherley   | Cotswold         | 7   | 14 | 8 | 15  |   |                        |                           | 95     |

| Southern Aphelion 2013 |        |                  |                    |            |            |         |             |             |     |
|------------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Rank                   | SailNo | Club             | Helm               | Burghfield | Maidenhead | Mudford | Bewl Valley | Hawley Lake | Net |
| 1st                    | 152    | Maidenhead       | Ian Stone          | 1          | 1          | DNC     | -2          | 2           | 4   |
| 2nd                    | 867    | Burghfield       | Chris Robinson     | -3         | 2          | 3       | 1           | -4          | 6   |
| 3rd                    | 869    | Crawley Mariners | Bob Dodds          | -6         | -4         | 2       | 3           | 3           | 8   |
| 4th                    | 864    | Staunton Harold  | Peter Mountford    | 2          | -7         | 4       | 4           | DNC         | 10  |
| 5th                    | 597    | Baltic Wharf     | Ben Palmer         | 5          | 6          | 1       | -9          | -9          | 12  |
| 6th                    | 84     | Eyott            | Michael Ettershank | 4          | 3          | DNC     | 6           | DNC         | 13  |
| 7th                    | 711    | Maidenhead       | Brian Welham       | 9          | -12        | DNC     | 5           | 6           | 20  |
| 8th                    | 532    | Hunts            | John Coppenhal     | -10        | 10         | DNC     | 7           | 5           | 22  |
| 9th                    | 400    | Hawley Lake      | John Sturgeon      | 7          | -17        | 5       | -10         | 10          | 22  |
| 10th                   | 800    | Beer             | Henry Jagers       | 8          | -14        | 6       | 11          | DNC         | 25  |

| Central Aphelion 2013 |      |                  |                    |       |                |         |          |        |     |
|-----------------------|------|------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|---------|----------|--------|-----|
| Rank                  | Sail | Club             | Helm               | Hunts | Flensham Ponds | Banbury | Cransley | Severn | Net |
| 1st                   | 804  | Ogston           | Eddie Pope         | 3     | DNC            | 1       | 1        | -4     | 5   |
| 2nd                   | 711  | Maidenhead       | Brian Welham       | 1     | DNC            | 3       | 5        | -6     | 9   |
| 3rd                   | 867  | Burghfield       | Chris Robinson     | -6    | 4              | -11     | 2        | 3      | 9   |
| 4th                   | 800  | Beer             | Henry Jagers       | -8    | 2              | 4       | 3        | -7     | 9   |
| 5th                   | 869  | Crawley Mariners | Bob Dodds          | DNC   | 5              | 2       | 7        | -8     | 14  |
| 6th                   | 532  | Hunts            | John Coppenhal     | -10   | 1              | DNC     | 8        | 9      | 18  |
| 7th                   | 84   | Eyott            | Michael Ettershank | 4     | 7              | 9       | DNC      | DNC    | 20  |
| 8th                   | 597  | Baltic Wharf     | Ben Palmer         | DNC   | DNC            | 12      | 6        | 5      | 23  |
| 9th                   | 701  | Crawley Mariners | Isaaz Dodds        | DNC   | 6              | 8       | DNC      | 15     | 29  |
| 10th                  | 400  | Hawley Lake      | John Sturgeon      | DNC   | 9              | 7       | DNC      | 14     | 30  |
| 11th                  | 844  | Severn           | Paul Hinde         | 12    | DNC            | DNC     | 9        | 10     | 31  |
| 12th                  | 724  | Cransley         | Rhian Bevan        | 11    | DNC            | 14      | 13       | DNC    | 38  |

| Eastern Aphelion 2013 |      |                  |                    |               |                  |           |          |                 |      |
|-----------------------|------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|------|
| Rank                  | Sail | Club             | Helm               | Fishers Green | Crawley Mariners | Chipstead | Up River | Staunton Harold | Net  |
| 1st                   | 152  | Maidenhead       | Ian Stone          | DNC           | 1                | -2        | DNC      | 1               | 4    |
| 2nd                   | 869  | Crawley Mariners | Bob Dodds          | DNC           | 2                | 5         | 1        | 4               | 7    |
| 3rd                   | 84   | Eyott            | Michael Ettershank | -6            | 3                | 4         | 2        | -7              | 9    |
| 4th                   | 532  | Hunts            | John Coppenhal     | 4             | -10              | 6         | 3        | -13             | 13   |
| 5th                   | 711  | Maidenhead       | Brian Welham       | 3             | 8                | DNC       | DNC      | 5               | 16   |
| 6th                   | 800  | Beer             | Henry Jagers       | 1             | -12              | -11       | 5.5      | 10              | 16.5 |
| 7th                   | 867  | Burghfield       | Chris Robinson     | 2             | DNC              | 3         | DNC      | 12              | 17   |
| 8th                   | 400  | Hawley Lake      | John Sturgeon      | 5             | DNC              | DNC       | 4        | 14              | 23   |
| 9th                   | 704  | Shearwater       | Clive Chapman      | DNC           | 9                | DNC       | 5.5      | 15              | 29.5 |

| Western Aphelion 2013 |      |                  |                |                |            |              |              |     |  |
|-----------------------|------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----|--|
| Rank                  | Sail | Club             | Helm           | Sutton Bingham | Steerwater | Methy Tydfil | Baltic Wharf | Net |  |
| 1st                   | 869  | Crawley Mariners | Bob Dodds      | 2              | 3          | 1            | -6           | 6   |  |
| 2nd                   | 532  | Hunts            | John Coppenhal | DNC            | 1          | 2            | 5            | 8   |  |
| 3rd                   | 597  | Baltic Wharf     | Ben Palmer     | 4              | -5         | 3            | 1            | 8   |  |
| 4th                   | 867  | Burghfield       | Chris Robinson | 1              | 6          | -8           | 2            | 9   |  |
| 5th                   | 800  | Beer             | Henry Jagers   | 5              | -7         | 5            | 3            | 13  |  |

| Northern Aphelion 2013 |      |                  |                 |                |              |         |           |     |  |
|------------------------|------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----|--|
| Rank                   | Sail | Club             | Helm            | Winstford Fash | Atterborough | Chester | Redesmere | Net |  |
| 1st                    | 804  | Ogston           | Eddie Pope      | 1              | -3           | 1       | 1         | 3   |  |
| 2nd                    | 869  | Crawley Mariners | Bob Dodds       | -3             | 2            | 2       | 2         | 6   |  |
| 3rd                    | 867  | Burghfield       | Chris Robinson  | 2              | DNC          | 3       | 4         | 9   |  |
| 4th                    | 864  | Staunton Harold  | Peter Mountford | 4              | 1            | DNC     | 7         | 12  |  |
| 5th                    | 532  | Hunts            | John Coppenhal  | -5             | 4            | 4       | 5         | 13  |  |
| 6th                    | 800  | Beer             | Henry Jagers    | DNC            | 6            | 5       | 3         | 14  |  |

## Editorial

Hi,

You will have noticed the rocket plane on the front cover which many of you will know was a Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet and was the fastest plane to fly during the second world war. It was very innovative but was too little too late for the German war effort. However it was a bit like a dinghy in that it was launched (took off) using a wheeled trolley and was recovered on the skid you can see on the picture just as you would run it up the beach except the helm (pilot) could not jump out to hold it away from the land until someone fetched the trolley!



As I have only been sent articles on open meetings this quarter, you have two items composed by me. The first is a thought I had about the Comet which still has a reputation (in some quarters) of a boat that is difficult to control in strong winds especially down wind. I hope this helps some of you and may generate a response that disagrees with the suggestions I have made to reduce the likelihood of a sudden and uncontrolled capsizes. The second note is a list of the things I do before and during racing that have proved helpful to me. Again there are probably many more or different things that other helms adopt. I would like to hear from others on this subject. What about someone putting some notes together to help us choose the place to be on the line to start.

If you have read Clive Chapman's piece before this you will know that we as looking for some help from local club members who can tell us about their own clubs. This will be particularly for those that hold open meetings but as dinghy sailors it is always nice to hear about other clubs and how they were formed and how they organise their club racing. From the clubs I have visited and been told about each club thinks they have the perfect formulae to stimulate the hot shots, encourage the middle skilled and novice helms and at the same time encourage the next generation of sailors. We would be very interested in hearing what you do to cover all these aspects.

I have not commented on the Orbital and Aphelion results published

on pages 30 & 31 but both Ian Stone and Eddy Pope won two aphelions each with the other going to Bob Dodds. However, Ian managed to put a seal on the prizes with the national, association and junior championships plus the overall orbital travellers trophy. Well done Ian (it is a pity that as he is a member of my club and although I was initially praised for bringing him along to Comet opens, I now have to sail against him each week where he is difficult to beat. Luckily much of the time he is sailing a Laser so it is not so obvious that he is faster than me!)

The Bloody Mary is on Saturday 11th January 2014 which is fast approaching and it would be good to get 6 boats in on the start so we get a class prize and help to advertise the our class. Even if you don't intend to sail it is a really great event to watch. It is free to go as a spectator, there is a running commentary and hot food and drink is on offer. If you have never been to Queen Mary Sailing Club then it is a great spectacle and you can get a really good view from the clubhouse upper deck. The foiling Moths screaming through the fleet of 200-300 boats is worth the visit alone. However, the Comets will go off a few minutes after the Toppers at about 12.15 although the Moths will have at least another hour before they start. The car park gets pretty full as noon approaches so the earlier you arrive the easier it will be to find a parking spot.

We will be at the Dinghy Show again this year and welcome any members who can help for either day or with the set up on Friday. Please call John Sturgeon to offer assistance on Friday 28th Feb or Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd March. If you cannot help we always look forward to seeing you on the stand.

The sharp eyed will have noticed that Fishers Green have stolen the "honour" of being the first open of the year from Shearwater. See some of you at Fishers Green on April 5th.

Finally, I am getting fewer race reports for inclusion in the magazine which I think is because no one at the event has been given the job of recording what happened to achieve the final results. If you can help in this aspect we will be very grateful.

**Brian Welham Comet 711**

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Contact Hilary Gilder email : [hilarygilder@sky.com](mailto:hilarygilder@sky.com) or 01457 861452

**Training sail for Comet (no 69)** free to good home provided new owner collects from Bexhill on Sea.

The sail is worn but serviceable. I've upgraded to an Xtra rig Hilary Walton 01424 214443





**Comet Class Association**  
Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association