

## Shearwater Sailing Club Comet Open Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Shearwater welcomed 7 visitors to join their one home boat i.e. me.

The wind was forecast SSE and light winds with gusts up to 10mph. anyone who has sailed at Shearwater knows that the wind direction can be very variable especially in light winds. Beats can turn into runs as well as runs into beats. It is not uncommon for boats to be running towards each other. Shearwater did not disappoint. Clive in Comet 821 was first up to the windward mark in race 1 but was last at the leeward mark. No helm got away to establish a sustained lead before the rest of the fleet caught them up. Frequently you could throw a blanket and cover all 8 boats. The lead changed many times but eventually Chris Hatton C48 crossed the line first followed by Eddie Pope in C804 and third was John Coppenhall C532.

A break for lunch then Race 2 followed a similar pattern with the lead changing numerous times. Chris Hatton C48 was again first across the line narrowly beating Eddie C804 with Bob Dodds C869 chasing hard.

Race 3 slightly more wind but the positions still changed frequently. You could sail around a mark and lose or gain 3 or 4 places. This time Eddie got the better of Bob and Chris crossing the line first. Bob was second and Chris was third.

It was a wonderful days sailing in glorious sunshine. Our thanks go to Nic Cross who was The Race Officer and his race team for the running the event so well. Thank you the team in the Galley for the food and the excellent tea. I had a great days sailing and enjoyed the company of all those who sailed. If you couldn't make it this year give us a try next year.

Clive Chapman C821