

Baltic Wharf Comet Open.

14 competitors arrived following the Cotswold open the day before. Wind was forecast to be force 4 with potential showers with a reasonable direction for the harbour.

Race 1

The first race was the head of the harbour, a favourite and a chance to see the whole harbour with a short beat from the start and then a run (or as close as you get) to the city centre. The starboard hand rounding led to some close calls between those approaching and leaving the mark. A good lead was built up by Ben Palmer but the fleet spread across and dock and caught him by the SS Great Britain. Chris Hatton had squeezed ahead by the leeward mark with the rest of the fleet close behind. Chris nervously maintained his lead with places behind changing in the shifty sections around the SS Great Britain.

Race 2

Race two Chris Hatton was over the line and had to do a penalty turn. The fleet closed up by the leeward mark before starting the second windward leg of the lap. There was lots of shouting on overlaps as a large group arrived together. Chris Hatton managed to take the lead by the end of the first lap.



Race 3

For race three one mark was removed and the wind increased before the start but eased during the race with a few holes. Eddie Pope chased after John Coppenhall, only overtaking him with a lap and a half to go to move into 2nd. Chris Hatton got away but was nearly caught by Eddie Pope at the end. A raft up in one of the holes at the last mark allowed Ben and Bob Dodds to pass Richard Steptoe on the last lap.

Chris finished first overall with Eddie second on four points and Ben third on five points.

Quote of the day “local knowledge was useful as I knew not to drink the water when I fell in.”