

## Comets at Winsford 2017

Sixteen enthusiastic sailors arrived from far and wide to compete, best of two races from three, for the Winsford Flash Open Meeting Comet trophy, eight visitors and eight home boats. There was a light breeze under 10mph all day which tested the skill of the entrants particularly on the windward side of the flash where it was often quite fluky. Contrary to the forecast the rain held off most of the day apart from a long shower during the second race.

Three boats sailed clear at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> Race, Steve Bellamy (311), Chris Hatton (48) and Jonathan Latham (349) with Steve rounding the windward mark first. The start was very competitive but Chris Hatton sailed clear to win followed by Steve then Jonathan who had a good battle throughout the race. There were many place changes down the fleet during the race most noticeably by Eddie Pope (804) who was 7<sup>th</sup> after one lap and improved to 4<sup>th</sup> at the finish.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Race got under way with another good start from which David Harrison (815) was first to the windward mark and continued to lead through much of the 1<sup>st</sup> lap. He was gradually overhauled by Eddie Pope (804) and Chris Hatton (48) but continued to hold 3<sup>rd</sup> place until, within sight of the finish on the last beat, he was suddenly violently headed allowing Roy Symmers (115) to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the line. Sometimes there is no justice! The most notable improvement during the race was by Jonathan Latham (349) who changed from 9<sup>th</sup> after the start to 5<sup>th</sup> at the finish.

Before the last race Chris Hatton (48) had a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by Eddie Pope with a 4<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>, then Jonathan Latham (349) with a 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and Steve Bellamy (311) with a 2<sup>nd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> so there was no clear winner yet.

In the last race Jonathan led from the start maintaining this position to the finish and the real battle developed between Chris and Eddie. Chris started 2<sup>nd</sup> then Eddie got through him but Chris managed to get back and they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

It was a pleasure to see all our visitors including David Jobling and his wife Rita who came as spectators. David has supported our event for many years both as a sailor and as a spectator.

The overall result was as follows:-

1. Chris Hatton (Severn SC)
2. Jonathan Latham (WFSC)
3. Eddie Pope (Ogston SC)
4. Steve Bellamy (WFSC)
5. Catherine Bellamy (Nantwich and Borders SC)
6. Roy Symmers (WFSC)
7. David Harrison (WFSC)
8. Chris Robinson (Burghfield SC)
9. John Copenhall (Hunts SC)
10. Brian Herring (WFSC)
11. Andrew Beaumont (Attenborough SC)
12. Janet Gaukroger (WFSC)
13. Alan Hatton (Severn SC)
14. Elizabeth Dauncey (Tamworth SC)
15. Andy Cush (WFSC)
16. Ros Stevenson (WFSC)



Fiona Niddrie, our Fleet Captain, did all the organising prior to the event making it very easy for me to pick up at the last minute when she found she could not take part. Thank you Fiona.

Roy Symmers

As Fleet Captain I was disappointed not to be able to attend our recent Comet Open due to a small operation on the previous day. My sincere thanks goes to my enthusiastic team for assuming total responsibility in my absence. In particular I would like to thank Roy Symmers for overseeing the event and writing such a comprehensive report. I continue to be amazed by the warmth and friendship shown to me both at our own club and from visiting sailors.

Fiona Niddrie