

## **Crawley Mariners Comet Open 2017**

Twelve boats contested the meeting at Crawley, with three visitors joining the keen local contingent. Conditions were demanding at times, with a fresh breeze that steadied at times but more often wove a tricky series of shifts and gusts that kept the competitors on their toes. With the wind coming down the lake from the west the race officer was able to set a course that would allow two beats at slightly different angles. The run or broad reach that was required to regain the leeward end of the venue proved taxing at times and there were a few capsizes over the course of the day.



### **Race 1**

The first race saw John Coppenhall, Chris Robinson and Bob Dodds get away well. By the midway point Bob and Chris had a clear lead, with John now part of a pursuing group that also included Izac Dodds, Mark Feltham and Jeff Smith. By the end Bob had a clear lead over Chris, while Mark and Izac, having both had somewhat indifferent starts, came through to take third and fourth places ahead of John. Jeff slowed up on his approach to the finish but managed to get the nose of his boat over the line long enough to secure sixth place ahead of John Sturgeon.

### **Race 2**

In the second race Bob was held up on the line but set off strongly in pursuit of Chris and John Coppenhall who were setting the pace at the front. By the end of the third lap he had reached and passed them and led until the end of the fourth and final lap. Chris had to complete a double turn a few yards short of the line but completed the manoeuvre very smartly to just stay ahead of John.

### **Race 3**

Following the lunch interval the third race required a general recall, but at the second time of asking it was the usual suspects who showed at the front of the fleet. Izac capsized when going well in second place and dropped back for a while as the whole fleet became fairly spread out. At the end it was another first place for Bob and another second for Chris, with John just squeezing ahead of Izac for third.

### **Race 4**

In the final race Mike Thompson shook off the gremlins that had beset him earlier to make an excellent start, contesting the early lead with Chris. As the race progressed, Izac moved up to take second place followed by Jeff and Mark and the field spread out to finish in that order.



In the overall results, Bob and Chris earned their first and second places by consistently finishing in those positions, while Izac had done enough to secure third place just ahead of John Coppenhall.

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