

## Comet Open Shearwater Sailing Club 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Nine visitors joined one club boat for the Comet open. It was difficult to work out the season as the lake was covered in mist. It could have been November or April. As 10 o'clock approached the sun appeared and a light breeze from the Northwest prevailed. The lake is surrounded by trees and this would produce a wind that was both variable in directions and would fluctuate in strength.



### **Race one**

Eddie Pope 377, Bob Dobbs 869, and Chris Hatton 48 all got good starts and led the way. Eddie leading for the first two laps but was overtaken by Bob who managed to find some wind that eluded most of the fleet. Bob put distance between himself Eddie and Chris and went on to win the race followed by Eddie the Chris. John Coppenhall picked up three places in the last lap to finish fourth.

### **Race Two**

Slightly more wind but still light.

Henry Jagers 800 led the first lap with Ben Palmer 587, Chris and Bob all in contention. Chris eventually overtook Henry and a close race resulted with positions being gained and lost with helms finding holes in the wind. Chris would lose the lead on the last lap to Ben who went on to win followed by Chris then Eddie.

### **Race three**

A lunch break and suitably refreshed the final race was to be a Race box start.

Five helms were in with a chance of winning the Open. Eddie got an excellent start and led most of the race followed by Ben and Chris. The winner wasn't decided until the final mark. Eddie in his haste to get over the line missed out mark five and had to back track to get round it. This let in Chris and with the finish so close Eddie could not repair his mistake. Ben followed them in. Mick Parnell 830 came in fourth sailing his Xtra for the first time. He is clearly getting the hang of it as he was last in the two previous races. John Sturgeon 400 tried out the new White Xtra sail.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Chris Hatton	3 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Eddie Pope	4 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ben Palmer	4 points

Clive Chapman 821 (The view from the back)