

## **Hawley Comet Open 2018**

This year Hawley was fortunate in having beautiful weather. The wind was light from the south-west but swung occasionally to south-east. It was not as fickle as it can be at Hawley. We had twelve competitors, a few more than usual for this event. There were four races, two before lunch and two afterwards.

Bob Dodds won the first race. In the first lap he established himself in the lead which he maintained throughout the race. Chris Robinson had less fortune, having been second after the first lap, he lost his position with Ben Palmer coming through into second place which Ben held to the finish. Annette Walters, having started near the back, steadily made her way up to the field into third place by lap three and remained there until the end.

Henry Jagers won race two but this race was to be no procession. Bob got out in front with Henry second and Chris in third. Lap two saw Annette slip past Henry into second place whilst Chris slipped to fourth. By the end of lap three it was all change again, Henry was now in first place which he held to the end of the race, Annette was second but Bob had slipped to third with Chris in fourth. The last lap saw further changes. Whilst Henry retained his lead, Bob got back into second place with Chris coming back up to third and Annette slipping to fourth.

Lunch was taken after race two. Mark Butcher, Carol's husband, provided an excellent hot meal of home cooked sausage and vegetarian casseroles which were very well received.

Race three saw yet another shuffling of the helms. Annette was in the lead in lap one followed by Chris with John Sturgeon in third. In lap two Annette and Chris had held their positions but John had slipped to seventh and Bob came up from fifth to third. By the end of lap three Bob was in the lead with Annette second and Ben third, the order they maintained until the finish.

The final race saw Bob establish a lead in the first lap, which he held throughout the race. By the end of lap two the first two places were established, Bob in the lead, Ben in second. By lap three it was only the lower placings that were in contention. Michael was third with Chris fourth and Annette fifth. On the final lap Annette and Michael changed places giving the result as Bob, Ben and Annette in that order.

Overall a good days racing thanks once again to the work of Andy Pearse and Mick Ogle as race officer and safety officer respectively.