

Staunton Harold SC Comet Open

Exactly 8 weeks after the National Championships 19 Comets reconvened at SHSC for the final Open of the season. The 15 visitors faced an even longer beach as the reservoir was now down to below 40% capacity with the old Calke Road and the foundations of old buildings clearly visible.

Fortunately the wind gods were in OOD Simon Forbes' favour with a Westerly / South Westerly wind blowing the length of the reservoir throughout the day.

Race 1

Course - Start boat to M. Then 4(P), 6(P), F(S), 8(P), 10(P), 9(S) Gate.

SHSC's long distance member Peter Mountford C864 almost came to grief at the start as he was OCS in the last 5 seconds but was so close to the pin that a quick gybe soon had him back with the fleet. By the time the fleet reached the Windward mark it was Nigel Austin C875 leading from Nigel Pepperdine C616 closely followed by Bob Dodds C869. Nigel P managed to squeeze by Nigel A on the way to 6 and opened a good gap by the time he had arrived at F. Peter Mountford in sporting a White Xtra can't have been too happy as his old boat C780 with a Black Xtra now sailed by Richard Whitehouse was 3 places ahead! On the long run down 8 Nigel P fell back allowing Nigel A and Bob by with Chris Hatton C48 closing rapidly. Further back there was a 5 way battle between Richard, Henry Jaggars C800, Peter, Eddie



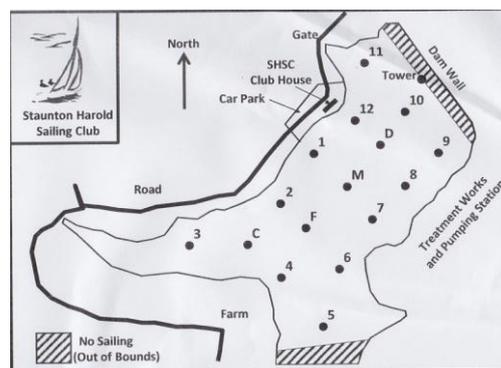
Pope C804 and Scott Waterland C412. At 10 Nigel A carried on, on port, whilst the other three tacked onto starboard, this proved to be his undoing as Nigel P pulled out a big lead with both Bob and Chris overtaking Nigel A. At the start / finish line Nigel P just led from Bob with Chris not far behind. On the run to 8 the order reversed and stayed that way to the start of lap 3! Further back Nigel A was

overtaken by Eddie and Henry and coming under pressure from Peter. During the run down to 8 Bob put Chris under pressure and eventually got by with Nigel P some way back but comfortably in third, but by the time the three of them had arrived at 10 they had closed up. Nigel P came up the Club House bank and managed to squeeze between Chris and Bob. Nigel P continued up the bank side and rounded 4 in the lead which comfortably held to the finish. Bob did all he could to catch and pass Chris with some very close sailing but couldn't quite manage it!

Race 2

Course - Start to 7. Then C(P), 6(P), 1(S), 10(S), 9(S), Gate

A freshening breeze was evident as Race 2 beckoned which started with several boats getting caught to starboard of the Committee boat and severely losing out whilst Nigel P took a chance on a Port flyer and it paid off allowing him to open a lead from Michael Ettershank C84, Bob and Chris Robinson C867. As the leaders approached C the





lead was contested by Nigel P, Chris and Michael. At 6 Chris H had closed up on the leaders followed by Richard and Bob. By the time that leaders had rounded 9 Chris H had taken the lead. The 2nd lap started with Chris H in the lead followed by Nigel P, Michael, Bob and Chris. Throughout the lap Chris H continued to open the gap to Nigel P in 2nd.

Race 3: Start to 7. Then C(P), 6(P), 2(S), D(S), 9(S), Gate

Race 3 would decide the final result with Chris H and Nigel P on 3 points each at the head of the field. The main fleet headed off on Starboard with Chris Blundell C563 trying his luck on Port towards the club house bank. As the race unfolded Nigel A moved into the lead with Chris H not far behind. Third place was being contended by Peter, Chris B, Richard, Eddie and Scott. Chris H overtook Nigel A with Michael and Nigel P slowly fighting their way through the field and into contention. However it soon became clear that the lead that Chris H had built would not be closed leaving Michael to move into 2nd ahead of Nigel A and Nigel P.



Nigel Fern

C845 (absent due to back strain!)

Apologies for the lack of detail and images in the latter stages of Race 2 and all of Race 3 as I unexpectedly ran out of camera battery and my phone camera could not cope with the distance!