

# PERIHELION 125



**Comet Class Association  
Newsletter**

**Summer 2018**



## NEWSLETTER NUMBER

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## Editorial

Spring has finally sprung and Comets are out and about in great numbers. Having started the year with great intentions of 'bringing up the rear' of a lot more Opens I have only managed to get to the Association Championships, more on that later.



If you are an Internet user, especially if you buy items on-line you will no doubt have been inundated with e-mails about the new Data Protection Act and the 'Privacy Policy' of the company concerned. Unfortunately the Comet Association is also involved and we will be amending the website to include our own 'Privacy Policy' and how we deal with your data in the very near future.

Despite my pleading I am still not getting reports on certain Opens and these are becoming repeat offenders, come on people put pen to paper! How can you hope to attract a larger field for your next event if you don't publicise the present one with a detailed report. See Keith Lamdin's Association Championship report for an excellent example - how he managed to note all that he did when some marks were, to me, about a mile apart I don't know.

On a more positive note I have twisted Norah's arm (usually, as we know, it's the other way around!) to write a potted history of her Comet adventures. The first of hopefully many can be found on page 38.

In P123 Peter Mountford provided an excellent description of the new White Xtra and Andy must have rubbed his hands with glee when on the back of Peter's article the orders rolled in! The performance of the XtraW in very light winds at the Association Championships upheld Andy's belief in the design. I and possibly many others look forward to see how it performs in the heavy 'stuff'!

Returning to my 'bringing up the rear', I am not a confident nor strong swimmer and so taking 845 on to the briny caused me some concern. I

had visions of the tide taking me one way and the wind taking 845 the other! So with strong winds forecast for Sunday I chose to take my Black Xtra (XtraB) as a precaution (not guaranteed!!) against getting wet! As you will read elsewhere the winds stayed light to nothing the whole weekend. So I felt safe to proceed. Having never sailed on the Open sea with no knowledge of tidal effects etc I was surprised to find myself initially well up in the early stages of race 1 but the tidal effect crept in and the gaps opened until I found myself in my usual position.

The second race must go down as one of my longest, it felt and sounded as if I was really motoring until I took a transit to the land and realised that after a few minutes that I had hardly moved at all - tidal effect. The sound was the tide flowing around the boat rather than the boat cutting through the water!! John Coppenhall commented that they had thought about sending 'navigation lights out to me'!

There still some muttering about excessive rocking and rolling and until someone is prepared to shout the P word, it will continue! I can guarantee it won't be me doing the shouting as I will be too far back to see it!!

Please note the central portion of P125 has been created as a "Pull out" for the AGM and National Championships notices, so if you begin to start reading right to lefty you know why!!

Nigel Fern  
Comet 845



## Chairman's Report

### Chair's mutterings

The year is nearly half over but Comet events aren't. We have had a very good start to the year with six Opens and the Association Championships, at the time of writing. Steve Gregory has done a great job with the organising of the calendar and liaising with all the clubs who are able to hold an event and Mark Govier has been letting us each know about up-coming Opens. This must have made a difference because 22 boats turned up to the Burghfield Open making us by far the largest contingent of the three classes sailing on the same day. We may be slower than Streakers and Solos but we got more boats out and there is only one local boat to swell the Comet numbers! Well done everyone.



This year we held the Association Championships at Gunfleet Sailing Club near Clacton. This is our President Keith Lambden's home club. It is on the coast, on a reshaped beach, that makes it very easy to launch. We were made very welcome and the hospitality was superb with many members of the club helping with the event. They have a beautifully appointed club house with fine views of the sailing area. We had a similar number of entries to Burghfield so it was a good turnout with some excellent racing. For those who are inland sailors, and that was all of us except Micheal Ettershank and the local boats, conditions were perfect - a calm flat sea with no swell and gentle winds. Sadly, the winds were a little too gentle for the tide so only two races were held on both days. We abandoned the idea of a fifth race on the Sunday as the wind seemed too fickle for us to be able to be sure of completing a course within a reasonable time to finish and get home.

Andy Simmons came along to the first day of sailing to see the new white Xtra sail performing well. If he had only been there on the last day he would have been really pleased. The top four boats were all Xtras and

Chris Hatton using his father's sail and a borrowed boat was the overall champion with the new white sail. It will be interesting to see how the new sail fares throughout the season.

It was lovely to see Keith and his wife at their home club. It was also interesting, after the racing, to hear him talking about sailing, how to keep the boat moving and analysis of top sailors. Perihelion 96 contains an article he wrote about getting into racing which will interest any members who have not yet given racing a try.

Have a good summer, enjoy your sailing and let's hope for good weather for a few months.

John



## Secretary's Report

I want to start with lots of thanks for everybody who helped make the Association Championships at Gunfleet Sailing Club a great success.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at Staunton Harold Sailing Club on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 during the National Championships. You will find the paperwork for the meeting elsewhere in this Perihelion.



You will find a draft Agenda with consideration of four motions at present.

These include the future of Comet No. 1 which is at present with Brian Herring to have some cosmetic work done to it. As the boat is not being used the Committee are considering what will happen to it. Your thoughts are needed as this boat belongs to the members.

The committee are putting forward a motion to increase membership fee from 2019 to £20 for Full and Associate membership and to £26 for Family membership. We hope you will agree to the increase as the last one was in 2015. The increase in printing costs and postage charges are the main factor in the increase.

The committee are also putting forward the adoption of the White X sail into the measurement rules of the Class Association.

Any other motions need to be emailed to me by 29<sup>th</sup> July and the final Agenda will be on the website in the members area soon after 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Finally a plea for all reports of Open meetings to be sent to the News Editor - Nigel Fern and Results to Michael Ettershank as soon as possible after the event so they can be included on the website and future Perihelions. Photographs are also appreciated.

Liz Hossell – Class Secretary – [secretary@cometsailing.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cometsailing.org.uk)

## Builder's Report

Not a lot to report this time. I confess I had a week's holiday after the first May bank holiday. Usually we take the later half-term week. The holiday started with looking in on the Comet Trios inlands at Llangorse in South Wales exploring Pembrokeshire, then up to Snowdonia. Next stop was Norwich for a couple of days via Nottingham S C on the Trent where I fitted a storage hatch which should have been fitted before it went to Nottingham via the Dinghy Show. After Norwich and looking around the Broads we looked in on the Comet Championships at Clacton on the Saturday before heading home via Droitwich when the other half visited the RHS Garden Show at Malvern while I saw a car hill-climb at Shelsley Walsh. Needless to say, it was quite restful to get back to work!



The "Season" by which I mean phone queries and e-mails to Comet seemed to start late this year, probably due to horrible winter weather. Now though its all systems go with a standard and Mylar sail going as well as a few more White Xtras. It was good to see all the rigs racing together at Gunfleet and I've had good feedback from the recent Winsford open.

A recent trip to see family at Dover saw me drop off two more White Xtras at Chipstead and another sent to Ely.

Soon I'll be building a Comet Zero for a Comet owner. This will be the first built for about seven years. We still have the sea Blue Comet in stock at 2017 prices and available with any rig.

Regards  
Andy.



## Comets at Fishers Green SC

The Comet class made their regular visit to Fishers Green SC in the picturesque Lea Valley Park on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> April as part of their Southern Area series and were joined by the Phantom class as part of their Eastern Area series.

With the forecast of a southerly breeze of 10-12knots it was worrying to see glassy batches of calm for the briefing at half past 10. Patience was rewarded, and after a short postponement, the forecast breeze duly filled in, enabling a true beat, the full length of the lake. This was followed by a combination of reaches and a dead run to a temporary leeward mark at the north tip of the lake. The Phantoms started first and were nearly to the top mark by the time the Comets got away giving a clear track for everyone.



Two races were run before lunch to be sure of getting in some good sailing, just in case the wind died away later.

The event was a battle between Mike Ettershank and Bod Dodds, with Bob winning the first race and Mike the second race to level the match.

Bob prevailed in a close covering battle to close out the final race by 10 metres from Mike with Eddy Pope collecting the minor placings and the consistent John Coppenhall scoring four x 4<sup>th</sup> places.

Godfrey Clark

## Fisher's Green Comet Open

Rank	SailNo	Club	HelmName	R1	R2	R3	Total	Nett
1st	869	Crawley Mariners	Bob Dodds	1	-3	1	5	2
2nd	84	Eyott SC	Michael Ettershank	-2	1	2	5	3
3rd	377	Ogston SC	Eddy Pope	-3	2	3	8	5
4th	532	Hunts SC	John Coppenhall	-4	4	4	12	8
5th	801	Hunts SC	Brian Welham	6	5	(DNC)	22	11
6th	800	Beer SC	Henry Jaggers	5	6	(DNC)	22	11
7th	323	Welwyn Garden	Annette Walters	-7	7	5	19	12
8th	611	Welwyn Garden	Phil Walter	-8	8	6	22	14
9th	580	Fishers Green SC	Matteo Mancini	9	(DNF)	DNC	31	20
10th	170	Welwyn Garden	Tom Etherton	(DNF)	DNC	DNC	33	22



## 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)

## Comet Class Association Results Sheet

Event: Shearwater

Date: 14-04-18 Aphelion: South West

	Boat							Final
Helm	Number	Sail	Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Points	Pos
Chris Hatton	48	Std	Bowmoor	3	2	1	3	1
Eddie Pope	377	Std	Ogston	2	3	2	4	2
Ben Palmer	597	Std	Baltic Wharf	8	1	3	4	3
Bob Dodds	869	Std	Crawley Mariners	1	5	7	6	4
John Coppenhall	532	Std	Hunts	4	7	5	9	5
Henry Jagers	800	Std	Beer	6	4	6	10	6
Peter Mountford	864	Std	Stauton Harold	5	6	8	11	7
Mick Parnell	830	Xtra	Baltic Wharf	10	10	4	14	8
John Sturgeon	400	XtraW	Hawley Lake	7	9	9	16	9
Clive Chapman	821	Std	Shearwater	9	8	10	17	10



## Comet Open at Burghfield Sailing Club 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018

A record twenty-two boats attended Burghfield's Comet Open on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. This included several competitors who had not sailed at Burghfield or on the Comet Open circuit before. The forecast was for sun and light winds, which is what welcomed the competitors when they arrived.

### Race 1

Race Officer, Dereck Lovegrove, delayed the start for a few minutes for the wind to settle. The majority of the fleet started at the committee boat end and first to the windward mark were Chris Hatton, Bob Dodds and Izac Dodds. Next round was Henry Jaggers, who had started at the extreme pin end of the line and had clear wind all up the beat. These four were very close together at the first mark, but as the race progressed the distance between them increased with no change of places. Towards the end of the race the wind dropped away and the front of the fleet closed up. Eddie Pope caught and passed Henry and came up behind Izac, who in turn was just behind Bob. The Race Officer shortened the course and the finishing order was Chris, Bob, Izac and Eddie. A few minutes later the wind filled in again, which allowed the tail enders to finish. Due to the later start and drop in the wind the racing was running late, so the Race Officer decided to break for an early lunch.



### Race 2

At the beginning of race two the sun had disappeared behind cloud, but the wind had strengthened slightly. The fleet watched the starts of the two other fleets sharing the open. The Streakers opted to start at the pin end of the line, whilst the Solos went from the committee boat end, which demonstrated that the wind was quite variable in direction. At the Comet start there was no consensus of opinion and the fleet was spread all along



## Consideration of Motions:

There were no motions for consideration.

## Election of Officers and Committee:

Paul Hinde stood down after serving for 3 years as Chairman. He also stood down from the committee. Norah Jagers stood down as Secretary and from the committee. Although not a Committee member, Brian Welham stood down as Newsletter Editor.

The rest of the Committee members were prepared to continue and were re-elected en bloc.

The Committee for 2017/8 is:  
Officers:

Chairman	John Sturgeon	Proposed by Paul Hinde. Seconded by Dave Harris.
Secretary	Liz Hossell	Proposed by Norah Jagers. Seconded by Chris Robinson.
Treasurer	Rhiain Bevan	
Committee:		
Results:	Michael Ettershank	
Trophies:	Nigel Austin	
Events Co-ordinator	Steve Gregory	
Website & Perihelion:	Nigel Fern	
Membership Secretary:	Mark Govier	

## Appointment of Auditor:

The meeting thanked Helen Leivers for acting as Honorary Auditor. Helen was re-appointed as Auditor. Proposed by Paul Hinde. Seconded by Brian Welham.

## CHAIRMAN SECRETARY TREASURER COMMITTEE

Nomination for (delete as required):

2. Print names and sign in spaces below. One nomination only per form. Blank forms may be copied.

Association.

Notes: 1. Nominee must be a Full Member of the Class Association.  
Proposer & Second must be Members of the Class Association.

## FOR OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### NOMINATION FORM

2018 AGM

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

Comet Class Association





## COMET CLASS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at  
**Burghfield Sailing Club**  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**The meeting was attended by 23 members and the Builder.**

### **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Keith Lamdin, Rhian Bevan, Mark Govier, Michael Ettershank, Peter Mountford, Ann Hooper, Roger Lemmon, Stephen Lemmon, Pete Moon, Annette Walter, Phil Walter.

**The minutes of the AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016** had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed after changing “past” to “last” in the last sentence of the Chairman’s report . Proposed by John Coppenhall. Seconded by Steve Gregory.

### **Reports by Officers:**

**The Chairman, Paul Hinde**, in his last annual report, thanked the Committee for all their work during the year, with specific mention of Rhian, Michael, Liz and Norah. He congratulated Brian on the continued high quality of Perihelion and thanked him for all his work as Editor. Paul concluded by wishing his successor



## COMET CLASS ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Sunday 26th August 2018  
At Staunton Harold Sailing Club

17.30hrs, or 1 hour after the end of the last race, whichever is the later.

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting

The AGM is YOUR meeting, YOUR opportunity to have YOUR say in how the Association is run. YOUR chance to tackle the Committee about decisions made in YOUR behalf. It is also the time when the Association takes stock of what has happened over the previous year and looks at plans for the future.

Please come and have your say. If you are unable to attend, please send me your apologies, and any comments which you wish to put forward.

### Draft Agenda

Apologies

Minutes of the 2017 AGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Reports by Officers

Builders Report

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Adoption of Accounts

Consideration of Motions:

- Future of Comet No. 1
- Subscriptions rise.
- White X Sail measurements and approval
- Honorary Membership.

Any other motions to be emailed to me by 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Final Agenda will be put on the website ASAP after 29<sup>th</sup> July,

Election of Officers and Committee

Appointment of Auditor

Any Other Business.

Liz Hossell – Class Secretary - [secretary@cometsailing.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cometsailing.org.uk)

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every success.

**The Secretary, Norah Jagers**, once again thanked all the clubs which have hosted events over the past year. Rickmansworth Sailing Club has recently been in contact as they are planning to run a Comet Open meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September. She gave particular thanks to Sarah and Nigel Austin, Nigel Fern and Chris Robinson who have liaised with the clubs which have hosted championships. Norah noted that there will be a number of changes to the Committee this year as the work traditionally done by the Treasurer has been divided to create a role of Membership Secretary. Similarly, the Secretary's role will lose the organising the programme of events, which will be taken up by a new Events Co-ordinator. This is her last annual report and she thanked everyone for their support and friendship over the past 25 years.

**The Editor of Perihelion, Brian Welham**, thanked everyone who has sent articles and reports. He wished his successor good luck and asked members to continue to send information to him.

#### **Builder's Report:**

**The Builder, Andrew Simmons**, is continuing to build boats to order. He has recently designed a new sail for the boat, and explained his rationale for the prototype as being part of his plan to be able to pass production to a new boat builder. A copy of his report is retained with these minutes.

The meeting recognised that the Committee is able to offer a dispensation which would bring any new sail bought from the builder into Class Rules until a change in the Measurement Rules can be put before the next Annual General Meeting.

#### **Adoption of Accounts:**

**The Treasurer, Rhiaian Bevan**, apologised for not being present. Her report was read by Helen Leivers and a copy is retained with these minutes. The accounts were adopted. Proposed by Rhiaian Bevan and seconded by Nigel Fern..



Print name.....Signature.....

Second:

Print name.....Signature.....

Proposer:

Print name.....Signature.....

Nominee:

### **Any Other Business:**

The Treasurer was asked to discuss options for support with Noble Marine, including consideration of reduced premiums for members.

Nigel Austin described a scheme for making good use of older boats by using grants from Sport England to recondition them. He asked members to identify any Comets which appear to have been abandoned at their clubs, and to ask Andrew to bring them back to a useable state.

The meeting noted the changed time limits used for the Nationals which makes use of the W flag, and suggested that it is incorporated into our standard Sailing Instructions.

The programme for 2018 is taking shape, with the National Championship at Staunton Harold over the August Bank Holiday.

The meeting wished Steve Gregory good luck for his 500 mile bike ride to places where he has lived and worked. He is raising money for 3 charities.

Presentations were made to Paul, Norah and Brian in recognition of the work which they have done for the Association.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Burghfield Sailing Club.

Norah Jagers

05/06/17.



the line. A header just after the start appeared to favour the starters at the committee boat end. However, first to the windward mark was John Coppenhall, who had started at the pin end and had sailed to the extreme left of the course behind one of the islands. His lead was very small and there was a gaggle of boats right behind him on the following run. Unfortunately, he caught a branch around his centreboard which slowed him briefly, which was sufficient for him to be buried among the chasing boats. On the second beat the fleet was led by Ben Palmer, followed by Izac. Izac caught Ben to take the win, while Chris also passed Ben to take second.

### Race 3

Race three started immediately after race two. The line was clearly biased to the pin end and Eddie and Henry, who were right on the pin, took the lead up the first beat. They were joined by Bob and these three pulled away from the rest of the fleet and from each other. A little rain appeared and the wind began to drop. The Race Officer decided against a fourth race, but instead let race three run for an extra lap. Further place changes at the top seemed unlikely, which would give Chris the overall win with Izac in second. However, suddenly everything changed. First Bob caught Henry, which in itself would not change the top positions. However, Eddie then sailed towards the wrong downwind mark and this allowed Bob and Henry to pass him. This put Bob in the lead overall, followed by Chris and Izac. On the last run Eddie caught Henry, who was also caught by boats behind. However, these last-minute changes were insufficient to change the top placings overall.

Chris Robinson

Comet 63 & 867

See the next page for the full results.



## Comet Class Association Results Sheet

Event:	Burghfield	Aphelion	South					
Date:	21/4/18							
Helm	Boat No.	Sail	Club	R 1	R 2	R 3	Points	Pos
Bob Dodds	869	Comet	CYC	2	-5	1	3	1st
Chris Hatton	48	Comet	Bowmoor SC	1	2	-11	3	2nd
Izac Dodds	701	Comet	CMYC	3	1	-4	4	3rd
Edwin Pope	377	XtraB	Ogston SC	4	-8	2	6	4th
Ben Palmer	597	Comet	BWSC	-6	3	6	9	5th
Peter Mountford	864	XtraW	SHSC	7	-10	3	10	6th
Henry Jaggers	800	Comet	Beer SC	5	-7	5	10	7th
Michael Ettershank	84	Comet	Up River YC	-12	4	8	12	8th
Annette Walter	323	Comet	WGCSC	-10	6	7	13	9th
John Coppenhall	532	Comet	Hunts SC	-13	9	10	19	10th
Steve Gregory	57	Comet	FPSC	8	-15	13	21	11th
Peter Hunter	384	Comet	GTSC	-15	12	9	21	12th
John Sturgeon	400	XtraW	HLSTC	11	-14	12	23	13th
Scott Waterland	412	Comet	TCSC	9	-18	16	25	14th
Chris Robinson	63	Comet	BSC	14	13	-15	27	15th
Isla McNeal	847	Comet	BWSC	18	11	-22	29	16th
Carol Butcher	614	XtraB	HLSTC	-17	17	14	31	17th
Tim Higgs	849	XtraB	BSC	16	-19	17	33	18th
Richard Steppe	484	Comet	BWSC	-21	16	18	34	19th
Andrew Darke	831	XtraB	GTSC	19	-21	19	38	20th
Mick Parnell	830	Comet	BASC	20	20	-21	40	21st
John Dean	703	Comet	LSC	(DNF)	22	20	42	22nd

## COMET ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Gunfleet Sailing Club 12/13<sup>th</sup> May 2018



Twenty boats gathered at Gunfleet Sailing Club on the north-east Essex coast for the Class Association Championships over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> May. The entries comprised 16 visitors and 4 home club boats with members travelling from as far afield as Cornwall and Devon in the South and Northamptonshire and Leicestershire in the Midlands. Some members travelled on the Friday and berthed their boats in the Club compound overnight and also took advantage of the cooked breakfast on offer before sailing commenced.

### Race 1

The Saturday dawned with clear sunny skies and a light but steady westerly wind giving a flat sea. Unfortunately, by the start of the first race, clouds had gathered, the wind dropped light and began to shift around making the course difficult for the Race Officer. With a clean start, Paul Hinde, Bob Dodds and Henry Jaggers were first to show but, as



the fleet bunched against the tide, it was Michael Ettershank and Chris Hatton rounding the first mark, St Michael's, in the lead with the first home boat being Peter Downer in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

A fetch out to the Seaward mark saw the fleet spread out and facing a further shift towards a beat that caused some helms to be caught out down-tide of the mark and having a difficult beat back. A run towards the Club saw Chris and Michael being joined by Paul and Eddie Pope before a repeat of the fetch back to St Michael's. A broad reach back past the Club saw John Coppenhall join the leading bunch and, as the Race Officer shortened course, a gybe round the Kings Cliff mark left a short leg to the finish with Chris first, Michael second and John remaining in third place.

## **Race 2**

After a welcome lunch, the second race at 1415 saw the wind shift further south easterly and fall very light. A General re-call followed and, with the wind now at around 0 knots, the race was abandoned without a valid start. Most of the fleet came ashore from the nearby start area and sat out the next hour until it became possible to sail over the tide again.

## **Race 3**

The third race started at 1545 with a shorter, newly laid, course as the wind continue to play tricks upon the Race Officer but was mostly light and southerly. A few boats were over the line, and responded to the Individual recall, whilst, after a short clearing leg, the fleet turned onto the beat out to sea with Ben Palmer, Peter Mountford, Nigel Austin and Bob Dodds contesting the lead. Sadly, a further wind shift turned the leg into a fetch with all the boats making the mark in one and Eddie joining Ben and Nigel in the lead. The next leg to Kings Cliff was, again a fetch, before the gybe and return through the start with Eddie now contesting Ben for first place with Chris Hatton quietly coming through to third place. On the now inevitable fetch out to sea, Chris Robinson gained places to reach 6<sup>th</sup> and Chris Hatton held higher to windward and closed the gap on the leading two boats. Returning towards Kings Cliff, the wind finally paid the fleet a favour by shifting the leg to a beat and caused a wide variation in thought as to how close to sail inshore as the fleet closed up again. Peter, Bob, Ben, Chris R and Michael were now closing the leading three boats with Peter Downer also using his local knowledge to good effect.

When the dust settled after the gybe and a short leg to the finish, it left Chris Hatton first, Eddie second and Bob in third place with a relieved Race Officer rather glad to have got through the day almost unscathed.

After an excellent evening meal and much social chatter in the bar, the fleet gathered again on Sunday to find a slight improvement with a light westerly wind of around 7 knots and the seas remaining flat.

## **Race 4**

The fourth race started at 1000 with the Race Officer hoping for the wind to remain steady in direction as he set a long beat from out to sea back towards St Michael's buoy. The race started with a general recall as the fleet failed to recognise the strength of the remaining flood tide and, on the restart, the fleet split into two camps with some seeking stronger wind further out with others taking a shorter route close inshore.

At the turning mark, it was Peter M, Bob and Michael with a large group of boats just behind and, after an uneventful broad reach out to sea, it was Peter M, Chris H, Bob and Eddie who rounded close together onto the beat. Peter M took a clear lead from Chris H by standing on towards the Pier whilst Henry made a clear gain by tacking fairly early across the lee bow tide and, at St Michael's he had moved up to third place followed by Michael and Eddie. A long run back along the shore, against the last of the flood, posed the question of whether to stay inshore or go out looking for wind and, at the end of the first lap through the Club line, Peter M was still holding a short lead over Chris H with Bob, Jeff Smith, Michael and Ben leading the chasing pack and Henry dropping back.

On the second reach out to sea, the two leaders were suddenly well away, followed by Eddie with a gap to the bunch. Commencing the long beat, these three remained clear but, as the tide turned to ebb, the question of whether to come inshore or remain out in stronger wind caused the fleet to fragment. At the mark, the leading three were still place but closely followed by Paul, Bob, Jeff and Chris R, with Harry Swinbourne from the home club showing strongly.

On the run back past the Club, Chris H sought clear wind and stronger



ebb further out whilst most stayed inshore and, finishing the race, it was Chris H well clear from Peter M with Michael overtaking Eddie on the short leg from Kings Cliff.



### Race 5

Race five was sailed back-to-back and started at 1145 with the Race Officer pleased to announce a clean start with no one over the line. Peter M, Chris R, and Eddie were cleanly away followed by Michael, Henry and Chris H. At the turning mark, with Eddie narrowly in the lead, he attempted to pinch round the mark and the ebb tide pushed him onto the mark where, in trying to get clear, he managed to capsize.

On the run out to sea, it was Henry, both Chris H and Chris R together with Jeff and Michael who led round the mark and back onto the beat with most opting to head inshore. With Eddie making a remarkable recovery into third place, it was Henry who quickly built up a commanding lead as Chris H covered his closest rival carefully and both boats slowed each other. Nearing the windward mark, St Michael's, the covering became intense and Eddie took turns but the leading three still had a good gap to Chris R and the fleet.

Running past the Club, Henry still had a clear lead but Chris H was catching him by being further out in better ebb and wind with Eddie and Peter M now side by side and a gap to Chris R and the others. At the last mark, Kings Cliff, Henry stayed inshore out of the tide and in search of a

lift off the shore while Chris H went out looking for better wind strength and, suddenly, the gap was not so great and the unlikely seemed possible.

Henry needed to use all his experience as, nearing the line, he fell into a hole in the wind whilst Chris H tacked clear of trouble. However, the wind filled back in for Henry who obtained a popular and well-deserved win with Chris H finishing close behind.

Behind this personal duel, things were also tight as Peter M and Eddie both stalled in now variable conditions near the line with Eddie finally third and Peter fourth with Jeff and Ben not far behind.

Over another excellent lunch, the wind fell further and, with the ebb running fast and the overall leader clear, it was decided, after consideration, not to re-sail the abandoned race and the sailors packed their boats in preparation for some long journeys home.

At the prize giving, after short speeches, Helen Swinbourne, Rear Commodore of Gunfleet SC presented the trophies as follows:-

1 <sup>st</sup> Overall and Association Champion	Chris Hatton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Overall	Eddie Pope
3 <sup>rd</sup> Overall	Michael Ettershank
Junior Prize	Harry Swinbourne
Ladies Prize	Diana Thompson
Veteran Prize	Chris Robinson
Ancient Mariner	John Coppenhall

All the other competitors received a memento prize and Richard Walker, Commodore of GSC, received a memento on behalf of the Club from the Association.

Chris Hatton, on behalf of the competitors and gently heckled by his friends, thanked the Club for hosting the event and particularly the Race Officer for his patience, the support boat crew and beach party for their help and, most importantly, the Ladies for the lovely food.



## Comet tales from the shore 1 - Our first Open meeting

We bought Comet 436 in 1990, and Nancy took to it like a duck to water. Having spent several chilly winter afternoons learning how to get back into the boat after deliberately capsizing it, she felt that she was ready for an Open meeting. So we set off for Ely and Cam Sailing Club in April 1991, expecting to find a group of youngsters ready to do battle on the water.

The club members were friendly and we looked at the water with interest – the river looked very narrow and, as novices to racing, we couldn't quite work out how the race officer would be able to set a course. In fact it was easy – race one way, round a mark, come back and do the same at the other end. No fancy ideas about beating or running or starting the race into the wind.

There were 9 sailors on the start line. Nancy was the only female. I recall commenting that she was also, much to our surprise, the only competitor under 50. John Windibank promptly protested that he was only 49!

One of the other competitors was Keith Lamdin, who had recently resigned as Chairman. I don't know exactly what Nancy did to impede him, but he came off the water saying "You can't do that, young lady", to which she replied "I just did", which is something which Keith has never forgotten.

Norah

For the record, the results were:

1.	John Windibank	195	Chipstead
2.	Ralph Bryant	123	Cam
3.	C.Martin	288	Cam
4.	Keith Lamdin	55	Aylesbury
5.	Graham Maile1	58	Cam
6.	Charles Macpherson	279	Crawley Mariners
6.	B. Dadds	466	Crawley Mariners
6.	Nancy Gould	436	Pingewood
9.	M. Staples	398	Cam

## Comets at Winsford 2018

Fourteen sailors arrived at Winsford Flash Sailing Club to compete for their Comet Open Meeting trophy. The five visitors and nine home boats were not tempted away by the Royal Weddings or the FA Cup Final. It was a beautiful hot sunny day only marred by an almost total lack of wind. However by the briefing at 10.30 a very light breeze had filled in over the north half of the Flash and this continued to develop, much as forecast, throughout the day.

### **Race 1**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> race Eddie Pope (377) led early followed by Bob Dodds(869) and they remained in these positions throughout the race. At one point the wind filled in from behind allowing the whole fleet to close on the leaders and increasing the tension in the whole fleet. Chris Hatton (48) and Jonathan Latham (815) improved their early positions each overtaking two boat to finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places respectively.



### **Race 2**

Jonathan Latham established an early lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race shadowed by Chris Hatton who, in turn, was followed by Eddie Pope. Eddie managed to overtake finishing 1<sup>st</sup> to Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jonathan 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bob Dodds 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Race 3**

The first two races were won by Eddie Pope making him unassailable. Chris Hatton, Jonathan Latham and Bob Dodds were all able to take second place so had all to sail for in the last race. However, Eddie did not sit back on his laurels but must have relaxed a little as he finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with Chris Hatton winning, Jonathan 2<sup>nd</sup> and Bob 4<sup>th</sup>. Some of us were caught without wind on the last leg only to be overtaken by the rear end of the fleet arriving in wind.

All sailed well in conditions which could be difficult and frustrating at times but on a perfect summer day.

Roy Symmers



## Comet Class Association Results Sheet

Event: Winsford Flash Open  
 Date: 19-05-18 Aphelion: (Select if known) North

Helm	Boat No.	Sail	Club	R1	R2	R3	Points	Pos
Eddie Pope	377	Std	Ogston	1	1	3	2	1
Chris Hatton	48	Std	Bowmoor	3	2	1	3	2
Jonathan Latham	815	Std	WFSC	4	3	2	5	3
Bob Dodds	869	Std	CMYC	2	4	4	6	4
Alan Hatton	838	XtraW	Bowmoor	8	5	6	11	5
Steve Bellamy	311	Std	WFSC	7	7	5	12	6
Chris Robinson	867	Std	Burghfield	6	6	8	12	7
Roy Symmers	115	Std	WFSC	5	8	10	13	8
Ros Stevenson	888	XtraW	WFSC	9	10	7	16	9
Brian Herring	730	Std	WFSC	10	11	9	19	10
Rick Hough	236	Std	WFSC	11	9	RTD	20	11
Janet Gaukroger	697	Std	WFSC	13	13	11	24	12
Claudie Black	98	XtraW	WFSC	14	12	12	24	13
Nigel Miller	727	Std	WFSC	12	(RTD)	DNS	27	14

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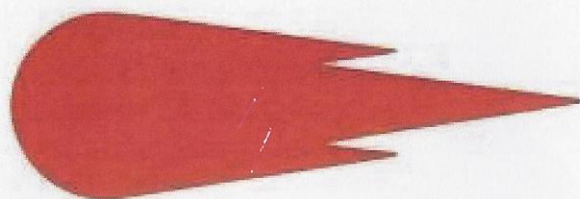
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# **Comet Class Association**

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

## **Perihelion 126**

Please send your contributions for the next issue of Perihelion by

***November 1st 2018***

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