

Comet Association Championships

Severn Sailing Club 18th & 19th May 2019



10 visitors travelled to Severn Sailing Club on the River Avon on the weekend of 18th & 19th May to join 3 home boats.

It was worthy of note that there were 8 boats using the new white Xtra sail, 1 boat using the Xtra sail and 5 using the standard sail.

Unfortunately, the wind forecast proved correct with an average of 2 knots north-easterly on the Saturday with a maximum gust of 8 knots. Sunday was only slightly better.

Because of the narrowness of the river, the entries were divided into 2 fleets A & B, and 2 starting lines were established, one at the usual race officers' hut and one about 300 yards downstream. Both fleets started at the same time and therefore also hopefully in the same wind conditions. Elapsed time were taken for every boat and the times for both fleets compared to give the overall positions for each race.

A simple course was set by the race officer, Alan Utteridge, with just 2 marks both to be left to port.

Race 1

In the first race, fleet A started at the race officers' hut. Although the wind was Force 1 or less, Alan Bennett (126) still managed to capsize, but recovered quickly without getting wet.

In fleet B starting from the downstream start line, Martin Carpenter (865) got well way from the rest of the fleet, but unfortunately only managed 6th place overall, being unable to match the elapsed times of the first 5 in fleet A, namely Bob Dodds (869), Eddie Pope (377), Chris Robinson (867), Ben Palmer (597) and Alan Bennett.



Race 2

The second race was held after a welcome lunch and the start lines were reversed, fleet B starting from the race officers' hut line.

Again, Martin in fleet B got well away and this time managed to beat Fleet A on elapsed times. He was followed by Bob, Eddie, Ben and Chris.

Race 3

For Race 3 fleet A returned to the race officers hut line. At the end of 2 laps, Eddie and Bob had a tacking duel for the last 20 yards along and close to the jetty, Bob narrowly beating Eddie. They were followed by Henry Jaggars (800), Martin and Chris.

After an excellent tea, entertainment was provided in the form of The B Flats Ukulele Band who performed well known songs suiting the, mainly, older generation.



Sunday dawned with the same windless conditions which improved slightly during the day.

Race 4

Race 4 was held with Fleet A again at the race officers' hut start line. After a very close start, on the first downwind leg, Eddie was protested under Rule 42 for repeated gybes unrelated to changes in the wind. He attempted to exonerate himself by doing turns. After the race it was pointed out to him that a Rule 42 infringement could not be exonerated in this way, and he promptly retired. The race was won by Bob who was now unbeatable, followed by Martin, Chris, Henry and Ben.

Race 5

Race 5, with down to 10 starters, saw Fleet B on the race officers' hut line. Tricia Peacock (885) from the home club got away well and led Fleet B on the first downwind leg, but this was short-lived as she was overhauled at the leeward mark. The race was won by Ben, followed by Henry, Martin, Eddie and Alan.

After an again excellent tea, the prizegiving took place and every competitor received a memento. The awards were as follows:

Association Champion	Bob Dodds	Crawley Mariners
2 nd	Martin Carpenter	Severn
3 rd	Eddie Pope	Ogston
4 th	Ben Palmer	Baltic Wharf
5 th	Henry Jaggars	Beer
1 st Ancient Mariner	Alan Bennett	Staunton Harold
1 st Veteran	Chris Robinson	Burghfield
1 st Lady	Tricia Peacock	Severn
1 st Newcomer	Mick Parnell	Bristol Avon

After the speeches, Severn Sailing Club was presented with a memento by the Association.