

Winsford Flash Sailing Club Comet Open 1st June 2019

Sixteen Comets competed in this year's Winsford Flash Sailing Club Comet Open. We were delighted to welcome 7 travelling visitors to the Club from as far afield as Nottingham, Derbyshire, Berkshire, Sussex, Devon and Cornwall, along with 9 home fleet boats.

Race One started with a gentle southerly breeze fluctuating between 2 and 5 knots, building to gusts of up to 8 knots mid race, dry but overcast. First boat to the windward mark was Henry Jagers in 800 followed by Peter Mountford in 864 and Eddie Pope in 377. The fleet then split into two distinct groups, with good battles up and down the course. First place went to Henry Jagers, who had built up a commanding lead from the start and was to eventually win by over two minutes from Peter Mountford (SHSC) and Bob Dodds in third. The leading club boat was Jonathan Latham coming in fifth place after a good battle all the way with fourth placed Eddie Pope (Ogston SC).



Race Two commenced after lunch, the wind dropping initially at the start to around 4 knots, but with gusts up to 10 knots. First to the windward mark was Eddie Pope closely followed by Jonathan Latham and Peter Mountford. The field was more spread out as the wind kept rising and dropping. The wind gradually shifting from southerly to northerly, at some points it appeared to be trying to come from both directions at the same time! First place went to Eddie Pope, finishing nearly two minutes ahead of Alan Bennett (SHSC), with Jonathan Latham in third.

Race Three saw a dramatic shift in the weather as the wind dropped to one knot for the start and decreased from there to almost zero. First to windward mark was Bob Dodds followed by Steve Bellamy (WFSC) and Eddie Pope. Unfortunately the resulting procession ground to a halt with only two finishers - Bob Dodds and Eddie Pope. Steve Bellamy was only 40 metres from the line when the race ended.

Only one helm capsized, unfortunately, in both race one and two. Roy Symmers, WFSC, retiring for the day after the second capsize.

The Awards for the WFSC Comet Open for 2019 were as follows :

Winner	Eddie Pope	OSC
2nd	Bob Dodds	CMYC
3rd	Henry Jagers	BeSC
5th and first Home Boat	Jonathan Latham	WFSC
9th and 1st Lady	Janet Gaukroger	WFSC



Eddie Pope receiving Winners Trophy from Jonathan Latham, WFSC Commodore and Martin Loud, WFSC Comet Class Captain