

## Cransley Comet Open

On a perfect sailing day – Force 2-3 with occasional 4 and bright skies, a fantastic turnout of 20 Comets assembled at the picturesque former reservoir, where Cransley SC is.

With 10 visitors and 10 members, it promised to be an interesting battle with a number of former National Champions present. The wind, as you would expect from a small enclosed water, was shifty and meant that local hustler in 875 (me) was able to be very close to Eddie Pope in R1 – after that not so good!

Consistency was difficult to maintain and there was a lot of close but friendly racing and swapping of places throughout the fleet, but the cream always rises to the top and the likes of Alan Bennett and Bob Dobbs put together 2 good results to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall behind Eddie.

Whilst there were many familiar faces it was good to welcome Elaine Laverty from Leamington Spa, who had only recently bought 132, (usually sails British Moths) and from the look on her face at the end loved the event. Also Will Etherton from Welwyn Garden City was sailing his first Open I think and whilst he was further down the fleet, also had a broad grin at the end – because the wind was such and the courses were just what Comets like, there was no reason to not enjoy the day wherever you came!

At Cransley we do like our Comets (singles or Duo's), they just seem to go well here – managing to skip between the pockets of wind when it gets patchy and able to pick out the wind shifts quickly.

Some of us put our lack of performance down in the afternoon to the great lunch that was put on, but at the time the temptation was too much. Others blamed some of the weed round the edges however everyone said it felt like a mini Association or National Championships without the pressure; just how we like it.

It was lined up as a training session for the Nationals at Fishers Green the following week and from the racing there I think everyone who came to Cransley learned a lot and put it to good practice at that event.

Hope to see you all next year!!

Nigel Austin  
Comet 875