

Mudeford Comet Open Report

6 Boats ventured to the Christchurch harbour for the Mudeford Comet Open at the windy end of a windy Mudeford Week. So windy in fact that there was even a consideration to cancel the day's racing the day before but as the forecast moderated the decision was made to press ahead. As usual the race officer laid a course that included plenty of screaming reaches, possibly making the best the windy conditions.

Race 1

In the first race the 4 larger helms of Bob, Ben, Chris and Michael all got good starts and quickly sailed away from Annette and Henry. Ben managed to capsize after the only gybe mark of the course giving the others the chance to get away. However a canny decision on the last beat saw Ben get back past Michael and sail into third place, while Bob took the win and Chris came in second. At some point Henry decided that he definitely prefers the lighter winds and headed back to the club house early.

This was followed by a cake based lunch and the discovery that Norah had forgotten her hat!

Race 2

In the second race the same 4 heavy weight sailors got a good start again but at some point Ben fell back to 4th to the extent that Annette fancied her chances of getting by. This race finished with Bob in 1st, Chris 2nd and Michael 3rd. Ben held off the light weights to come in 4th. Henry decided that it was still too windy with his black Xtra rig and retired early.

After 2 race wins Bob had won the event, so somewhat exhausted by his efforts decided to put his boat away and eat more cake rather than enjoy high speed conditions in the harbour. After a quick drink the rest of the fleet headed back out the committee boat.

Race 3

In the 3rd race only Chris and Ben got a good start as Michael was squeezed out at the committee boat end by almost everyone. Chris and Ben then proceeded to sail away from the rest of the small fleet to decide the final race between themselves. In the end Chris took line honours while Ben was 2nd. Michael trailed some way behind in 3rd.

After the racing the results revealed that Chris managed 2nd and Ben came in 3rd.

Once again Mudeford Sailing Club provided some excellent sailing, it seems to be almost guaranteed to get a good strong breeze and if there's any part of the harbour with the chaotic wind shifts that we normally see at events I haven't found it yet!

Michael Ettershank
Comet 84