

**Tewkesbury Comet Open**  
**31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

Tewkesbury CSC welcomed 8 boats to their first Comet Open meeting - morning coffee, lunch and an evening BBQ the order of the day, with a bit of sailing thrown in for good measure!

Competitors found a good breeze of 10-12 mph from the SSW, giving a good beat and run.

The race officer set a long first lap to stretch the competitors' legs before lunch.

The second and third races were all in view for the spectators with a gybe mark in front of the clubhouse balcony, as one should!

The following report compiled by Chris Fornara, assistant race officer:-

**Comments Race 1**

Brilliant start no boats over, 7 started, all finished.

Ben rounded the first mark in the lead and stayed there increasing his lead every lap. After lap 1 positions, Ben then Bob then Chris R, lap 2 no change, Lap 3 shorten course Chris R passes Bob on last beat.

**Comments Race 2**

Henry and Steve in irons and doing some gardening in the reeds but recovered to start.

A guest appearance was made by Chris Hatton in a borrowed boat and borrowed gear (thank you Scott). Chris H leads on lap one with Chris R and Bob in close pursuit. On Lap 2 the wind veers to a reach enabling everyone to sail straight up the river. Chris H remains in the lead and Ben moves into 4th. Unfortunately the wind drops to 4mph as Chris H breaks away on downwind leg, Steve capsizes in a gust, he is up quickly and back into the race.

**Comments Race 3**

Chris H and Steve called over on the start, all are very close after the first lap, with the first three boats line abreast, Debbie pulls away from Antony.

The fleet opens up on lap 2, leading group moves away from the very close racing at the rear of the fleet. Chris H pulls out a 5 sec lead on lap 3 which was extended to 45sec and wins by a comfortable margin.

First Chris H then Chris R then Bob.

An excellent day was had by all, the Apple pie and custard by Angela in the galley was lovely.