



COMET CLASS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Fishers Green Sailing Club

Sunday 26th August 2019

The meeting was attended by 17 members and the Builder.

1. **Apologies: received from** Keith Lamdin, Rhian Bevan, Peter Mountford, Mark Govier, Paul Hinde, Helen Leivers, Julie Aves, Guy Wilkins, Joe Wilkins, Annette Walter, Alan Bennett.
2. **The minutes of the AGM held on 26th August 2018** had been circulated prior to the meeting .
The minutes were approved.

3. Reports.

Chairman – John Sturgeon reported we had a very good year since our last AGM. All events had been successfully run. Steve Gregory had done a really good job in providing excellent events for us. After the programme had been finalised Tewkesbury volunteered an event which will 31st August to make a weekend double with Arden the next day.

Our 2018 National Champion, Chris Hatton had taken part in the Endeavour Challenge for a second year running. He gained experience though the competition was tough in RS 200's, a different kettle of fish from the Comet in strong winds. It would be great to see this year's Champion keep up the new tradition of a Comet Representative at this prestigious event.

One thing which has exercised the Committee for the last few years was what to do with Comet No. One. You will remember that this was given to us some while ago. We had it brought back into serviceable condition and got hold of a trailer so that it could be used if any member wanted to try it. Over the years it has required quite a lot of maintenance but has been little used. Your Committee decided to sell it as it did not have a permanent home and no boat museum was interested. Hawley Lake kindly let us park it, free of charge, over the winter months before we sold it. It went to somebody who put it back into a sailable condition. We had thought he would use it himself as a cruising boat but he put it up for sale. It now has a new lease of life being used by a lady on the Thames.

This year RYA would not let us have an Association Stand at the Dinghy Show with Comet Dinghies selling items on it so this created extra work for Chris Robinson who had a more difficult time than usual dealing with the RYA. It was resolved by Comet Dinghies having a stand but allowing us a presence on it to represent the Association. This allows Andy to sell items but we can also publicise our activities.

Nigel Austin is retiring from the Committee. Family pressures looking after elderly parents means he cannot devote the time he needed to continue being Trophies Buyer. We are sorry to see him leave the Committee as he has so many lively ideas. We hope all goes well for him at this difficult time.

Mark Govier has also hinted that he will have to step down as Membership Secretary next year. He will still be on the Committee until then. Both he and Nigel will need replacing.

John then thanked all the Committee who have worked over the last twelve months to make the Association so successful. Most work quietly in the background on behalf of the members. Only

Nigel Fern and Mark Govier have a direct interaction with us through the web site, Perihelion and news letters.

The Secretary - Liz Hossell thanked Steve Gregory for all the work on the programme of events. Part of Norahs job which she wasn't looking forward to. Steve reported that he was pleased with the turnout at Fishers Green but low turnout at the Associations (13) He is looking for Nationals and Association Events for next year, low cost and good sailing. Steve approached the subject of whether we need two Championship events and what people thought. The consensus with those present was that we keep two events and join in with other classes. To be discussed at our February meeting.

Membership Secretary Liz read out a report from Mark Govier in his absence. Mark reports as at 24 July we had 91 members, 4 of whom are Honorary members. Eight carried over from 2018 (ie joined at or after the Nationals) 19 had not renewed. Committee to ask Mark to look into emailing those not renewed if there is a reason for February meeting.

Results Coordinator – Michael Ettershank reported that generally the areas have more or same number of qualifiers than last year so helms probably are finding it easier to qualify for Aphelions.

The 2018 Orbital appears to have a quiet year with a total of 313 event entries. This is the lowest since 2011 when 2 events were cancelled. The average turnout at an open was 11.5 entries per event, about 6% down on last year. Both these statics appear to be continuing a trend that started on 2013 when there were 391 event entries and 14.3 entries per event. The number of qualifiers however is 14, which is only 1 down on last year.

Number of attendees at venues that where “Double Bubble” events in2018 is on average only a 3% drop.

The Northern Area saw an increase in qualifiers from 7 to 8 over last year but a slight drop in the area entries per event to 13.7. Despite this the Northern events are still the best supported in the Calendar.

The Eastern Area saw a consistent 7 qualifiers but a significant drop in average turnout from 12.3 in 2017 to 9.7 approx. 21%

The Southern Area saw a doubling in the number of qualifiers from an unusually low 5 in 2017 to 10 and a rise in the average number of entries from 11.3 to 12.4

The Western Area was unchanged with 7 qualifiers and a slightly reduced average turnout.

Newsletter & Website Coordinator Nigel Fern asked for more reports and next Perihelion information needed by 1st September.

4. Builders Report

Andy Simmons reported that two Comets were built this year, both now sold. The new White Xtra sail still selling well but the initial rush has tailed off. But fifty now out there and being seen at all Open Meetings. The Standard rig still selling but few in stock until October. Comet repairs are very quiet, last couple were late last year. Comet Spares have picked up recently.

Last Dinghy Show he had a “Commercial Stand” enabling him to sell spares off the stand. This didn't really happen so money could be saved next year by the Comet being on a “Class Stand”. Andy still happy to take a new comet and set up the stand. To be discussed.

5. Treasurers Report and Adoption of the Accounts. Liz read out Rhiain report

We have largely reduced the deficit that we have been running at for the last couple years. Perihelion costs have reduced due to reducing the frequency (4 to 3 per year).

Cost of prizes has reduced due to renewing some Trophies in the previous year. It should also be noted that we ended the year with more cash in the bank than we started the year, and remain with a good level of reserves.

Comet No. One has now been sold, so there will be no costs going forward associated with that. Nobody had any questions so the **Accounts were then adopted. Proposed by the Committee Seconded by Henry Jagers.**

6. Consideration of Motions:

- Membership to include a Junior Membership to be half Ordinary Membership from 2020 **Proposed the Committee Seconded by Bob Dodds** No objections
- That the CCA accepts that the Standard Comet, Comet Xtra, Comet White Xtra and Mino rig to be one fleet and share the same start line. **Proposed the Committee, Seconded Carol Butcher.** No objections.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Nigel Austin will stand down at the end of the year. New Committee members are **Steve Bellamy** proposed by John Sturgeon, seconded by Liz Hossell. Also **Eddie Pope** proposed by Norah Jagers, seconded by John Sturgeon

The Committee for 2019/20 is

Officers :- **Chairman** – John Sturgeon, **Secretary** – Liz Hossell, **Treasurer** – Rhian Bevan
Committee, **Results** – Michael Ettershank, **Trophies** – need to replace Nigel, **Events Co-ordinator** – Steve Gregory, **Membership** – Mark Govier needs replacing, **Website & Perihelion** – Nigel Fern. Chris Robinson, Peter Mountford, Steve Bellamy and Eddie Pope

It was proposed by Nigel Austin, seconded by Mick Parnell the committee be elected en-block.

8. Appointment of Auditor.

The meeting thanked Helen Leivers for acting as Honorary Auditor. Helen was reappointed as Auditor for the coming year.

9. Any Other Business

- Nigel Fern asked if more people could have access to amendments to website also Facebook page needs updating. **Committee to discuss**
- Norah suggested revamping categories for National and Association to include more sailors.eg. Veteran 35-50, Ancient Mariner 50-65, Old Wreck/Sea Dogs 65+ Youth the same. **Committee to discuss**
- Carol Butcher asked if a training day could be combined with an open meeting. Discussion took place on ideas for training programme. Mick Parnell was going to do a poll of his members to see if there is interest. **Committee to discuss.**

There being no other business. Norah thanked the Committee for their hard work and the meeting closed.

Liz Hossell.
Honorary Secretary
August 2019