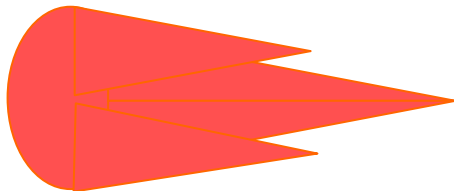


PERIHELION 136



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***Comet Class Association
Newsletter***

Summer 2022

NEWSLETTER NUMBER

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Editorial

Changes are afoot in “Comet land” as you will read later and hopefully these changes will benefit the Class in many respects.

Many Cometeers, often make comments such as “I wish our water was as big as yours” when they visit SHSC for our Open or when we host a Championship but I was joining them when I arrived at Bala for the Nationals! Bala makes Rutland Water look tiny! If you get the chance to sail there please take it up. I understand that our North Western Cometeers visit Bala as part of a local competition.



The Committee have been informed that fellow Cometeer, Nick Baber, is on the road to recovery following treatment for Prostate Cancer. Nick is in negotiation with the Association, the RYA and Andy regarding a new boat to be named “Whip out the Walnut” and the sail to be furnished with a suitable logo. If all is agreed then the boat will be on display at the next year’s Dinghy show. Following on from the recent death of Bill Turnbull and the report that Kenny Logan, ex Scottish Rugby player has been diagnosed with the same issue I know what I will doing in the next few days.

Nigel Fern
Comet 845

It is always good to hear little snippets of news, Tim Higgs dropped the following into my in-box a few days ago.

Chris Robinson won the summer Wednesday evening pursuit race series this year at our club - Burghfield SC. It is open to all members and boat types. In addition to the usual boat handicap there is personal handicap which gets harder as you get better results. So for Chris to win in a Comet with a big handicap is a huge achievement.

Chairman's Report

Chair's mutterings

We are now into the final part of the season which has so far shown that the Comet fleet is well and truly back on its feet after the disappointments of the previous two seasons. Attendances at the Open meetings so far have returned to the pre-pandemic levels. However, it is noticeable that a drop in the number of travellers has been more or less compensated by the high number of entrants from the host clubs.



At the third time of trying, the National Championships was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Bala Sailing Club. Although the wind remained very light throughout the event, the Championships was enjoyed by the competitors and Bala SC are to be congratulated and thanked for staging such a successful event. A further indication of the healthy state of the Comet class is the fact that for ten of the competitors, this was their first National Championships.

Congratulations are also due to Pete Coop for winning the Championships, to Sarah-Jane Critchley for the First Lady's Award, to Winsford Flash Sailing Club for winning the Team Trophy, and to Steve Bellamy, Andy Dale and Tobias Hancox for winning the Ancient Mariner's, Veteran's and Junior Champion's Award respectively. The names of these last three winners mirrored those of the equivalent awards at this year's Association Championships.

Following the voting at the Annual General Meeting held at Bala, it is now legal to fit side deck jamming cleats or a centre main swivel jamming cleat to a Comet and Andy Simmons will provide these fittings as optional extras. These developments will help to keep the Comet dinghy up-to-date and should hopefully aid the appeal of the boat to the younger generation.

Much to my personal disappointment, since attending the very enjoyable open meeting at Burghfield at the start of the season, I was advised not to go dinghy racing for medical reasons and long distance unaccompanied driving was also considered inadvisable. Consequently, I have been unable to attend any of the subsequent events including both Championships and the AGM. I am most grateful indeed to Chris Robinson for standing in for me at Bala and for acting as the Association Chairman at the AGM.

Finally, I would like to thank Norah Jagers for her hard work over the last few years acting as the Association's Trophy Co-ordinator, and Steve Bellamy for kindly offering to take over this role. I would also like to welcome Helen Leivers back on to the Committee, and thank her for putting her name forward.

Peter Mountford
C864

Secretary's Report

Hi all

Just a few notes from the AGM which was held on Sunday 28 August at Bala Sailing Club

Committee news is that the 2022/23 Committee will be mainly the same as last year with two changes. Steve Bellamy has added the role of Trophy Buyer, Mick Parnell has resigned and Helen Leivers has taken his place.



Mark Govier has been appointed to be our Auditor/Independent Advisor for another year.

The 2023 Nationals are going to be at Ogston Sailing Club on the August Bank holiday weekend 26th/27th/28th August 2023. The Association Championships are not finalised yet.

The Side deck jammers trial Proposed by Peter Coop and seconded by Carl Ellis came to an end and 5 Cometeers sent in reviews. Pros and cons were discussed with members and Andy Simmons present at the AGM. The motion was passed and will be added to the Class measurement rules.

The Centre Mainsheet swivel jammer Proposed by Andy Simmons and seconded by Peter Coop was discussed and will be added to the Comet Options list by Andy.

Proposal for an addition to the Comet Constitution, Proposed by Nigel Fern, seconded by Liz Hossell, that if the Chairman is unable to discharge any of the duties and responsibilities due to ill health the Chairman will appoint, in consultation with the Committee Secretary, another member to act as Chairman in their absence. This motion was passed unanimously.

This is the time of year when I ask for your nominations for the Hossell, Fate and Jagers trophies. To recap on the qualifications for these awards.

The Hossell Trophy awarded for the person outside the committee who has contributed most to the development and growth of the Comet Class

The Fate Trophy awarded for fortitude in the face of adversity .

The Norah Jagers Trophy for Articles submitted to the Perihelion or website.

Please could you email me at secretary@cometsailing.org.uk by the 8th of October 2022 at the latest with your nominations.

Our Zoom meetings continue and we have one in October. Keep looking on the Website and the Facebook page for information

Liz Hossell
Class Secretary

Builder's Report

I'm writing this a couple of days after returning from the Nationals at Bala. You will read all about it elsewhere but a good turnout with quite a few new faces. Like Staunton Harold's Association Champs, I tagged along at the back in a new Comet (902) trying to keep out of trouble. I only raced on the Saturday so no prizes as to where I came overall!



On the way home 902 was delivered to Severn SC on the Avon if you know where I mean.

Late July a new Comet was delivered to Bexhill which should give the fleet there a boost.

The new fleet at Bowmoor SC continues to grow with a few more second-hand Comets, some of which then have the new rig. Hopefully we'll have an Open Meeting there next year.

The side deck cleats and the Centre mainsheet swivel jammer proposals were passed. The later has been fitted to a Chipstead boat and she's finding it easier on the arms. Another has just been sent to Maldon where a new Comet delivered in the Spring is changing from rear to centre main due to shoulder trouble.

The new rig continues to sell but this year we have sold a few more standard sails, (some with zippers) than the previous couple of years. At the moment we have some in stock but any new ones arriving for next Spring will be quite a bit dearer as the ones in stock are still at 2019 prices.

I will be building a boat for stock soon and use that to build the tooling for a lighter weight trolley that comes apart and can fit in a car (with the back seats down, maybe).

Whilst I'm talking trolleys, the Bexhill Comet had an aluminium version of the usual combi-trolley, it was usefully lighter but more expensive.

I'll try and attend the Staunton open in October but probably not get on the water!

Andy

The Honours Board

The Honours Board on the Association's old website did not provide a complete record of the names of the award winners since the inception of each award, and in particular, some awards were not listed. At the end of last season, Nigel Fern and Paul Hinde were about to design and build a new website, and so I thought it would be an opportune time to volunteer to construct a complete Honours Board. This would entail filling the gaps in the existing lists of names, adding the awards not already listed and trying to ensure the list for each award extended right back to the year when it was first instituted. The awards missing from the Honours Board were the Ancient Mariner and Veteran (for both Championships), the National Championships Team, the Club Travellers, Pingewood, Hossell, FATE, and Jaggers trophies, as well as the names of the Aphelion winners before 2017.

My first action was to contact Norah Jaggers and enquire what records she held from her long period as the Association Secretary. To my utter surprise and delight, she replied later on the same day with a spreadsheet containing a lot of the missing data as well as what was already on the website and also reminded me that names of past winners were engraved on the perpetual trophies. That seemed the next sensible avenue to investigate.....

Eddie Pope kindly provided me with the lists of names engraved on the Northern and Western Aphelion Trophies and the Orbital and Pingewood trophies. From the winner's names engraved on the Association Championship's trophy he was able to provide corrections to the names already listed on the website for the period 1988-2000. Martin Loud also provided me with a list of all the winner's names for the Hossell Trophy, and Guy Wilkins gave me the name of a club missing from the Team Trophy list of winners. The list of names for the winner of both types of Championship, 1st Lady at the National Championships, Aphelions, Orbital, Pingewood, Club Traveller and the Committee awards (Hossell, FATE, and Jaggers) were now more or less complete but the lists for the other awards given at the National and Association Championships were either incomplete or entirely empty.

Backcopies of Perihelion (paper and website copies) were then trawled in order to try and find the missing Championships award winners' names. As well as the reports and results tables for the Championships, I soon learnt that helpful bits of information were often included in the reports from the Chairman and the Secretary, in reports from competitors, and even sometimes in captions to photographs. The secretary's report also provided a useful check on the names of the winners of the Committee awards. On occasion, the Perihelion editor printed a Hall of Fame listing some of the award winners which provided a helpful cross-check. This process revealed some interesting facts:-

As the first Perihelion was produced in December 1986, a check could not be made of the National Championships' results from 1983 – 1986. The word "Tidal", "Inland" and even "2-day" were sometimes used as the name of the championships rather than "National" and "Association". Norah wrote to me that:- *"The two Championships alternated between tidal and inland venues. So the Nationals would be in salt water every other year. We abandoned the format fairly recently when a) it became increasingly difficult to find tidal venues which were prepared to accommodate a small fleet and b) fewer and fewer helms attended the tidal events. The exception has been Weymouth."* In the 1990's, a Middle Fleet Award was given at both types of Championship. Up to 2001, anyone aged over 45 years old was deemed to be a Veteran, but from that year onwards, the Ancient Mariner category was created for anyone aged over 60 years, with the Veterans defined as 45 – 60 years.

The Orbital Trophy was originally called the Traveller's Trophy when qualification required an

entry into a minimum of six events which had to include a Championships, and Open Meetings held at a lake or reservoir, at a tidal venue and on a river. It was first awarded four years before the first Aphelion Trophies (Northern, Eastern and Western) were awarded in 1992. The Southern Aphelion Trophy was first awarded in 1995, and as the number of Open Meetings was continuing to increase, a fifth Aphelion (Central) competition was started in 1999 but ceased after 2014.

Although I did not have enough time to read all the backcopies through from cover-to-cover, I did come across some interesting “nuggets” of information which could form the basis of another Perihelion article. However, I thought I would report some interesting observations about the open meeting circuit:- The number of open meetings exceeded 20 as far back as 1996 and the list of participating clubs changed over the years, with some returning to the circuit after an absence of a few years. In the years 1990 and 2005, 12 and 28 clubs respectively held an open meeting, but only 2 of the 1990 clubs and 12 of the 2005 clubs are to be found in the list of 21 clubs scheduled to hold an open meeting this season.

After the trawl through the Perihelion back copies had been completed, there were still over 30 missing names of trophy winners. As the current Association Results Officer, Ben Palmer was able to provide some of these missing names from his records. These remaining names which were still absent were winners of the Ladies', Ancient Mariner, Veteran or Youth trophies awarded at some of the National and Association Championships. The following factors contributed to preventing the names of these Championships trophy winners from being identified:-

- The winner had not been named in the Perihelion report nor identified in the results list, and a photograph of a line-up of the winners had not been published.
- Trying to identify a winner's name from the results list was problematic for the following reasons:- These trophies are awarded to the first eligible competitor in that category after the main group of prizewinners. This main group currently consists of the top 5 and top 4 competitors in the overall results for the National and Association Championships respectively. However, in the past, this group was larger (sometimes as high as 6 or 7), and also in the past, these trophies had been awarded to the highest placed eligible competitor rather than the first eligible competitor outside the main prize group. I have not been able to confirm the year(s) when these changes were made. To make matters even more difficult - the age category of each competitor was not always listed, and I refused to take a stab at guessing a competitor's age at the time of the event!
- Engraved records did not always exist - perpetual awards have only been instituted very recently for all these trophies awarded at the National Championships, and do not exist for any of these trophies awarded at the Association Championships.
- With the help of Chris Robinson who carried out quite a detailed perusal of some Perihelion records (and from his own memory of Comet events), an entry of “not awarded” or “not recorded” was allocated to the rest of these unidentified winners according to the following criteria:- An entry of “not awarded” was made in the Honours Board where it could be concluded from scrutiny of the available evidence that there were no competitors in that particular category. If that conclusion could not be drawn, then an entry of “not recorded” was made. Where the name of the winner of the Ancient Mariner and Veteran's trophy was not known, an entry of “not recorded” rather than “not awarded” was always made because knowing the ages of my fellow Comet sailors, I wonder if there was ever an occasion when there was no Ancient Mariner or no Veteran competing at a Championships!

The extended Honours Board has been recently loaded onto the new website. Please take a look

through it, particularly where the winner's name has not been identified. Perhaps you are one of these "missing" Championships trophy winners or you can remember one or more of their names? If so, then please contact the website editor.

As the names of the award winners at past Championships were found to be the most difficult to identify, I would like to implore all authors of future Championships reports written for Perihelion to ensure that they include the names of the winners of all the trophies and awards (i.e. Overall Winner, 1st Lady, 1st Youth, Ancient Mariner, Veteran, Team). It seems an awful shame to me that these names could be lost to history and only exist in peoples' memories.

Finally, I would like to thank Norah Jagers, Eddie Pope, Martin Loud, Guy Wilkins, Ben Palmer and Chris Robinson for the help, advice and time which they willingly gave in providing the missing winners' names.

Peter Mountford
C864

Comet Open Chipstead

A brisk force 3-4 Westerly breeze and sunshine greeted the 22 strong fleet for the Chipstead Comet Open meeting on Saturday 11th June. Home sailors made up the vast majority of the fleet, with 4 visitors from Silver Wing, Burghfield and Up River Sailing Clubs. Nearly one third of the fleet were women, which reflects the huge success of Chipstead's Women On Water programme and also the inclusivity of the Xtra rig.

RACE 1 - Local helm, Sarah Jane Critchley made an excellent start from the port biased line and took an immediate lead. However, the oscillating wind allowed starters from the opposite end to recover and arrive at the windward mark together. Places changed several times on subsequent beats, with Mark Wilkins making the best of the shifting and gusting wind to win this race. Michael Ettershank from Up River SC secured second place ahead of early leaders, Guy Wilkins and Sarah Jane Critchley. Two more visitors took the next two places, with Chris Robinson and Ken Baker in 5th and 6th respectively. But it was Chipstead's famous Women On Water sailors, Marion White, Louise Curry and Meg Warren who took the following three positions.

RACE 2 - Guy lead the way from start to finish in the second race, with brother Mark gaining a valuable second place, ensuring that Chipstead would have the overall winner this year. Chris Robinson powered his way through into 3rd, ahead of Michael and Sarah Jane. Louise had her best race of the day just ahead of the rapidly improving Cliff Webb. Richard Sammons secured his first top ten finish of the day. Retirements and capsize were becoming a familiar feature by the end of the second race.

RACE 3 - More than a quarter of the fleet failed to complete the deciding race of the day; including Mark, who decided to remain on shore to protect an existing knee injury and having to hope for a new race winner. However, it was Guy who took the lead from start to finish to take the overall victory with Mark 2nd. The decider for the final podium position took place between Michael, Chris and Sarah Jane. That was indeed the order in which they crossed the line, with Michael winning the battle of the standard sails and the ever consistent Sarah Jane, getting another 4th place.

Misha Myers received the "Endeavour" prize. She was sailing in her first Comet Open and finished in 22nd place.

Ian Forsdyke won the most notable capsize award, for getting his boat up very quickly but failing to sail away after lassoing the starting marker with his main sheet!

Richard Sammons was the top Veteran over 65.

1st	Guy Wilkins	(Xw)	12th	John Taylor-Ingle	(Xw)
2nd	Mark Wilkins	(Xw)	13th	Nick Mumford	(Xw)
3rd	Michael Ettershank.	(St)	14th	Ken Baker	(Xw)
4th	Chris Robinson	(St)	15th	Jane Marshall	(Xw)
5th	Sarah Jane Critchley	(Xw)	16th	Iain Tytler	(Xw)
6th	Cliff Webb	(Xw)	17th	Marion White	(Xw)
7th	Louise Curry	(Xw)	18th	Lorenzo Coelho	(Xw)
8th	Meg Warren	(Xw)	19th	Ian Forsdyke	(Xw)
9th	Barry Oherlihy	(Xw)	20th	Helen Evans	(Xw)
10th	Richard Sammons	(Xw)	21st	Stephen Whitmore	(St)
11th	Darren Tulley	(St)	22nd	Misha Myers	(Xw)

Guy Wilkins

Three Trophies Three Names and a Comet

This article is the story of three trophies I was pleased to win over a number of years and the presenters of two of the trophies had close links to the place I now live in, Heacham in Norfolk.

While working on a project for the Heacham History Group I came across two names that had huge links with the history of Heacham and I later discovered that they were also honorary members of the Ouse Amateur Sailing Club, where I am a member.

Ingleby Trophy

Holcombe Ingleby was a Mayor of Kings Lynn, High Sheriff of Norfolk, the local member of parliament. Holcombe Ingleby was married to Harriett Jane Rolfe (closely related to the Rolfe who married Pocahontas) and in 1899 he purchased Heacham Hall and the estate, from Eustace Neville-Rolfe. Generously supporting the area, he was known for his lavish parties and gifts and in 1910 he presented a silver cup as a racing trophy to the Ouse Amateur Sailing Club, a trophy I was pleased to win, a 110 years later.



Holcombe Ingleby



Ingleby Trophy

Heacham Hall was sold again in 1904 to Mr C E Strachan, who had made a fortune as a rubber planter. Mr Strachan enlarged the Hall to its final size and rented the Shooting Lodge on the estate to Lord Fermoy M.P.

Fermoy Trophy

Lord Maurice Fermoy was a wealthy, talented man who was elected in 1924 for the Kings Lynn, Norfolk Division of Parliament. A very popular and generous MP whose greatest pleasures were his charity works. Related on his mother's side to Winston Churchill and great grandfather to princess Diana. On leaving Heacham, he lived at several grand houses, married Ruth Sylvia Gill and finally settled at Park House on the Sandringham estate, where he was closely associated with the Royal Family.



Lord Maurice Fermoy



Fermoy Trophy

Lord Fermoy was an accomplished sportsman who generously donated and participated in events all over the area. As a member of the Ouse Amateur Sailing Club in 1926, he donated a trophy and was its first winner. Ninety-three years later I was a proud winner of this beautiful trophy.

Cam Challenge Cup



The Cam Challenge Cup is a beautiful silver cup presented to the Cam Sailing Club by J Grantham in 1939. Mr. Grantham was Rear commodore and commodore of the club about that time and he sailed we think, a Thames half-rater called 'Elf'.

The cup is awarded annually to the winner of a competition between sailors who race and belong to clubs based on the Cam or Great Ouse rivers. The Cam sailing club and the Ouse Amateur Sailing Club hold the event at their clubs on alternating years and this year the event was at the OASC.

Originally given as a cup for the fastest boat, with no handicap or special class rules and to win all manner of extra sails etc were used to try to increase boat speed. In 1972 handicap racing was introduced for the cup and has been awarded annually except for breaks in the war years 1940-1945 and recently in 2020 because of the Covid shutdown.

The first winner was a R Davis and F B Priest sailing a boat called "Scuttle" and the name of the boat was added to all the winners until 1993, with names like "Ziller" or "Madness" so I don't know the class of the boats sailed. In 1969 I noticed the names of Mr & Mrs R Bryant sailing "Yogi Bear", Rodney Bryant was also a Comet sailor in the 1980s and I remember him winning the Cam SC Comet Open in about 1988.

After 1993 the class and boat numbers were added after the winner's name and with a few exceptions most of the winners since then have been single handed dinghies. There were a couple of exceptions with two Enterprise's and a couple of wins for Mark and Sue Pogmore in their Graduate going back to 1987 and their last win was in 2018 a year before Marks tragic early death. The most polishing of the trophy however has been done by Ian Bradley who has won 10 times sailing a variety of Streakers, but going back to 1990, Ian won, crewing an Enterprise. Ian routinely wins our club races, but he lets me win about once a year and this year it was while we were sailing for the Cam Cup. The winds were very light and changeable, the sort of wind Comets do well sailing in a handicap fleet and getting the breaks you need.

Well, it seems I am the first competitor sailing a Comet to win these 3 Cups and was very pleased to win, and especially the Cam cup in my 80th year.

John R Windibank Comet 858

Ref: The Rolf Papers - Call me Maurice – Ouse Amateur Sailing Club Records.

Lorna Cole Secretary Cam Sailing Club.

Comet Open at Cransley Sailing Club



Cransley Comet Open Competitors

There's something predictable that occurs every summer at Cransley when the Comets arrive, just like swallows arriving back the same time every year from Africa - and that is all those who take part know they have been through the full spectrum of wind strengths and directions in the space of a few hours!

It is testament to this wonderful dinghy that so many love to sail them competitively long since the peak production period of the 80s and 90s. They are such a great leveller and despite the few rigs you could use, they all seem to be well balanced for each individual's choice and no advantage appears.

With a fiendish course set for the first race encompassing all the quiet and weedy areas to try and unhinge the 10 visitors (and give the 10 home club sailors some chance), the racing was spirited but the spritely Eddie Pope showed a clean pair of heels from a chasing pack that changed places as frequently as the wind shifts. Ben Palmer showed that sailing at Baltic Wharf was just as difficult as Cransley coming in 2nd, having started almost last, trying to remove weed from his boat. Annette Walter (Up River are you sure?) snuck in on the line to deal a blow to yours truly. There were lots of little battles going on throughout the remaining fleet (notable result for Astara Davies 11th beating her mother and twin sister) but these were all forgotten with the traditional Cransley lunch to weigh everyone down.

The second race saw the winds slightly increasing on the Force 2-3 seen in the morning - well occasionally, but because it was squally and gusting it did cause some capsizing - names withheld on request. Although Eddie decided to be anti social again the other podium places were strongly contested and after a lot of place swapping I managed to pip Alan Bennett at the end.

The highlight of the day was the safety boat delivery of ice creams between the races in an attempt to keep folk on the water for back to back races - as our home sailors do like a high tea break usually. The low point of the day was the automatic timer and hooter running out of battery power (even though it is solar powered and it was a baking hot day) - still when it works, it works well! The Eddie Stobart lorry horn is quite good at breaking the tranquillity, although difficult to know

whether the time starts at the beginning or end of the horn blast!

The third race was a good tussle between Eddie and Alan with Annette chasing for 3rd and Andrew Dale maintaining a very consistent 4th.

The overall results were, apart from Eddie, very close with discards counting for the 3rd to 7th places, showing the closeness of the competition.

It was great to hear friendly banter on the water with only an isolated raised remark, all in keeping with the perfectly wonderful setting on this 75 acre reservoir.

A sumptuous tea and prizes for everyone meant there were lots of happy folk heading either a few miles home or to Dorset, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Cambridge or Essex.

Thanks to all who made it another great day - sailors, race officer/safety crew and galley.



Alan Bennett, SHSC 2nd, Eddie Pope, OgSC 1st
and Nigel Austin, CrSC 3rd
© Sue Bull

Long may we welcome the Comets to the wind shift capital of the world!
Nigel Austin Comet 875

Cransley SC Comet Open								
HelmName	SailNo	Club	R1	R2	R3	Total	Nett	Rank
Edwin Pope	377	OSC	-1	1	1	3		2 1st
Allen Bennett	126	SHSC	-6	3	2	11		5 2nd
Nigel Austin	875	CrSC	4	2	-6	12		6 3rd
Annette Walter	323	UpRYC	3	-7	3	13		6 4th
Ben Palmer	597	BWSC	2	-6	5	13		7 5th
Andrew Dale	788	EySC	-5	4	4	13		8 6th
John Coppenhall	532	HSC	8	5	-11	24		13 7th
Henry Jagers	800	BeSC	7	-9	7	23		14 8th
Nigel Fern	845	SHSC	-9	8	9	26		17 9th
Hugh Ambery	718	CrSC	-17	11	8	36		19 10th
Mary Starkey	754	UWSC	10	-14	10	34		20 11th
Rhiain Bevan	724	CrSC	-13	10	12	35		22 12th
Astara Davies	525	CrSC	11	-15	15	41		26 13th
Martin Loud	705	WFSC	14	12	-16	42		26 14th
Julie Aves	827	CrSC	-16	13	14	43		27 15th
Ian Pidd	525a	CrSC	15	-16	13	44		28 16th
Gretta Davies	43	CrSC	12	-18	18	48		30 17th
Cerella Davies	218	CrSC	(21RET)	17	17	55		34 18th
Tim Fawkes	18	CrSC	18	19	(21DNC)	58		37 19th
Sarah Austin	423	CrSC	(21RET)	21.0 DNC	21.0 DNC	63		42 20th

Recent Results

At the time of going to print, I have not received reports from Redditch SC's, Baltic Wharf SC's or Mudeford SC's Comet Opens. Please see below for their results.

Comet Class Association Results Sheet

Event: Redditch Sailing Club

Date: Aphelion: South

Helm	Boat Number	Sail	Club	Race #1	Race #2	Race #3	Points	Final Position
Margot Bish	306	Std	RedSC	1	2	1	2	1
Eddie Pope	377	Xw	OgSC	2	1	2	3	2
Dave Turtle	815	Xw	ShuSC	3	3	3	6	3
Ross Crawford	874	Std	RedSC	6	5	4	9	4
Ben Palmer	597	Std	BWSC	4	6	5	9	5
Henry Jaggars	800	Xw	BeSC	7	4	6	10	6
Chris Robinson	867	Std	BuSC	5	7	7	12	7
John Coppenhall	532	Std	HuSC	8	8	10	16	8
Nigel Fern	845	Xw	SHSC	11	10	8	18	9
Mary Starkey	754	Std	UWSC	9	11	9	18	10
Carol Evans	541	Xw	RedSC	10	13	RTD	23	11
Josh Beardshaw	434	Std	RedSC	DNS	9	RTD	24	12
Roger Harrison	382y	Xw	RedSC	14	12	DNS	24	13
Pat Lloyd	600	Xw	RedSC	12	15	DNS	27	14
Vicki Rose	637	Xw	RedSC	17	14	DNS	31	15
Dan Beardshaw	681	Std	RedSC	13	RTD	DNS	32	16
Alice Kenridge	382b	Std	RedSC	16	RTD	DNS	35	17
John Evans	236	Xw	RedSC	15	DNS	DNS	35	18

Comet Class Association Results Sheet

Event: Baltic Wharf

Date: Aphelion: West

Helm	Boat Number	Sail	Club	Race #1	Race #2	Race #3	Points	Final Position
Eddie Pope	377	WX	OgSC	1	1	3	2	1
Ben Palmer	597	Std	BWSC	4	2	1	3	2
Chris Robinson	867	Std	BuSC	3	4	2	5	3
Richard Steptoe	484	Std	BWSC	2	3	4	5	4
Isla Macneal	847	Std	BWSC	5	6	5	10	5
Mark Pilgrim	294	Std	BWSC	6	5	6	11	6
Mark Hicks	105	Std	BWSC	7	11	8	15	7
Ivano Guastella	494	Std	BWSC	9	9	7	16	8
Tom Appleby	16	Std	BWSC	10	8	9	17	9
Mike Lane	744	Std	BWSC	11	7	DNS	18	10
John Koster	442	Std	BWSC	DNS	11	8	19	11
Richard Walker	104	Std	BWSC	8	DNS	DNS	19	12
Diane Eadon	50	Std	BWSC	RTD	10	RTD	22	13

Comet Class Association Results Sheet

Event: Mudeford

Date: Aphelion: West

Helm	Boat Number	Sail	Club	Race #1	Race #2	Race #3	Points	Final Position
Eddie Pope	377	Xw	Ogston	1	1	1	3	1
Ben Palmer	597	St	Baltic Wharf	2	2	2	6	2
Chris Robinson	867	St	Burghfield	3	3	4	10	3
Henry Jaggars	800	Xw	Beer	4	4	3	11	4

What some comet sailors talk about while waiting for wind.

Having being told that races were postponed for a couple of hours various sections of the fleet decided to do other jobs!!!

The committee decided they were going to have a meeting on one picnic table while Tobias and I contemplated which university would have the best sailing club for him to join in the future.

This took all of 5 minutes until another group came over and asked if they could join the non committee table to pass the time of day - of course.

The topic of conversation changed to how to remember some of the Comet sailors names and the laughter began.

As we thought it was only fair to do the people around the table first we started - **Rear end Roger** from Redditch (C382) had pride of place being first.

Tobias from Eyott (C358) was next and by this time was wondering if us more senior members were all off our heads.

Then **Double barrelled Rachel** (C884) due to her surname, And I must add her comment “if it got too windy ‘*to reef your t-shirts*’.

No Eye-dear Nigel (C845) was next. You can ask Nigel why, but don’t be eating anything at the time.

Then myself **Helen the pouch** (C857) due to the fact that Sarah Jane aka **Inky Pinky** (C221) the boat name remembered I offered her a drink pouch on the water between races the day before.

Flying Chris (C895){I prefer ‘Flighty Chris’, Ed} because she glides and **Hell’s bells** (C868) due to the boat name are next, with **Baltic Wharf Ben** (C 597) and **No money Martin** (C705) bringing up the rear, however from what I saw just before writing this piece Martin is going home with more money in his pocket than he came with so he’s not quite destitute!

The last to approach the table of laughter was Norah who had been banned from the Committee table by this point so she decided to tell us her nickname from work.

No stocking Norah or Norah Bones.(say the last one quickly).

After all this story telling, I’m sorry if I’ve not mentioned you, but please add some more to our now ongoing Comet nicknames list.

WE did go sailing after all.

Helen Leivers



Inky Pinky helping to undress Rear End Roger

© Helen Leivers

Comet National Championship

Bala SC 2022

Overall Impressions

It was a real case of third time lucky, as 26 Comets contested the National Championships over the August Bank Holiday weekend, including a large number of first time entrants to the National Championships.

Lake Bala is the largest lake in Wales and we used a sailing area of about 1.5 miles by 0.5 miles, binoculars were needed to see some marks!! We shared the water with two other fleets, an Asymmetric fleet and a General Handicap fleet, which caused a few interesting moments!!

On arrival the lake was like a sheet of glass and the prospect of 3 races, back to back, seemed very doubtful with a wind forecast of 3mph – 5mph over the afternoon.

Saturday

Race 1

P shaped course.

The leading Comets caught up and passed the general handicap boats which had started 3 minutes earlier. Eddie Pope led until the penultimate leg, when the wind filled in from behind and he was “swallowed up” by some following Comets and general handicap boats. At the last mark there were about 8 boats from mixed fleets close together, so mark rounding was critical. Pete Coop gained the inside berth and called “water” on the Blaze alongside him, which in turn caused Eddie to give the mark a wider berth than ideal. Bob Dodds tried to get into the space left. Izac Dodds found some free air. Chris Robinson took a wide route around the mark at speed. The short beat to the finish was very tricky, but Pete kept his lead, followed by Izac, Chris, Eddie and Bob, all close together in that order.

Race 2

There was a delay waiting for the wind. A windward leeward course with a shorter beat was set. The wind changed just before the start, resulting in a reaching start. Two laps were sailed with some new faces at the front. The wind was steadier and a bit stronger than in race 1 and we didn’t catch as many of the general handicap boats. A “breakaway” group of 4 Comets developed. On lap 2 Sarah-Jane Critchley found a lift on the left side of the beat to move into first and held her position until the finish. She was ecstatic and tapped her foredeck in glee! Pete Coop was on the right side of that beat, missed the lift, and relinquished places to George Coop and Eddie. Eddie came 2nd, followed by George then Pete.

Race 3

The planned break ashore was abandoned as there was insufficient time. At the pin end of the line Sarah Jane Critchley hit the pin allowing Michael Thompson to get the perfect pin end start. There was more wind at the start of the race, but it dropped on the approach to the windward mark. Pete

Coop led, followed by a second group of boats led by Steve Bellamy. Pete developed a comfortable lead and kept in front to the end. Downwind the wind seemed to pick up and the boats behind looked as if they might catch up, but this never happened. Eddie was buried in the pack and hit Bob. After doing his turns he was close behind at least 6 boats on the final run. However, he went high into pressure and gained water at the mark over Andy. The race was shortened at one lap. So the finishing order was Pete, Eddie, Andy, Sarah-Jane then Bob.

A fantastic BBQ and live music ended the day.

Sunday

Tricky winds again and only 2 of the 3 scheduled races were held, as the start was delayed waiting for the wind to settle Also we needed to get off the water for the AGM and the all important pizza delivery!

Race 4

b shaped course.

The wind shifted on the first beat and those on left hand side of the course got lifted so much they reached into the windward mark. Eddie was first around the windward mark followed by Chris Robinson and a completely astonished Nigel Fern! Pete Coop sailed into second on the downwind leg. On the second lap at the penultimate (wing) mark the wind dropped. The lead boats got around the mark in wind although boats behind began to catch up. The shorten course flag went up and the race was finished at two laps. Eddie benefitted from a big lift on the first beat and had a lead of at least 50 yards over Pete, until just before the final mark. That mark was in a big wind shadow containing all the general handicap fleet. The wind started to fill in from behind, and Pete skillfully navigated past Eddie and the general handicap boats by heading up back into the wind once he rounded the mark. Eddie just managed to hold off the other Comets, despite being impeded by a Solo. The back of the fleet became becalmed and they all closed up with Helen Evans catching up from a long way behind. When the wind returned it had changed 180 degrees. As the last boat finished the wind changed by another 90 degrees so the race officer had to reset the course for the next race, but by the time he had done this the wind had changed again! This happened a couple more times before he got the fleet away for race 5.

Race 5

A triangular course with the beat across the lake.

Bob and Pete broke away, Half-way up the beat the wind changed to give a starboard tack reach to the mark. It then changed again to give a port tack reach and then a further shift back to a beat. On the runs the wind began to drop and the race officer shortened at one lap. This time the wind increased in time to bring the back half of the fleet across the line and back to shore in time for the AGM and pizza.

Pete carefully covered Bob to take another win. There was a battle behind too. Eddie came 3rd followed by Izac then George.

Monday

If the wind allowed, then 3 back to back races were planned, to enable the full 8 race series. However, the wind did not oblige and only one race was possible before the scheduled end time.

Race 6

P shaped course

The start was postponed to 11.30 meaning that only 6 races would be completed. Thus 2 discards were allowed, to the relief of a few helms. The left hand side of the beat seemed to be favoured initially, but a significant wind shift made a move to the right necessary. The line had a pin end bias. On the first beat the left hand side of the course was favoured and Michael Thompson was first to the windward mark followed by Bob Dodds. Bob passed Michael to move into first. On the second lap the wind dropped and shifted and some boats had to tack to reach the wing mark. As a result the fleet closed up and there were many changes in position. Ben Palmer almost came to grief as one of the huge Laser Asymmetrics came barreling into a mark without water leaving Ben with no option but to move aside as otherwise he would have been cut in two! The race officer elected to make the race longer, rather than attempt a short second race in the time available. Therefore, a third lap was sailed. This caused a little confusion as the general handicap fleets were stopped but we continued. Some Comets pulled aside thinking that they had finished! Sarah Jane Critchley ended up rafted on the committee boat at the start of the third lap.

The fleet then adjourned to the cafe balcony that had been the preserve of Liz and Norah for the weekend for the prize giving. Everybody received a memento of the event and there were prizes aplenty.

A huge vote of thanks was given to Mike Allen, Commodore of Bala SC who was to be seen doing just about everything from welcoming helms, organizing the safety teams, running the races, cooking and serving the BBQ to name just a few. Oh and don't forget he had tried twice before to get this event off the ground!

Top 3 were in

1st - Pete Coop

2nd - Eddie Pope

3rd - Bob Dodds

Outside of these were:

Sarah-Jane Critchley, First Lady and First Newcomer

Steve Dale, Committee prize

Andy Dale, First Veteran

Tobias Hancox, First Junior

Stephen Bellamy, First Ancient Mariner

Winsford Flash SC was awarded the Team prize.

Report by Pete Coop, Chris Robinson, Eddie Pope and Nigel Fern

Images of the event are available on the Bala SC website.

COMET SPARES, REPAIRS AND ACCESSORIES

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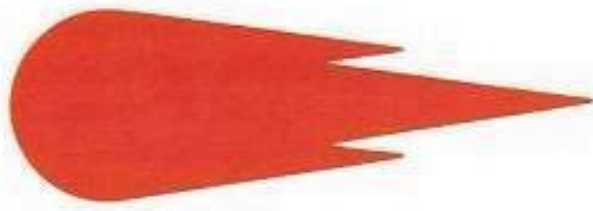
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Perihelion 137

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November 7th

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