

CARSINGTON SC COMET OPEN 20 AUGUST 2023

There was a disappointing entry of 7 boats at this wonderful large reservoir, which is on a much grander scale than our normal venues. The fact that the National Championship was due to be held the following weekend at nearby Ogston SC was probably a factor in deterring travellers.

We started 5 minutes after the club race, with one race in the morning on a triangular course and two back-to-back races on a windward/leeward course in the afternoon. The long courses and steady winds of mostly a good force 3 meant that pace and spotting pressure were vital. There were also some significant wind shifts, but not many. The Standard rigs used by Chris Robinson (Burghfield SC) and Ben Palmer (Baltic Wharf SC) were a match for the White Xtras used by the other 5 helms.

In race 1 Peter Mountford (Staunton Harold SC) led for the first lap, followed by Chris and Ben. Eddie Pope (Ogston SC) went further towards the right on the second beat, and was lifted into the lead. He held this position until just before the finish, when Chris took a very narrow lead in freshening conditions. Ben came 3rd.

In race 2 Ben started well and led until Eddie passed him on the run. Eddie covered Ben and came 1st. Chris was 3rd.

Eddie, Chris and Ben could all win the event by finishing 1st in the final race. Chris started very strongly, chased by Eddie and Ben. It took until the final downwind leg for Eddie to gain water at the leeward mark, and in the dropping wind he was able to hold Chris off on the beat to the finishing line. So overall Eddie was 1st, Chris was 2nd and Ben was 3rd.

Eddie Pope