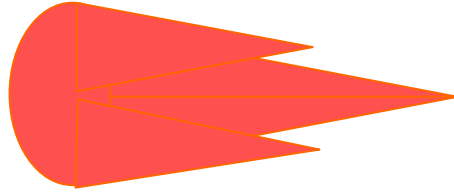


PERIHELION 142



*Perihelion
RIP ??*

***Comet Class Association
Newsletter***

Autumn 2023

NEWSLETTER NUMBER

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Editorial

I said at the beginning of the year that I was looking forward to competing against Martin Loud throughout the year and we have had many close encounters but not as close as Steve Bellamy and I but that's another story! Martin and I must have similar skill sets as we find ourselves so close on so many occasions and when I look through the results there are similar pairings / groups of sailors. By having that competition it adds to the enjoyment. Very probably if you are a 'home' sailor you will have similar experiences but by making the effort to get away and experience larger fleets (in some cases) it really does improve your sailing and allow you to head or pull away from your 'home' group.



Well, that's it, my final Perihelion completed and it looks like it might be the last ever! Despite the best efforts of the Committee to find someone to take on the role of the editor of Perihelion, so far no-one has put their head above the parapet!

In Perihelion 141 I offered my help to whoever takes on the role and that offer still stands. Also remember that the editorship does NOT come with Committee membership.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to Perihelion under my tenure especially during those dark days of Covid when your stories and poetry lifted the editions.

What am I going to do in the future

- a) Give my index fingers a well earned rest
- b) Assist the Committee in getting themselves up to speed with the bits of my role that they have taken on
- c) Restart my - "Tales from the rear" articles in 2024 but based on recent results I may have to re-think the title!

Nigel Fern
Comet 845

Chairman's Report

Chair's mutterings

I am sad that this is Nigel Fern's last Perihelion. The Committee held an informal meeting at the recent Staunton Harold SC Open and we decided to carry forward any decision on future Perihelions until our next meeting in February 2024. I hope that in the meantime someone will come forth to take forward this valued publication. If interested please get in touch with Nigel to discuss what is involved.



Congratulations to Andy Dale on winning the Association Championship at Bowmoor SC. It is always great to have a new name on the Championship trophy. Racing was really close with 4 race winners in the 5 races held - see the event report.

It is interesting that 4 out of the top 5 at the Association Championship (including Andy) were using standard rigs. I discussed this with Andy Simmons, who made the perceptive comment that "it is the nut on the tiller" which matters! Standard rig success at this and several open results was fed into my email to the RYA about the Comet's PY. Andy emailed the RYA separately. Hopefully the RYA will make things clear in their 2024 PY list published at the Dinghy Show in February, because their 2023 PY list certainly caused some confusion and different actions at club level.

I am working hard on the 2024 Open calendar and once event dates are confirmed I add them to the Comet website. All the usual clubs have been approached and quite a few other dates are still provisional. I am delighted to report that Cransley SC will host the 2025 Association Championship. Before long I am hoping to find a club to host the National Championship in 2025. I wonder whether it is time to have another National Championship on the sea? Views and ideas would be appreciated.

There will be at least 2 Committee roles which will need to be filled at/by the AGM next August at Merthyr Tydfil SC. Rhian Bevan plans to step down as Treasurer. Steve Bellamy plans to step down from the Committee and his role procuring prizes. It is important that we maintain a strong Committee in support of our marvellous dinghy and our lovely Cometeers.

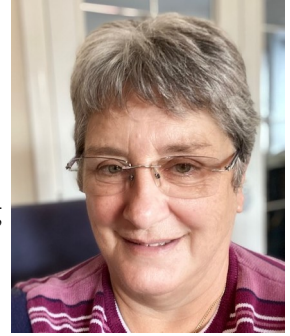
I am hoping to attend both days at the 2024 Dinghy Show, and look forward to seeing other Comet attendees there. If you are interested in joining our Committee or taking on a role then please let me know.

Eddie Pope
C377

Secretary's Report

The Committee had a short meeting at Staunton Harold on 14 October at the last Open meeting of the year.

The Fate Plate was presented to Peter Mountford for his exceptional year in taking part in 18 Open meetings despite having heart surgery at the beginning of the year. Well deserved and continued good health.



The Hossell Plate was awarded to Nick Baber for promotion of the Comet Class through his campaign for Prostate Cancer and for his efforts in building up a large Comet fleet at Nottingham SC. Nick wasn't at the Prize-giving, but I will make sure he receives the Plate as soon as possible.

The Jagers Trophy was awarded to Peter Coop for his comprehensive article in Perihelion 137. Peter wasn't at the Prize-giving, but his trophy will be presented at the earliest convenience.

Other Trophies presented were The Orbital to Eddie Pope (our new Chairman). The Pingewood Trophy for the most Opens attended in 2023 went to Peter Mountford and the Top Club Trophy went to Staunton Harold.

The Dinghy Show on 24 -25 February 2024 is all in hand. Chris Robinson would like to recruit somebody else to take over the organisation for 2025 as he has now taken on Website and Newsletter Editor from Nigel Fern.

We will be discussing the future of Perihelion in our February meeting. If anybody has any thoughts of going forward please email me your opinions.

Membership will go up £2 across the board in 2024.

I would like to thank the committee and Norah for standing in for me at the AGM.

Enjoy the winter break, if that is what you do, and look forward to seeing everybody in 2024.

Liz Hossell
Hon. Secretary
secretary@cometsailing.org.uk

Builder's Report

Doesn't time fly! It only seems a few weeks since I last reported.

I've not long returned from the Staunton Open Meeting where a new Comet for a returning Comet lady was delivered and I converted a Comet at Swarkestone SC to the new rig before getting to Staunton at lunchtime.

Thanks to Pete Coop, some new members at Winsford have taken to Comets with new rigs etc and a special thanks to Steve Bellamy who took all the gear back to Winsford from Staunton saving lots of postage costs all round.



It's a bit quiet at work at the moment, but that could soon change. Hopefully the new stock Comet will go soon.

Often when I see Comets that are let down by the smallest details, such as tatty Shock cord etc or the toe strap and dagger board or weird rudder uphaul and downhaul systems. Correct replacements for these are only £5 and £7 respectively!

If you ever think some detail on your Comet isn't quite right, you're probably right so send me a photo and I can advise.

Don't forget we are now cometdinghies@outlook.com

It seems a bit early to say Merry Xmas and please make the trip to the Dinghy Show at Farnborough in February, its well worth the effort.

Nottingham Sailing Club Open Meeting Sunday 10th September 2023

This Open Meeting was re-scheduled from April 16th; when we were supposed to be holding the first Comet Open Meeting of the 2023 season. However, the April Open was postponed on the 15th when it was obviously a non-starter: the Trent was flowing very fast after a period of heavy rain and the Met Office were forecasting light winds. It would have just been a one-way trip down to the orange buoys in front of the sluice gates.

So back to September, and our re-scheduled event on Sunday 10th. This was the first day after the September heat wave, where the sweltering temperatures were replaced by just a nice warm day. Again, the Met Office promised only light winds, but this time we only had low flow on the river, so we could proceed.

21 Comets entered the Open Meeting. This consisted of 17 home boats (some club sailors from other fleets borrowing any spare boats) and 4 visitors. The Open was being run concurrently with a small Enterprise Open, with the Ents starting first and the Comets starting 3 minutes after. The morning brought light winds from the East/North East, up the river. At the briefing our OOD, Phil Sheppard, suggested that instead of our normal format (1 race before lunch and 2 after), we swap to 2 shorter races before lunch and then a final race in the afternoon. This was because the wind forecast was more than a little dodgy for the afternoon, and thunderstorms were also forecasted. This idea received general approval.

The course was laid on lower half of our normal sailing stretch of river. There were two buoys, both to port.

The first race: 21 starters made for a busy start across our river. Eddie Pope (377) had an early collision with Roger Chilvers (887). Eddie rapidly volunteered to do his turns, but the turns could not rapidly be done due to the difficulties of finding clear space. This cost him heavily, position-wise.

It was a very busy first leg with lots of tacking to avoid other boats and lots of calls for water due to the bank. Clear air was at a premium. Who needs strong winds for exciting racing?

After the first buoy, where Ellie Kirkwood (351) also did turns, there was a run back upstream. Would those boats who you had worked so hard to overtake on the first leg simply get a gust before you did and catch you up?

After the first lap the positions were: 1st: Simon Limb (83 - NSC Laser helm in borrowed boat), 2nd: Mike Pritchard (839 – NSC Laser helm in borrowed boat), 3rd: Ben Palmer (597), 4th: Hazel Clark (685).

In the 2nd and final lap of the first race, the fleet had opened out sufficiently for many to be able to defend their positions – whilst also finding it hard to gain places. However, there were holes in the wind and nearby there were places where a gentle breeze never stopped. Your report writer managed to work her way up from 5th to 3rd, somehow keeping the gentle breeze on her sail whilst others were less lucky. By the second half of the last lap Mike Pritchard had taken over first position with Simon Limb in 2nd place. My boat was still moving forward in its never ending pocket of gentle air, whilst I was able to see where to avoid because that was where Simon and then Mike were sitting! Miracles sometimes happen, and I (Sue Jones – 835) took first place honours at the finish line. 2nd: Mike Pritchard and 3rd: Simon Limb. Hazel Clark was absolutely delighted to take a well deserved 4th place, not being an Open meeting circuit helm.

After a short break for drinks, with enough time for Hazel to declare “I’m so happy with that 4th I don’t care if I finish last in the next 2 races; the new white Xtra sail is great”, we all set sail again for the 2nd race.

Again, the wind was light (but definitely sailable) and still from the East/North East. The course was unchanged. It was, again, a very busy start line. Peter Mountford (864) was over the line and found that returning behind the line was easier said than done against the massive flow of Comets towards him. Nick Baber later commented that maybe some planning could help with his own problems of: “Where do I go?? Where can I tack?? What on earth are all these other boats about to do??”

After a busy first leg, with again a lot of maneuvers for everyone to avoid other boats and get the cleanest air, the race settled down with Eddie Pope (377) in the lead at the end of the first lap followed by Mike Pritchard and Simon Limb. The race was shortened at 2 laps, with an unchanged finishing order for the first three boats. Ben Palmer (597) was 4th. For once, Hazel Clarke probably overtook Marie Marshall (452) in the simultaneous competition as to who could talk the most within the race. The race sounded very happy from my position within it!

It was 1pm, so lunch swiftly followed. We enjoyed jacket potatoes, together with a choice of beef chilli or a veggie Italian sauce, and a salad (thank you to the 3 cooks - 2 of whom were sailing - and also to Aldi for some great jacket potatoes!) When lunch was finished, we then surveyed the completely flat-surfaced river and glanced at the entirely vertical club flag. The weather forecast had been accurate.

A postponement followed and a while later I was sent out on the river as the guinea pig to check the wind. The answer: there was NO wind for sailing, at that time. A few minutes later, a light breeze sprang up, the postponement ended, a new start sequence commenced and everyone else headed for the river. Of course this wind entirely disappeared just before the Enterprise start and the race was postponed again.

Quite a few of us headed for the landing stage and tied up – well it was only about 10 yards away. Another wait, then the “wind” changed direction 180 degrees to the West. The race team moved the buoys to the upstream part of the river and yet again we commenced a start sequence.



This time the race started – hurray!! With various helms sensibly(?) deciding that early packing away would be the best option, 13 Comets raced. Let’s just say – it was slow. Easily as slow as the first day of racing at the Staunton Harold Association Championships last year. And then the

thunder started to rumble around, at a good distance, and the rain fell. However, we crawled around the course as best we could for a single lap. Nick Baber was sitting so far forward on his boat, with the wet deck he almost fell in twice! This time it was my turn to sit in a big hole, whilst quite a few others carefully maneuvered around me using tiny puffs of breeze. Oh well. Eddie Pope took winning honours at the finish, with Mike Pritchard 2nd and Martin Loud 3rd (705). Nick Baber came a well deserved 4th (904).

Time to pack away the boats and head to the clubhouse for a delightful afternoon cream tea with scones and a variety of cakes. Meanwhile the OOD was seen to be checking Appendix A of the RRS, so close were some of the results.

Final results:

- 1st: Eddie Pope (Ogston – 377),
- 2nd: Mike Pritchard (Nottingham SC – borrowed 839),
- 3rd Sue Jones (Nottingham SC – 835).
- 1st Junior: Rose Wilkinson (Nottingham SC – 199).

A special mention needs to be given to our regular club Comet helms who were competing in their first Open Meeting: Naomi Ringrose (590), Vince Hulland (402) and Richard Hill (97). And also my thanks to Nick Baber for getting together such a great Comet fleet for the day.

Sue Jones (835)



Club		Nottingham Sailing Club									
Date		10/09/2023									
Boat No.	Helm	Age Category	Club	Sail type	R1	R2	R3	Total	O/A	Pos	
377	Eddie Pope	Ancient Mariner	OgSC	Xw	7	1	1		2	1	
839	Mike Prichard		NSC	Xw	2	2	2		4	2	
835	Sue Jones	Veteran	NSC	Xw	1	5	9		6	3	
83	Simon Limb		NSC	S	3	3	7		6	4	
597	Ben Palmer	Adult	BWSC	S	5	4	5		9	5	
705	Martin Loud	Ancient Mariner	WFSC	Xw	8	12	3		11	6	
864	Peter Mountford	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	6	10	6		12	7	
685	Hazel Clark		NSC	Xw	4	19	11		15	8	
784	Richard Tanner		NSC	S	9	6	DNS		15	9	
904	Nick Baber	Ancient Mariner	NSC	S	15	13	4		17	10	
119	Rose Wilkinson	Youth	NSC	S	11	7	10		17	11	
397	Shad Jawad		NSC	S	14	11	8		19	12	
887	Roger Chilvers	Ancient Mariner	NSC	Xw	10	9	DNS		19	13	
402	Vince Hulland		NSC	S	12	14	12		24	14	
452	Marie Marshall		NSC	S	18	8	DNS		26	15	
601	Ivan Horrocks		NSC	Xw	13	15	DNS		28	16	
351	Ellie Kirkwood		NSC	S	17	17	DNS		34	17	
590	Naomi Ringrose	Youth	NSC	S	19	16	DNS		35	18	
738	John Crowe		NSC	Xw	16	20	RTD		36	19	
664	Jan Walsh		NSC	S	20	18	DNS		38	20	
97	Richard Hill		NSC	S	21	21	DNS		42	21	

Comet 2023 Association Championship - Bowmoor SC 23/24 September

Our first event at Bowmoor was a really successful and highly competitive Association Championship. Many thanks are due to the organiser Jacky Stagg, Bowmoor's Comet Fleet Captain. We shared the venue with the Byte Inland Championship. This helped make things busy on the water and really sociable off the water. There were 25 Comet entrants.

Day 1

Race Office Matt Banbrook was planning 4 races on day 1, in case the forecast strong winds proved too high to race on day 2. There was a fairly steady moderate wind in races 1 and 2, but the wind died down in race 3 and became very shifty and patchy. Racing for the day was therefore called off after race 3.

Andy Dale (Eyott SC) and Ben Palmer (Baltic Wharf SC) headed the fleet for most of race 1. However, the wind shifted and dropped towards the end of the last beat, and Eddie Pope (Ogston SC) overtook them both. Eddie stayed in front, followed home by Ben then Andy. Tobias Hancox (Eyott SC) was sailing well and came 4th.



© Jacqui Sturgeon

In Race 2 the first 4 from race 1 all featured strongly again, but Alan Bennett (Staunton Harold SC) sailed a brilliant race to win in the end. Eddie was 2nd, followed by Tobias, Ben and Andy.

The lighter winds for race 3 saw some new faces at the front of the fleet. Dave Peacock (Severn SC) had a battle with Eddie, but stayed in front of Eddie towards the end. Andy came 3rd, followed by Jacky Stagg (Bowmoor SC).

The overall positions after day 1 saw Eddie leading, with Andy and Ben tied in 2nd and Tobias in 4th. It would be all to play for if the wind allowed sailing on day 2. No discards applied until at least 4 races were held.

Day 2

The strong winds on day 2 were not too strong to stop racing. The conditions did deter some helms and meant a reduced turnout, but despite a few capsizes most of the fleet coped well. Due to planned club racing the fleets needed to be off the water by midday, so there was an early start to fit in 2 races.



© Jacqui Sturgeon

Race 4 was won by Andy, who was relishing the wind. So was Ben who finished 2nd and Chris Robinson (Burghfield SC) who was 3rd. Eddie struggled to finish 4th.

Going into the final race there were 3 potential winners of the Championship - Eddie, Andy and Ben. Andy prevailed again in race 5, looking very comfortable in the conditions. Ben had to settle for 2nd, with Tobias 3rd and Eddie 4th.

Results in the final race meant that Andy became the Association Champion, a very worthy and popular outcome, He was 1 point ahead of Eddie, who in turn was 1 point ahead of Ben. A few points behind was Tobias in 4th. Particularly interesting is the fact that only Eddie within the leading 4 was using the White Xtra rig, which demonstrates that in the right hands a Standard rig is highly competitive.

Chris won the Veteran's prize in 5th and Alan the Ancient Mariner's prize in 6th. Jacky put in a very good performance to become the Ladies' Champion and 7th overall.

Eddie Pope



Club Comet Associations Championships Bowmoor SC

Date 23/09/2023 to 24/09/2023

Boat No.	Helm	Age Category	Club	Sail type	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total	O/A	Pos
788	Andy Dale	Veteran	EySC	S	3	5	3	1	1	13	8	1
377	Eddie Pope	Ancient Mariner	OgSC	Xw	1	2	2	4	4	13	9	2
597	Ben Palmer	Adult	BWSC	S	2	4	5	2	2	15	10	3
358	Tobias Hancox	Adult	EySC	S	4	3	7	5	3	22	15	4
867	Chris Robinson	Veteran	BrSC	S	7	8	6	3	5	29	21	5
126	Alan Bennett	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	5	1	12	6	DNS	50	24	6
894	Jacky Stagg	Veteran	BoSC	Xw	9	6	4	10	9	38	28	7
231	Steve Gregory	Ancient Mariner	FPSC	Xw	8	9	9	9	RET	61	35	8
311	Stephen Bellamy	Ancient Mariner	WFSC	Xw	10	13	11	8	7	49	36	9
864	Peter Mountford	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	6	11	19	7	DNS	69	43	10
705	Martin Loud	Ancient Mariner	WFSC	Xw	12	16	17	12	6	63	46	11
532	John Coppenhall	Ancient Mariner	HuSC	S	13	15	18	11	8	65	47	12
849	Tim Higgs	Ancient Mariner	BrSC	Xw	18	DNS	8	13	10	75	49	13
639	Caroline Doran	Veteran	BoSC	Xw	16	10	DNS	14	11	77	51	14
902	David Peacock	Ancient Mariner	SeSC	Xw	OCS	7	1	DNS	DNS	86	60	15
695	Ken Baker	Ancient Mariner	SWSC	Xw	11	12	13	DNS	DNS	88	62	16
433	Stephen Dale	Veteran	EySC	S	15	20	21	15	12	83	62	17
868	Helen Evans	Veteran	SWSC	Xw	17	14	14	DNS	DNS	97	71	18
779	Jackie Light	Ancient Mariner	BoSC	Xw	14	17	16	DNS	DNS	99	73	19
400	John Sturgeon	Ancient Mariner	HLSC	Xw	19	19	15	DNS	DNS	105	79	20
908	Andy Simmons	Ancient Mariner		Xw	DNS	DNS	10	DNS	DNS	114	88	21
904	Nick Baber	Ancient Mariner	NSC	Xw	20	21	22	DNS	DNS	115	89	22
614	Carol Butcher	Ancient Mariner	HLSC	Xw	DNS	18	20	DNS	DNS	116	90	23
845	Nigel Fern	Ancient Mariner	SHSC		DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	130	104	24
694	Alun Bevan	Adult	MTSC		DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	130	104	25



Association Champion
Andy Dale
© Jacqui Sturgeon



1st Veteran - Chris Robinson
© Jacqui Sturgeon



1st Ancient Mariner
Alan Bennett
© Jacqui Sturgeon



1st Lady – Jacky Stagg
© Jacqui Sturgeon

Comet Open Redesmere Sailing Club

The weather was fine with a fairly steady southerly which is great for Redesmere as the first leg can be a beat the length of the mere. By the third race the wind had veered to SSW and the rain came.

The OD set a figure of eight course, taxing the helms skill at avoiding the wind shadows on the west shore.

In all the races the fleet quickly spread out into a leading group of visitors followed by the locals.

All the starts were very clean, no one over the line. Immediately after the start of the first race, all still on starboard, Eddie Pope tacked but had straight away to tack back and to do his turns! He soon recovered. The OD later commented that all the helms were so well behaved, acknowledging their mistakes and duly doing paying their penalty turns.

In the first race Dave Turtle got away and there was no catching him.



© Carole Sparkes

Eddie Pope then took the second race closely followed by Steve Bellamy. Going into the final race there was all to play for, and whilst Eddie did dominate the 3rd race there was fierce competition for second, third and fourth place right up to the last mark, with Chris Robinson snatching 2nd.

Lower down there was close competition in that race between two of the Redesmere helms and Martin Loud, with Martin holding off the local Ancient Mariners!



© Carole Sparkes

From the club house it was noticeable how skilfully the lead boats rounded mark 8 (a reach to a beat) in the classic text book way: come in wide and leave close.

Guy Benson.

Club		Redesmere Sailing Club								
Date		30/09/2023								
Boat No.	Helm	Age Category	Club	Sail type	R1	R2	R3	Total	O/A	Pos
377	Eddie Pope	Ancient Mariner	OgSC	Xw	2	1	1	5	2	1
815	Dave Turtle	Ancient Mariner	ShSC	Xw	1	3	3	7	4	2
311	Steve Bellamy	Ancient Mariner	WFSC	Xw	3	2	4	9	5	3
865	Chris Robinson	Veteran	BrSC	Xw	4	4	2	10	6	4
705	Martin Loud	Ancient Mariner	WFSC	Xw	5	6	5	16	10	5
834	Phil Blakeman	Ancient Mariner	ReSC	Xw	7	5	7	19	12	6
851	Jeff Smith	Ancient Mariner	ReSC	Xb	6	7	6	19	12	7
428	Guy Benson	Ancient Mariner	ReSC	S	8	8	8	24	16	8
730	Claire Scrafton	Adult	ReSC	S	9	9	9	27	18	9

Winsford Flash Comet Open

Great turnout of 23 entries at WFSC Comet Open with 15 local sailors and 8 visitors. Travellers came as far from Essex and Bristol and we had 3 juniors.

Weather conditions on the day were light variable winds with some rain.

Race 1.

Race officer and team did a great job of getting the fleet away on the first start at 11am. A tight battle took place between Eddie Pope, Pete Chambers and Pete Coop. Throughout the rest of the fleet, there were lots of place changes due to the shifty conditions.

After several place changes at the front, Pete Coop finally came through to take the win, followed by Pete Chambers in 2nd and Eddie Pope in 3rd. All 3 boats finished within 15 seconds of each other.

The fleet adjourned for lunch break, which included Cottage pie, sticky toffee pudding and apple crumble provided by the excellent catering team at WFSC.

Race 2 took place after a short postponement to allow the wind to fill in. Yet again, the fleet got away cleanly. Pete Coop led the race from start to finish, followed by Eddie Pope in 2nd and Ben Palmer in 3rd

There was not enough wind to start the final race, so only 2 races completed with no discards.

Overall results 1st Pete Coop, 2nd Eddie Pope, 3rd Dave Turtle, 1st Junior and Lady Jessica Skelding.

Thanks were given to race team, travelling sailors, rescue boat and catering teams. Everyone shared an impressive Comet Open cake made by Ros Stevenson to finish.

Charlotte Coop

Club		Winsford Flash Sailing Club								
Date		01/10/2023								
Boat No.	Helm	Age Category	Club	Sail type	R1	R2	Total	O/A	Pos	
610	Pete Coop	Ancient Mariner	WFSC		1	1	2	2	1	
377	Eddie Pope	Ancient Mariner	OgSC		3	2	5	5	2	
815	Dave Turtle	Ancient Mariner	SuSC		5	4	9	9	3	
437	Pete Chambers		WFSC		2	11	13	13	4	
867	Chris Robinson	Veteran	BrSC		4	9	13	13	5	
889	Victoria Skelding	Adult	WFSC		9	5	14	14	6	
311	Stephen Bellamy	Ancient Mariner	WFSC		8	6	14	14	7	
126	Alan Bennett	Ancient Mariner	SHSC		6	8	14	14	8	
788	Andy Dale	Veteran	EySC		7	10	17	17	9	
597	Ben Palmer	Adult	BWSC		15	3	18	18	10	
877	Charlotte Coop	Veteran	WFSC		12	7	19	19	11	
643	Finley Monks		WFSC		10	13	23	23	12	
888	Ros Stevenson	Ancient Mariner	WFSC		11	15	26	26	13	
349	Zoe Goodden		WFSC		16	12	28	28	14	
705	Martin Loud	Ancient Mariner	WFSC		17	14	31	31	15	
864	Peter Mountford	Ancient Mariner	SHSC		14	17	31	31	16	
745	Fiona Niddrie	Ancient Mariner	WFSC		13	19	32	32	17	
690	Carl Ellis	Veteran	WFSC		20	16	36	36	18	
864B	Nigel Fern	Ancient Mariner	SHSC		18	18	36	36	19	
697	Janet Gaukroger	Ancient Mariner	WFSC		19	20	39	39	20	
98	Claudie Black	Veteran	WFSC		21	21	42	42	21	
702	Jim Murie		WFSC		23	22	45	45	22	
739	Mel Randell		WFSC		22	23	45	45	23	

Staunton Harold Comet Open **14th October**

The final Comet Open of the year was held on a sunny, chilly day with good westerly wind forecast. It was a joint event with 7 Solos. As well as Midland based helms it was good to see other visitors from South Wales, Reading, Bristol and Devon. There were 7 home boats, 12 visitors and it was good to see 4 ladies on the water.

In race 1 the line had a heavily port biased line as the wind was shifting a lot and it was best to tack as soon as possible. This course had 3 beats, 2 reaches and a long run. Nigel Austin 875 (Cransley) was first to the windward mark closely followed by home sailor Alan Bennett 126. Close behind were Ben Palmer 597 (Baltic Wharf), Eddie Pope 377 (Ogston) and Dave Turtle 815 (Shustoke).



©Matt Smith

Alan managed to get past Nigel at the second windward mark going onto the long run. Dave worked his way through and was on the tail of Alan going down the run on the second lap, managing to get past him at the end. These two pulled away with Eddie managing a good 3rd and Nigel 4th.

Nigel Fern (SHSC) got a great result in 7th with which he was highly delighted! So much so he turtled his Comet after the finish!

The wind was a lovely F3 with F4 gusts so planing was occurring!

Race 2 after lunch had 2 beats, 2 reaches and a long run. The temperature had gone up as had the wind F3 and gusts F4 generally. Chris Robinson 867 (Burghfield) was first to the windward mark followed by Alan, and this held for the first half of the race. During the second half of the race what was a long beat turned into a fetch with a strength drop. Boats behind, more by luck than judgement, were able to sail around the 2 leaders. Chris held on to second, Eddie won with Dave third, then Ben, Nigel and Alan.

There were 4 boats who could win the event going into the last race. The wind went up a notch now to F3 to F4 with many sailors deciding to retire and pack up early for their trip home.

The course stayed the same with very close racing between Dave, Eddie and Chris with them finishing in that order, which happened to be the same as the overall result! Ben was 4th, Nigel 5th, Becky Priest 6th, and Alan 7th.

A good day was had by all so thanks to the club, race team, catering, safety and Matt Smith for the pictures.

Alan Bennett. SHSC.

Club Staunton Harold Sailing Club										
Date 14/10/2023										
Boat No.	Helm	Age Category	Club	Sail type	R1	R2	R3	Total	O/A	Pos
815	Dave Turtle	Ancient Mariner	SuSC	Xw	1	3	1	5	2	1
377	Eddie Pope	Ancient Mariner	OgSC	Xw	3	1	2	6	3	2
867	Chris Robinson	Veteran	BrSC	Xw	6	2	3	11	5	3
126	Alan Bennett	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	2	6	7	15	8	4
597	Ben Palmer	Adult	BWSC	S	5	4	4	13	8	5
875	Nigel Austin	Ancient Mariner	CrSC	Xw	4	5	5	14	9	6
683	Becky Priest		SHSC	Xb	10	8	6	24	14	7
311	Stephen Bellamy	Ancient Mariner	WFSC	Xw	8	7	8	23	15	8
845	Nigel Fern	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	7	11	DNC	38	18	9
864	Peter Mountford	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	9	9	10	28	18	10
694	Alun Bevan	Adult	MTSC	Xw	11	13	9	33	20	11
705	Martin Loud	Ancient Mariner	WFSC	Xw	12	15	11	38	23	12
688	Richard Barnett	Ancient Mariner	#N/A	Xw	14	12	12	38	24	13
849	Tim Higgs	Ancient Mariner	BrSC	Xw	16	10	DNC	46	26	14
835	Sue Jones	Veteran	NSC	Xb	13	14	DNC	47	27	15
527	Dave Waymont	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	15	17	DNC	52	32	16
740	Steve Boud	Ancient Mariner	SHSC	Xw	17	16	DNC	53	33	17
351	Ellie Kirkwood		NSC	M	DNC	18	DNC	58	38	18

COMET RACING TIPS FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATES

STARTING

1. Get to the start line at least 5 minutes before the start sequence
2. Check which end of the line is favoured
3. Time an approach to the favoured end of the line
4. Practice holding a position or just creeping forward.
5. Try to maintain space to start
6. Keep close to the line at all times
7. Try to cross the line at full beat speed
8. If in "dirty" wind tack away as soon as you can

TACKING

1. Roll tack in force 1-3.
2. Minimise tiller movement - try to get body movement and tiller in sync
3. Centralise tiller straight after the tack
4. Lots of practice needed - you will know when you have done a good tack because the boat will power away

WIND SHIFTS ON BEATS

1. Watch the wind hawk/luff/telltales for lifts - you can gain a lot of distance by heading up in lifts - concentrate really hard!
2. Watch the wind hawk/luff/telltales for headers - you should also be able to feel it due to loss of boat momentum. You can gain a lot of distance by an early tack if the header is significant. However not all headers are significant or long-lasting, so may not be appropriate to tack on - if so bear away to maintain speed.
3. Wind shifts on beats can also be spotted by looking at what other boats around and ahead of you are doing - glance out of the boat regularly.

WIND SHIFTS OFF WIND

1. Watch the wind hawk/burgee/luff/tell tales. Adjust sail to match the wind shift, and maintain course to next mark
2. Wind shifts off wind can be spotted by looking at what other boats around and behind you are doing - glance out of the boat regularly.
3. On runs gains can be made by gybing in the wind shifts or by running by the lee.

GYBING - REACHES

1. Roll gybe in force 1-3
2. Sort out sail controls and daggerboard just before the mark for the post-gybe leg
3. Minimise tiller movement - try to get body movement and tiller in sync
4. Centralise tiller as the boom comes over
5. Lots of practice needed - you will know when you have done a good gybe because the boat will power away towards the next mark

GYBING - RUNS

1. Try to roll gybe in light winds while maintaining course to next mark
2. In strong winds gybe broad reach to broad reach for stability, then resume course
3. In very strong winds might be better to wear round to tack - capsizes are slow! Efficient wear round is a tricky task, with good coordination and very quick sheeting required - practice!

GUSTS

1. On beats try to maintain course while keeping the boat flat - if necessary let out the boom a bit then bring in after the gust finishes.
2. On reaches bear away in the gusts to promote planing, then bear up to resume normal course after the gust finishes.
3. On runs the main cause of capsizes. To stop this try a combination of bringing in the boom, lowering the daggerboard if in a high position, and tightening the kicker if loose. If “rocking & rolling” head up - don’t bear away.

MARK ROUNDING

1. Sort out sail controls and dagger board just before the mark for the next leg, or at the mark if a run follows
2. Be aware of the position and rights of the boats around you
3. Plan your space and approach to get close to the mark at rounding - this could mean an early gybe when going from a run to a beat or slowing up to follow another boat with rights at the mark. Lots of distance will be lost if mark rounding is not close.
4. If other boats leave a massive gap at the mark, but they have rights, only go into the gap if you don’t interfere with them. I know it’s tempting, but you might get caught out!

Eddie Pope

COMETS FOR SALE & WANTED

For Sale



Comet 219

Comet 219, Post Office red hull and silver grey deck, built 1988 and in very good condition for year. Spars, dagger board, lifting rudder stock and tiller extension and sail all in very good condition. As new sheet and ropes set. Little use recently. Road trailer with spare wheels, Banks top cover and Bramber galvanised folding launching trolley.

Ready to sail! Available to view in Dorset.

£900 ONO

Phone 07582 880328



Comet 311 White Xtra

2 sails, one for club racing one almost new. Sails are stored rolled around tubes and dry.

Combi trailer and Comet launching trolley.

Centre and aft sheeting.

Stainless steel bailer.

Flat cover in good condition.

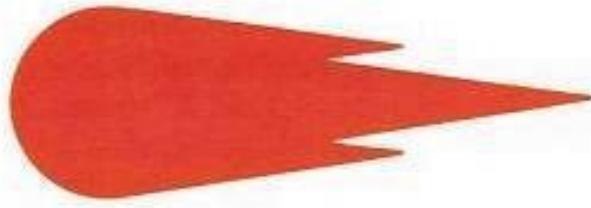
Mast step recently checked ok by the builder and drain hole drilled.

10th place Comet Nationals 2023, 9th place Association championships.

Located in Cheshire.

£1500

email: steveincheshire@gmail.com



Comet Class Association

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

Perihelion 143

Will there be one?

No editor = no Perihelion