



Comet Class Association

Crawley Mariners YC Comet Open 14th September 2024

Donal Roche

Seven visitors travelled some considerable distances to Hedgecourt Lake for the Crawley Mariners Y.C. Comet open meeting on Saturday 14th September. They were joined by four home boats for the racing. The early morning was sunny but windless. Fortunately, and much to the RO's relief, a moderate if gusty westerly wind settled in about eleven. Eddie Pope, Ogston SC took the lead early on in race one followed by Jeff Smith, CMYC. Eddie held this position through to finish first. Race two followed a similar pattern for first and second with Annette Walter, Welwyn Garden City SC working her way up into third place. Fortified by a hot lunch the fleet took to the water to resume combat. In race three the order after rounding the two windward marks on lap one was Chris Robinson, Burghfield SC, from Eddie. At the gybe mark Eddie seized his opportunity, gybed inside to retake the lead position. Further back in the fleet there was lots of place changing augmented by the gusty conditions. After a poor start Jeff Smith worked his way up through the fleet to second place by lap three. On the final leg Eddie opted to go right, Jeff and Chris went left. Jeff just managed to complete his tack back onto starboard finishing half a boat length ahead of Eddie. Chris was third followed by Annette sailing with her three year old daughter aboard. In Race four Chris Robinson took an early lead and made no mistakes to secure a first place finish followed by Jeff and Eddie.

The day had some very exciting, close quarters racing and demonstrated how well suited the Comet is to small lake sailing.

Overall Results:

1st Eddie Pope, Ogston S.C; 2nd Jeff Smith, Crawley Mariners Y.C; 3rd Chris Robinson, Burghfield S.C; 4th Annette Walter, Welwyn Garden City S.C.

Pos.	Sail No.	Name	Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Points
1	377	Eddie Pope	Ogston	1	1	2	3	4
2	872	Jeff Smith	CMYC	2	2	1	2	5
3	867	Chris Robinson	Burghfield	5	4	3	1	8
4	323	Annette Walter	WGCSC	3	5	4	6	12
5	532	John Coppenhall	Hunts	9	3	10	4	16
6	809	Simon Thompson	CMYC	4	7	7	5	16
7	903	Simon Pratt	Chipstead	10	6	5	7	18
8	868	Helen Evans	Silver Wing	6	9	6	10	21
9	174	Meg Warren	Chipstead	7	8	8	9	23
10	518	Michael Thompson	CMYC	8	RTD	9	8	25
11	516	Ian Burroughs	CMYC	11	10	11	11	32

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Pictures by Celina Giersz