



COMET CLASS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to Covid 19 a postal/email ballot took place

There were 20 members that took part in the voting.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 26 August 2019 at Fishers Green were circulated before the meeting.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes. 15 members voted a true record with 5 Abstaining

3. Reports

Chairman's Report – John Sturgeon

This is my last report as Chairman of the CCA. When I began three years ago I never imaged we could have a season like this one. In the past we have had the odd meeting cancelled through bad weather or a lake clogged with weed, but a whole season lost to a virus is just in another league. With a bit of luck we might get one or two events towards the end of the season but the prospect does not look hopeful.

The Committee held its usual meeting in February. Liz Hossell kindly hosted it at her house and here we planned the year's activities. However, in June, with everything cancelled up to that point, we held an additional meeting by Zoom to discuss what we might arrange for the rest of the year. We reluctantly agreed to abandon the Championships at Bala. At the time we wondered whether our decision may have been premature. Now it is clear we made the right call as Bala has cancelled its regatta which was due to be held at the same time. In June we also agreed a revised method of calculating the results for this year's Orbital, provided we can hold at least two events, and to abandon the Aphelions. We will just have to see whether we can get a couple of events in at the end of September or October. Fingers crossed at the moment because the future does not seem very clear for open sailing meetings and each club has its own individual procedures based on its own circumstances.

At the moment it seems the best thing is just to get out on the water at your local club, enjoy your sailing, and hope the good weather lasts a while longer. Though, as I write this report thunder and lightning are raging all around me as the heat wave breaks. Personally, I have been disappointed not to be able to sail this year, having had to miss a lot of last year's events. My wife though is happier that there are now less weeds in the garden and we have a heavy crop of runner beans.

Before I end I must thank all the Committee members for working hard on our behalf. The most frustrated must be Steve Gregory who after having spent so long compiling an excellent sailing programme saw it turn to dust in front of his eyes. In particular many thanks are due to Liz for all her work keeping things in order as well as reminding us of actions needed to keep our association going during the long period of Lockdown and the other Covid restrictions.

I hope you all keep safe and well and I am looking forward to a better year in 2021.

Secretary Report – Liz Hossell

Just a short Report mainly on our Skype and then Zoom meeting the Committee had at the beginning of July. We managed to discuss all the important items coming up to the end of the Season (that never really started). Here are a few points from that meeting.

- Cancellation of the Nationals at Bala – this wasn't taken lightly and was for the safety of all concerned. The prospect of going there in 2021 is looking good.
- It was decided in line with the Constitution to hold a postal/ email ballot for Motions for the AGM to be put forward. Nigel Fern and I have set out a timetable to make all this happen. All we need is members' responses to the Ballot form which will be sent out with the Agenda.
- One of the Motions was for Temporary Membership which we used for the Nationals last year to be formalised and this will be one of the Motions and will be added to the Constitution.
- We had a lengthy discussion on the Open circuit and what was left of it if lockdown is raised. Chris Robinson has proposed an Orbital Traveller Series to take into account any meetings that can take place. Members have been circulated with this and it should be on the website. Thanks to Chris for this.
- The Association have registered interest in the Dinghy Show for 2021. This is to be at a new location in Farnborough.
All other discussions you will find in Motions for the AGM. Please find time to vote for these as this is the time the Members can have their say in how we move forward within the Association.

Hope to see you all if we get an Open Meeting this year or failing that enjoy what Sailing you can have at your own Club.

Event Coordinator Report – Steve Gregory

About 35 events were planned for this year, but due to the Covid-19 crisis, all have been cancelled so far.

My brand new C231 White Xtra sail has remained under cover, untried this year – I haven't even worked out how to rig it yet, but will hopefully get the opportunity to travel to an event in the autumn.

I am sailing C57 at Frensham Pond SC most weeks now. They've switched mainly to pursuit racing, which is great for a lone Comet, as I'm not left on the start line fighting with everyone else's dirty air and it's nice to have some real drama at the finish too.

The signs for the autumn are not auspicious though, so my thoughts are now turning to 2021 and a return to some sort of normality? The ideal scenario is that all our clubs agree to transfer their 2020 fixtures to the same week in 2021 (I can only dream that it will be that easy). Of course, the bank holidays will all be different, so sounds more like a fleeting pipe dream. Anyway I'll start from that premise and see where it gets me.

The great news is that Bala SC have agreed to do exactly that, so the 2021 Nationals will be there over August Bank Holiday (fingers and everything else crossed). I've never been there but, have kept my accommodation for this year's cancelled event, so will drop by and have a chat over this Bank Holiday. They're a very friendly club and are really keen for us to join them at their 2021 Regatta

News editor Report – Nigel Fern

As a committee we were concerned about the spiralling costs of Perihelion and initially decided to drop from 4 to 3 issues per year. This proved workable but the overall content remained the more or less the same. There were some organisational problems that were not fully ironed out especially regarding the Dinghy Show and Open Calendar. We then looked at a digital publication via e-mail

which cut costs greatly. The presentation of a digital Perihelion can be the same as the traditional version or as a Page by Page version for those who prefer to read down the pages rather than print off their own booklet. This doubling up takes a little more time but it is do-able. The last edition of Perihelion was produced in these two formats. Unfortunately the Covid19 virus has put paid to the deadline of September 1st for P131 but Perihelion will return at some stage in the future.

The web site has also stagnated with only yet another 'Cancelled' to be added to Home and 2020 Results pages together with a few Classifieds to add / delete.

As you will, hopefully, have noticed Facebook is now being regularly used to update the whole Comet community on all matters Comet.

If you have any ideas as to how we can further promote the Association please get in touch.

Membership Secretary Report – Eddie Pope

Total membership for 2020 stands at 76. This is made up of 69 individual members, 4 honorary members, 2 junior members and 1 family member. Within this total are 9 new members - 6 individual, 2 junior and 1 family.

34 members from 2019 have failed to rejoin, including a few helms who regularly attended events in recent years. The impact of Covid on our 2020 events will have contributed to this loss of members.

4. Builder's Report – Andy Simmons – Comet Dinghies

It's traditionally time that I recap on what's been happening at Comet Dinghies since the last AGM.

Wow, what a year! After years of indecision and back biting, by the time we got to the start of 2020 I finally thought that whatever your leanings, leave, remain or whatever, life would settle down with a more positive attitude. If only!

I'll get off my soap box now and recap on what's been going on business wise. 2019 saw the second full season with the White Xtra. I think it's been a success, it's kept me afloat and I believe good for the Class. The reefing version became available in the new year with twenty sold so far, making the total of White Xtra's about eighty-five.

Three new Comets were built, two for Chipstead and another one for stock, which I took to Mylor in the Fal estuary, Cornwall. I've only sailed it a few times F2 gusting F3! I hadn't sailed one for three years, (when I was developing the White Xtra), but thoroughly enjoyed it and was pleasantly reminded what a great little dinghy Comets are. My five-year-old grandson was on the beach and asked his dad if he could come out with me. What a delight! I started to explain all the theory about the sail and wind etc. but I quickly shut up and enjoyed him being blown away by the marvel of it all.

Hopefully, this next year can only be better for Comet sailing. I'm still slightly on the lookout for someone with more youth and enthusiasm to take on the Comet business. Essentially, it's viable as a "hobby business" but with a fresh approach to websites etc. could be financially and personally rewarding for the right person.

Until then, I'm happy to carry on and hope to see you soon.

5. Treasurer Report and Adoption of Accounts attached. Proposed Rhiain Bevan Seconded Nigel Fern

Membership income has kept fairly stable in 2019 when compared to previous years. Income in total is up slightly due to the sale of Comet No. 1 in 2019.

The costs of producing Perihelion continue to rise and are the biggest expense to the Association. However they are showing particularly high in 2019 as the winter edition was sent out and paid for in December 2019 rather than early January 2020, meaning we have the costs of four editions rather

than the usual three. This has contributed to the overall deficit for the year, however will lead to lower costs in 2020.

The cash held in the bank is lower as at 31 December 2019 than in previous years due to the requirement to pay for the dinghy show in full in December rather than the deposit required in previous years. This is a timing issue of the spend, and we continue to hold a good level of reserves in the bank.

The 20 members all voted to accept the accounts

6. Consideration of Motions:

Motion One. – Proposed - Nigel Fern. Seconded - Chris Robinson

In the event that an AGM cannot be held in the normal face to face manner, that computer based voting is allowed alongside postal voting. (Computer based meaning any electronic device that enables a member to register their preference via e.g. an on line database system).

Acceptance of this motion involves the amendment to the constitution to add in Section 5,

j. Where the constitution requires a postal vote or ballot, the committee may make alternative voting options available alongside postal voting, e.g. an electronic return or registration of a vote. All returns shall be made to the Secretary within two weeks of the date of sending of the ballot paper and the removal of “In the event of a postal ballot all returns shall be made to the Secretary within two weeks of the date of posting the ballot paper.” from Section 7e to tidy it up.

Passed by all 20 members who voted.

To be added to the Constitution

Motion Two. - Proposed - Andy Simmons Seconded - Paul Hinde

That the relevant changes to the Class Measurement Rules be adopted as follows.

Protection of One Design

2f. A Comet may be rigged in one of four configurations – Standard Rig, Mino Rig, Xtra or White Xtra Rig. The White Xtra Rig may have the option of a reef in the sail. A Comet may have more than one rig configuration, but shall only be rigged as one configuration at any point in time.

Standard Rig: Shall use a Standard Mast, Standard Sail and a Standard Boom.

Mino Rig: Shall use a Mino Mast, Mino Sail and either a Mino Boom or a Standard Boom

Xtra Rig: Shall use an Xtra Mast, Xtra Sail and either an Xtra Boom, Mino Boom or a Standard Boom.
White Xtra rig: Shall use a Xtra Mast, Sail and either an Xtra Boom, Mino Boom or a Standard Boom

11 Aperatures in Hull Skin (additional)

e. Drain hole in hull/mast tube. Maximum 4mm.

f. Breather hole in deck. Maximum 2mm

24a Boom

Xtra Boom: Maximum 2560mm. Minimum 2475mm.

25p Sail (additional)

A Reefing White Xtra Sail shall be considered to be a White Xtra Sail in regard to the Class Rules with the following additional details:

i. Sail Colour: Reefing tack, clew and tie patches to be white.

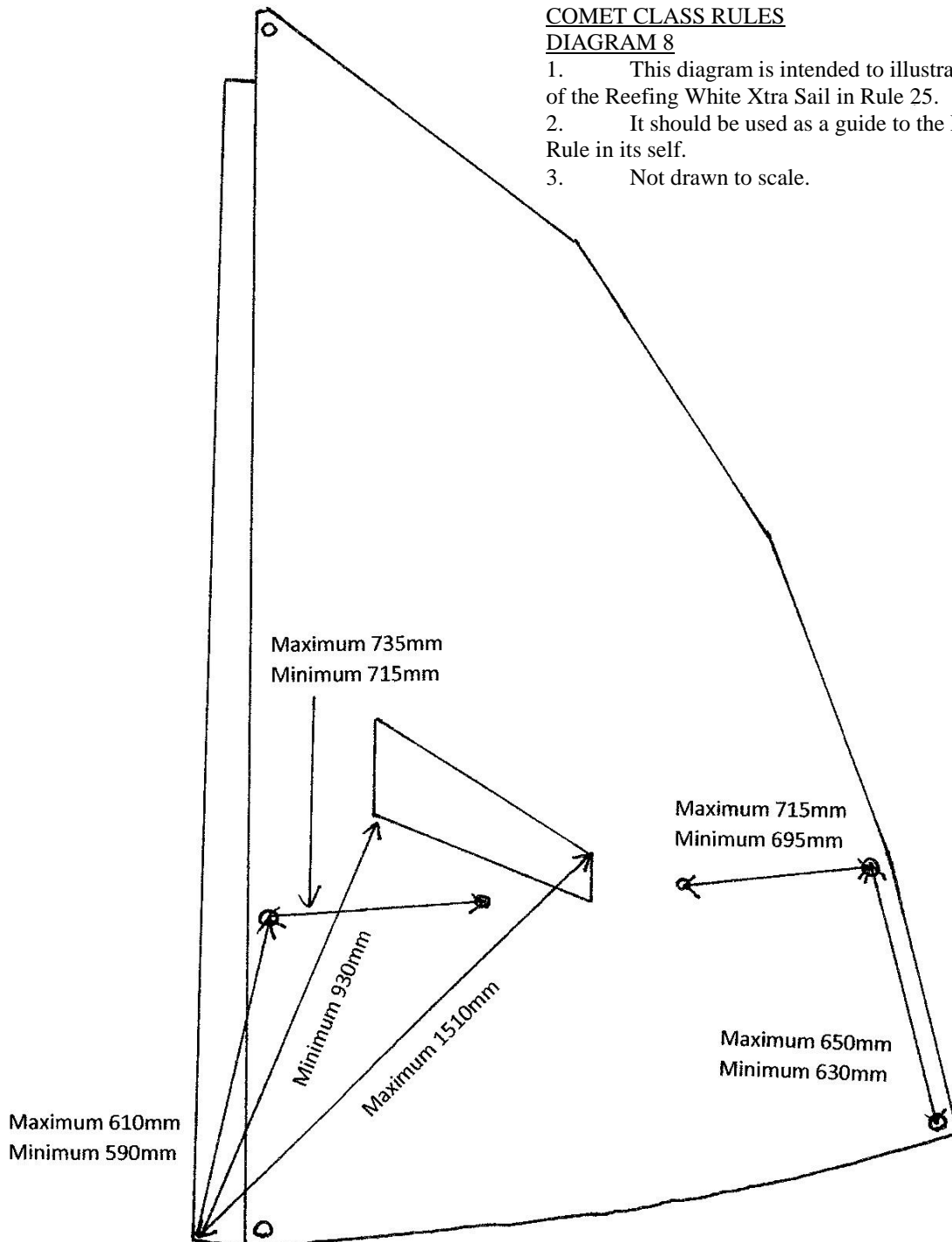
- ii. Sail Window: Two windows only shall be fitted. Additional window shall be fitted entirely in third panel from foot. No edge shall be less than 70mm from any seam between panels. Lowest distance from lowest forward luff sleeve to front of window, minimum 930mm. Distance from lower forward luff sleeve to aft edge of window - maximum 1510mm.
- iii Reefing Tack Position. Centre of cringle to lower forward corner of luff sleeve. Maximum 610mm. Minimum 590mm.
- iv. Reefing Clew Position. Centre of cringle to centre of clew cringle. Maximum 650mm. Minimum 630mm
- v. Reefing Tie Positions. Centre of forward cringle to reefing tack cringle. Maximum 610mm. Minimum 590mm. Centre of aft cringle to reefing clew cringle. Maximum 715mm. Minimum 695mm.

Additional – new diagram

COMET CLASS RULES

DIAGRAM 8

1. This diagram is intended to illustrate various aspects of the Reefing White Xtra Sail in Rule 25.
2. It should be used as a guide to the Rules and is not a Rule in its self.
3. Not drawn to scale.



Passed by the members who voted 19 for and 1 against

Motion Three – Association Membership fee 2021

Proposed Rhian Bevan seconded by the Committee

All members of the Association within 2020 will have the option to join in 2021 for 50% discount of the membership fee. This is due to the lack of activity with the Association in 2020 and recognising that we still incurred some costs within 2020 (Dinghy Show, RYA affiliation fees). All other membership rates remain the same for 2021.

Passed by 19 members who voted with one abstained

Motion Four - Temporary Membership Proposed Rhian Bevan seconded by the Committee

Temporary Membership – Formal proposal to make a Temporary membership for sailors wanting to take part in Association or National Championships but didn't want to continue membership. They will not receive a Perihelion or voting rights and that it be half of full membership price. Acceptance of this proposal involves amendment to the Constitution to add into Section 4

Passed by those members who voted 18 for, 1 No, 1 Abstained

To be added to the Constitution Section 4 v

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Chairman : Peter Mountford - Proposed: Nigel Fern – Seconded: David Waymont

Committee – Results Secretary - Ben Palmer -Proposed: Michael Ettershank – Seconded: Isla MacNeal

Norah Jagers has volunteered to be Trophies Organiser next year but not be on the Committee.

The Committee now consists of **Chairman** – Peter Mountford, **Secretary** – Liz Hossell, **Treasurer** – Rhian Bevan, **Membership Secretary** – Eddie Pope, **Events Coordinator** – Steve Gregory, **Results Secretary** – Ben Palmer, **Editor / Webmaster** – Nigel Fern, **Committee member** – Steve Bellamy, **Dinghy Show Coordinator** – Chris Robinson

There were no other nominations or objections so these were all voted en bloc with existing members of the Committee.

Farewell Comments

On behalf of the Association I would like to thank Peter Mountford for agreeing to stand as Chairman and welcome him into his new post. I also welcome Ben Palmer as our new Results Secretary. Many thanks too to all the Committee members who are staying on for another year.

I thank all the Committee for the work and support they have given over the last 3 years, especially Liz, our Secretary. Liz and Nigel Fern have worked hard to organise this unusual AGM so that we could get the necessary business of the Association completed to allow us to function going forward and they deserve a special thanks.

I don't know what will happen to the rest of the events for this year, I have my fingers crossed for Staunton Harold. I wish you all safe and happy sailing at your own clubs, and hope to see many of you at future Open Meetings in 2021.

John Sturgeon

8. **Appointment of Auditor.** Thanks to Helen Leivers for Auditing the Accounts this year. Helen has agreed to do it again next year.

Liz Hossell
Class Secretary