

Comet Class Association

Winsford Flash SC Comet Open, Saturday 18th May 2024

Carl Ellis (WFSC Comet Fleet Capt)

WFSC hosted the Comet Open on Sunday 18th May 2024 in fantastic weather, the sun was out 20° heat and wind was blowing from the North 6.3kts at the start of the day later switching to North East wind 5.8kts with 13kts gusts throughout the event.

The club is in the centre of the county of Cheshire and attracted 20 boats in all from across the country and some opted to stay the night before and joined in the social event held at the club. Helms travelled as far as Merthyr Tydfil, Chipstead, Staunton Harold, Burghfield and Ogston.



Picture: Carl Ellis

There was one race before lunch and two back-to-back races in the afternoon, the race team set some excellent courses making good use of the lake and conditions.



Picture: Carl Ellis



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The first race saw several helms taken on a port start which included local sailors Peter Chambers (437) and Kath Whittaker (293). First to the windward mark was Eddie Pope (377) closely followed by a tight pack with Peter Chambers (437) Peter Coop (610) and Chris Robinson (867). There was a dead patch of wind between markers 3 and 2 which saw the fleet bunch up. Jim Murie (706) got caught out on the first lap with a wind shift causing him to capsize at the back of the mid fleet.

Lap 1 the lead was taken by Peter Coop (610) and saw several changes in positioning mid fleet which saw local helm Kieth Sowley (349) move from 13th place to 7th. Peter Coop (610) finished the race 1st place, closely followed by Eddie Pope (377) 2nd and local junior helm Jess Skelding (608) having a great result taking 3rd.

There was a well-earned break for lunch provided by Kathy, Beth and contributions of a variety of cakes by Fiona, Linda and Carl. The wind shifted more North Easterly; the strength remained constant but with the good old wind shifts WFSC is well renowned to keep everyone focused.

The second race all helms took on a starboard start and saw local sailor Peter Chambers (437) with a flying start to take the lead closely followed by Chris Robinson (867) and Alan Bennet (126) all in strong positions from the start. The first mark saw Peter Coop (610) take the lead followed by Alan Bennett (126), Eddie Pope (377) then Peter Chambers (437) all tightly packed. Again, a series of wind shifts caught a few out and Fiona Nidri (745) who was on the tails of the leading pack capsized heading to first mark. The race was won by Peter Coop (610), 2nd Eddie Pope (377) and Peter Chambers (437) followed by Alan Bennet (126) in a closely fought finish for 3rd and 4th.

So, with Peter Coop (610) taking 1st in both of the two races he decided to take some well-earned rest and time to watch the final race of the day and what a race it was....

Race three the conditions remained the same, but local helm and junior Jess Skelding (608) tried to make the most of the start but was caught out with an individual recall which saw her return and while the rest of the fleet were off Jess was at least 2-3 boat lengths behind. First to the windward mark was Peter Chambers (437), closely followed by Eddie Pope (377) and Nigel Miller (727). The first lap saw third place switched with local sailor Martin Loud (705) reading the wind shifts well. Lap two and Peter Chambers (437) and Eddie Pope (377) were battling it out well ahead of the fleet both locked into tacking duels as they head back up the lake, however... both sailors managed to sail outside of the course during this epic tactical series of exchange. Both were disqualified which now saw local helms Martin Loud (705), Kieth Sowley (349) followed by Meg Warren (174) in 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The events then took another twist with all three of these sailors missing a mark and they too were disqualified... The lead took another big shift with local Jnr Jess Skelding (608) unexpectedly taking the lead. The race concluded in what can only be described as a dramatic turn of events with the win to Jess Skelding (608) keeping her head and cool to lead the fleet over the line, what a fantastic win for Jess. In 2nd place was Chris Robinson (867) and Alan Bennett (126) in 3rd.

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The day was concluded by prize-giving and a very welcome afternoon tea and tiffin for all with Peter Coop (610) overall winner, Jess Skelding (608) 2nd plus 1st Lady and 1st Jnr and 3rd Eddie Pope.

Thanks went to the race team, safety and galley whom all did a stelling task of operations behind the scene and on the water to ensure a successful event.



Picture: Carl Ellis

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Results are final as of 15:24 on May 16, 2024

Overall

Series: 3, Discards: 1, To count: 2, Rating system: PY, Entries: 25, Scoring system: Appendix A

Rank	Class	SailNo	Skipper Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total	Net
1st	COMET	610	Pete Cook	1.0	1.0	(21.0 DNC)	2.0	2.0
2nd	COMET	608	Joan Skelting	3.0	(9.0)	1.0	12.0	4.0
3rd	COMET	307	Eddie Pope	2.0	2.0	(18.0 DSC)	22.0	4.0
4th	COMET	667	Chris Robinson	(5.0)	5.0	2.0	13.0	7.0
5th	COMET	138	Alan Bennett	(4.0)	4.0	3.0	11.0	7.0
6th	COMET	457	Pete Chambers	5.0	3.0	(16.0 DSC)	24.0	8.0
7th	COMET	727	Nigel Miller	(10.0)	6.0	4.0	20.0	10.0
8th	COMET	174	Meg Warren	8.0	7.0	(10.0 DSC)	25.0	10.0
9th	COMET	860	Vicky Skelting	(16.0)	8.0	7.0	32.0	10.0
10th	COMET	897	Jane Dackinger	9.0	(10.0)	8.0	27.0	17.0
11th	COMET	894	Alan Sever	(15.0)	14.0	5.0	34.0	18.0
12th	COMET	349	Kath Sowley	7.0	12.0	(19.0 DSC)	37.0	18.0
13th	COMET	843	Linda Shaw	(17.0)	15.0	6.0	38.0	21.0
14th	COMET	745	Fiona Nairn	13.0	(21.0 DNC)	9.0	43.0	22.0
15th	COMET	554	Nick Gebor	12.0	(19.0)	10.0	33.0	22.0
16th	COMET	283	Catherine Whitaker	11.0	11.0	(21.0 DNC)	43.0	22.0
17th	COMET	705	Merle Lovel	14.0	15.0	(16.0 DSC)	45.0	27.0
18th	COMET	709	James Marle	(18.0)	17.0	11.0	46.0	28.0
19th	COMET	176	Richard Gibson	(19.0)	19.0 DNC	12.0	50.0	31.0
20th	COMET	630	Carl Cole	(21.0 DNC)	21.0 DNC	21.0 DNC	63.0	42.0

Results are final as of 15:27 on May 16, 2024

Ladies Fleet

Series: 3, Discards: 1, To count: 2, Rating system: PY, Entries: 7, Scoring system: Appendix A

Rank	Class	SailNo	Skipper Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total	Net
1st	COMET	608	Joan Skelting	1.0	(3.0)	1.0	4.0	2.0
2nd	COMET	174	Meg Warren	2.0	1.0	(7.0 DSC)	10.0	3.0
3rd	COMET	860	Vicky Skelting	(3.0)	3.0	5.0	12.0	5.0
4th	COMET	897	Jane Dackinger	3.0	(4.0)	4.0	11.0	7.0
5th	COMET	843	Linda Shaw	(7.0)	6.0	3.0	16.0	8.0
6th	COMET	283	Catherine Whitaker	4.0	5.0	(8.0 DNC)	17.0	9.0
7th	COMET	745	Fiona Nairn	3.0	(9.0 DNC)	5.0	18.0	10.0

Scoring codes used

Code	Description	Points
DNC	Did not come to the starting area	8
DSC	Disqualification	7

Sailwave Scoring Software 2.25.0
www.sailwave.com



Picture: Brian Herring

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Picture: Carl Ellis



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