



Comet Trio Nationals Sponsored by Noble Marine at Exe Sailing Club 12-14 August 2016

20 Trios, 6 visitors and 14 from the home club, gathered for the 18th Comet Trios Nationals sponsored by Noble Marine, the latest of many Trio Nationals to have been staged at Exe Sailing Club. The weather was set fair with light winds forecast for all three days but with almost no wind predicted for Sunday it was decided to stage an additional race on Friday in the hope that the scheduled 7 race series might be completed.

Friday 12 Aug 16

Race 1

The fleet launched and struggled to get out to the course on the last of the Northerly gradient wind. After a short period in the doldrums, a Southerly sea breeze of 7-8 kts filled in and the fleet made it out to the race course to enable the first race to be started on time. The Race Officer, Tim Graham, set a triangle, sausage, triangle course and the fleet got away at the first time of asking. Those that went up the port hand side of the course did well on the first beat with Andrew and Caroline McAusland from Exe SC, Sam and Chris Mayne from Hawley Lake and Steve Ashford and Martin Yeoman, Whitefriars, showing well. As the race progressed Andrew and Caroline pulled to the front and finished first ahead of Sam and Chris and Steve and Martin. Guy Farrant and Graham Sykes sailed a solid last beat to bring them up into 4th place.

Race 2

Race 2 got under way promptly around the same course with much the same wind as the first F2-3 and not much variation. The fleet got away on the first shout, and rapidly split into those looking to the left for less current, and those going right for more wind. At the first mark, those that went up the middle had made good ground. Andrew and Caroline again lead the fleet with Sam and Chris in second but Guy and Graham went one better and finished third with Bob and Colette Horlock from Exe SC in fourth.

Matt and John Andrews, visiting from Whitefriars rounded mark one in a good 8th place but as the wind fell away slipped back through the fleet ending up in 13th.

Race 3

The sea breeze kept up for the Race Officer to decide to run a third race on the day which mirrored the earlier two races with the group staying fairly close together in decreasing light wind conditions. The long haul up to the windward mark saw many dinghies splitting on to port tack just off the start line, but meeting up all very close at the first mark.

The first lap was triangular and the reach to the gybe mark saw some dinghies keeping their jibs out whilst others furled them due to the light winds. Little change in positions until after the gybe mark when one or two boats took advantage of luffing up just before the leeward mark. The second windward lap saw most of the dinghies going off on a long port tack with some achieving the mark on two tacks but losing out to others who strategically put in shorter tacks.

The second and final lap, following a shorten course signal, was a very disappointing sausage with the sea breeze dropping off. The first 5 boats managed to get through the line with Andrew and Caroline again in the lead, followed this time by Steve and Martin and Guy and Graham. However, the middle of the fleet stagnated just before the leeward mark and drifted ever so slowly to a bunch finish on the line. Matt and John fought through this bunch to take 6th place.



Saturday 13 Aug 16

Race 4

A weak weather front gave cloud cover on Saturday morning and the fleet was released early to run out down the buoyed channel against the neap flood. The wind would not settle and after a delay of about an hour Race 4 was started in a F2-3 SW around the by now familiar triangle, sausage, triangle. Guy Farrant, now sailing with Marilyn Booker was eased over the line by Andrew and Caroline and had to return round the pin end and set off below the fleet on port tack. Bob and Colette were first to the windward mark followed by Andrew and Caroline, Tony Brewster and Toby Elliot from Exe SC and Guy and Marilyn who had recovered well from their poor start. Bob and Colette held the lead until the final leeward mark where a well drilled tight mark rounding allowed Andrew and Caroline to roll over the top and snatch victory in the 50 m before the finish line! Tony and Toby held off Guy and Marilyn to take third place. Not bad for an eighty year old helm!

Race 5

The first attempt at a start was foiled by a group of boats in the middle of the line looking for a head start! The Race Officer recalled the fleet and successfully re-started with a black flag.

Determined to make up for being over-taken on the last mark in Race 4, team Horlock lead round the first mark, closely followed by the McAuslands. At last, the breeze began to freshen perhaps reaching 8 or 9 knots! The Trio Hum was heard sporadically down the

reaches and Bob and Colette slowly pulled out enough of a lead at the final windward mark to prevent Andrew and Caroline catching them before the leeward mark. A better mark rounding enabled Bob and Colette to hold on by less than a boat length to ensure that Andrew and Caroline didn't win every race! Third over the line were Sam and Chris followed by Mike and Anne Way from Exe SC.

Race 6

Race 6 was started but the wind failed with Andrew and Caroline happily sailing up the beat whilst several boats had yet to round the windward mark! The Race Officer wisely abandoned the race and soon the fleet was told to start making for home. Shortly afterwards the gradient wind kicked back in and the fleet happily sailed home having been on the water for about 5 hours.

Sunday 14 Aug 16

The forecast was correct! A light easterly raised hopes but the glassy patches on the water at sea told the true story. Racing was abandoned for the day and the prizes were duly handed out to the winners with thanks to the organisers, Race Officer, volunteers, competitors and of course our sponsors Noble Marine!



Bob Horlock

Combined Comet Class Association Secretary

Comet Trio Nationals 2016

Exe Sailing Club

Overall Results

Sailed: 5, Discards: 1, To count: 4, Entries: 20, Scoring system: Appendix A

Rank	Boat name	Sail No	Club	Helm	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total	Nett
1st	Piglet	472	ESC	Andrew McAusland	Caroline McAusland	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	(2.0)	6.0	4.0
2nd	Mayniac	348	Hawley Lake	Sam Mayne	Chris Mayne	2.0	2.0	4.0	(8.0)	3.0	19.0	11.0
3rd	Exe t'sea	394	ESC	Bob Horlock	Colette Horlock	(6.0)	4.0	5.0	2.0	1.0	18.0	12.0
4th	Go with the Flow	428	ESC	Guy Farrant	Graham Sykes/Marilynn Booker	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	(10.0)	24.0	14.0
5th	Scarlet Lady	476	Whitefriars	Steve Ashford	Martin Yeoman	3.0	10.0	2.0	(12.0)	7.0	34.0	22.0
6th	Tamsyn 2	475	ESC	Tony Brewster	Mike Davies/Toby Elliot	7.0	7.0	(9.0)	3.0	6.0	32.0	23.0
7th	Kingfisher	485	ESC	Mike Way	Anne Way	8.0	6.0	(10.0)	5.0	4.0	33.0	23.0
8th	Ariel	365	Hawley Lake	David Talbot	Mark McArthur	5.0	5.0	(11.0)	11.0	8.0	40.0	29.0
9th	Keiko	373	Whitefriars	John Andrews	Matt Andrews	12.0	(13.0)	6.0	6.0	11.0	48.0	35.0
10th	Cirrus	364	Cotswold	Symon Doliczny	Nol Doliczny	11.0	8.0	7.0	10.0	(16.0)	52.0	36.0
11th	Tatu	446	ESC	Martin Luce	Andrew Soper	9.0	12.0	(15.0)	15.0	5.0	56.0	41.0
12th	Dash	393	ESC	Symon Garratt	Don Blackett	(13.0)	9.0	12.0	13.0	9.0	56.0	43.0
13th	No Worries	368	ESC	Nick Webber	Richard Stradling	(15.0)	11.0	13.0	7.0	13.0	59.0	44.0
14th	Wild Thing	425	ESC	Freddie Woodcock	Debbie Woodcock	10.0	(15.0)	14.0	9.0	14.0	62.0	47.0
15th	Daisy	443	ESC	Keith Lawson	Hazel Lawson	14.0	14.0	8.0	(17.0)	15.0	68.0	51.0
16th	Celtic Blaze	429	ESC	Ian Upton	Mary Upton	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	(17.0)	81.0	64.0
17th	Robin	389	ESC	Michael Upton	Zita Morris	(21.0 DNC)	21.0 DNC	21.0 DNC	14.0	12.0	89.0	68.0
18th	Golden Hawk	316	Sutton Bingham SC	Stephen Sharp	Helen Harding	17.0	17.0	17.0	(20.0)	20.0	91.0	71.0
19th	Abigail Rose	457	ESC	Saul Tyler		(21.0 DNC)	21.0 DNC	21.0 DNC	18.0	18.0	99.0	78.0
20th	Red Alert	495	ESC	Patsy David	Tony David	(21.0 DNC)	21.0 DNC	21.0 DNC	19.0	19.0	101.0	80.0