

NOTICE OF RACE

Comet Open

Sunday 14th April 2024

Hosted and Organised by

The Nottingham Sailing Club

This Open Meeting is Part of the Northern Aphelion

This event will be sailed under the Racing Rules of Sailing with exceptions as listed in The Nottingham Sailing Club Open Meeting Sailing Instructions, available from the clubhouse on the day. These will be in the form of written instructions with any alterations given verbally at the pre-race meeting/briefing, to be held at 10:30am.

The event is for single handed Comets.

Registration / entries to be completed on the day, before 10:30am. Entry forms will be in the clubhouse on the morning of the event. Entrance fee: £11. All fees can be paid on the day by cash and hopefully we will also have a card reader available.

Comet Rigs: helms must nominate which of the Comet rigs they will use for the event (Standard, White Xtra, Xtra or Mino) on their entry form. Helms should not change rigs during the event. All rig types compete as equals.

Catering and Bar. A cooked lunch will be available for an extra cost (£4), to be paid in cash or by card on the day. Cheese and ham rolls will also be available at lunch time. Teas, coffees and snacks will be available for most of the event. The bar will be open at lunch time and after the final race.

Planning to Attend the Open Meeting? If possible, please let us know you are going to attend our Open Meeting by the Thursday evening before the event by sending an email to: comets@nottinghamsailing.club. This helps us with catering and race organisation. However, entries are open on the day, without any forward notice.

Race Format and Times: 3 scheduled races of approx 1 hour duration with one discard only if all 3 races are sailed. First Race: scheduled to start at 11am. No warning signal will be given on the day after 3:30pm.

Sailing Area and Landing Stages: The event is to be sailed on the River Trent. There are good landing stage / slipway facilities at the club.

Location: The Nottingham Sailing Club, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS. Do not use the postcode in a SatNav when you are close to the venue. See <https://www.nottinghamsailing.club/Location/> for further info about finding the club. **NB:** We are very close to, but **not** part of, the National Watersports Centre. We are based on the river with our entrance just BEFORE the road splits for the Watersports Centre car entrances. **DO NOT PARK IN NWC CAR PARKS – CHARGES APPLY!**

Parking: There is plenty of free parking space on-site. Just drive in past the Nottingham Sailing Club sign and follow the track as far as you can go. This will bring you close to the river and you can park where there is space. Please leave space for the Public Right of Way along the River Bank.

Clubhouse. We have a good clubhouse with good changing facilities.

Camping / Accommodation: There is a large “proper” camping and caravan site opposite the entrance which is open to the general public. See <https://www.nwscnotts.com/hpcp/short-breaks/>. We suggest you book in advance as there are sometimes large events at the National Watersports Centre. We do not usually provide camping accommodation on-site before or after an open meeting.

Conditions of Entry: The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner / competitor, or his crew as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner / competitor warrants the suitability of his dinghy for the race or races.

Insurance: Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000.

Prizes: will be awarded on the day of racing, after racing has been completed. The prize giving will be held either in the clubhouse, or in the immediate vicinity of the clubhouse.

Starts: The width of the river limits the number of boats starting at one time. If there are more than a minimum of 15 competitors, the race committee may decide to start the race remotely at a wider point on the river (to our normal start line) or divide the competitors into flights. The starting method will be decided on the day, taking into account number of competitors, general wind/weather/river conditions, start fairness and safety.

Starts – if there are Flights: boats will be randomly divided, for each race, into (normally) two flights by drawing ribbons from a bag. First start flight colour is decided by the race officer tossing a coin. The finishing times are recorded to enable one set of results for each race. Ribbons are returned at the end of each race.

Lead boats: It is unlikely that a lead boat will be provided for the first lap of races as the course is on a river. Information on the general layout of bouy placement will be in the Sailing Instructions and further information can be requested at the briefing.

Early Season. With care it is normally possible to launch and land boats (including all slipway use) without any stepping into the water. Please ensure you dress appropriately for the conditions. The club has no formal winter /spring season wetsuit / drysuit rules.

Photography: By entering the event, all competitors accept that they may be photographed and/or videoed participating in the event and/or using the event facilities (excluding changing / toilet facilities). Competitors automatically grant the Nottingham Sailing Club, without payment, the right to make; use; and show any media of, or relating to, the event, unless the relevant Nottingham Sailing Club Fleet Captain is otherwise advised, in writing, prior to the event.

Data protection. Please see our club policy online: <https://www.nottinghamsailing.club/gdpr/>

Further information? Is available on the club website www.nottinghamsailing.club or from Sue Jones (comets@nottinghamsailing.club)

Rules and Rule Changes: A summary of some of the exceptions are as follows:

Sail Numbers: Under exceptional circumstances the Sailing Committee may permit a dinghy to use sails carrying a number other than that required by RRS 77.

Personal Bouyancy: A personal flotation device must be worn at all times while on the river. This changes RRS 40.

Course Marks: Course marks are orange spherical buoys. A mark may be moved during the leg being sailed, but only in a manner that will not prejudice the results. This amends RRS 33.

Starting Procedure: This changes RRS 26. Races shall be started using signals at 3 minute intervals. Times shall be taken from the audible sound signals. If there is more than one flight, flights will start at 3 minute intervals. Full procedures are in our Sailing Instructions available on the day.

All Large Fleet Races - Starts. When the number of dinghies exceeds 15 the Race Officer must either:

(i) arrange a remote start line on a wider section of the river; or

(ii) divide them into two starts at three minute intervals. Flight A (warning signal flag A) will comprise the boats who have drawn a blue ribbon tally when signing on. Flight B (warning signal flag Q) will comprise the boats who have drawn a yellow ribbon tally when signing on. The decision on which flight starts first shall be made by the toss of a coin called by the Race Officer when the pennant signal is due to be raised. The split will be indicated by the Race Officer hoisting a blue or yellow broad pennant to the yardarm at the first pennant signal. The ribbon tallies and pennant colour shall be randomly selected as detailed for each race.

The ribbon shall be flown preferably at the top of the mast or alternatively elsewhere on the boat throughout the race, such that it will be clearly visible from the Race Box. Tally ribbons will be returned when signing off.

Individual Recalls: Flag X shall be used as defined in RRS 29.1. The Race Officer may hail the Sail Number(s) of the offending dinghy(s).

General Recall: RRS 29.2 is changed as follows. Where there are other classes or flights still to Start, the offending class or flight will start three minutes after the previously scheduled last Start. Otherwise, the next signal will be the class or flight's Preparatory Signal.

Starting Penalties: RRS 30.3 may be applied only after a General Recall. RRS 30.1 and 30.2 will not apply.

Shorten Course: Code flag S flown and two sound signals indicate the course will be completed when the leading dinghy in each race next crosses the finish line from either direction. Every other dinghy will complete the course sailed by the leading dinghy in her race. This modifies RRS 32.2(b).

In a split fleet race, where the leading dinghies of each flight may be approaching the finish line in different directions, a shortened course indication is only applicable to the leading flight. To indicate this the S flag will be accompanied by the specific flight flag of the leading flight. As all flights must complete the same course, at an appropriate point in the race the shortened course sound signals will be repeated with the relevant flight flag being raised for each subsequent flight.

Lapped Boats: After the leading dinghy in any fleet or flight has finished, every other dinghy in that fleet or flight shall finish the next time they cross the finishing line in the same direction as the leading dinghy in that fleet or flight. Boats which have been lapped will be allocated points in sequence behind those which have completed the full course sailed by the leading dinghy.

Touching a Mark/ Re-rounding: Re-rounding. A dinghy touching a mark shall re-round the said mark and when exonerating herself shall keep clear of all other dinghies until she has rounded it completely and has cleared it and is on a proper course to the next mark. A dinghy touching a mark, while continuing to sail the course and until it is obvious that she is returning to round it completely shall be accorded rights under the Rules of Part 2. This changes RRS 44.1 with respect to RRS 31.

Amendments to the SIs for Open Meetings: may be made if detailed during their event briefing.

Local Variations:

Anglers. Dinghies must not sail within 21 feet of the bank near anglers, who rank as obstruction.

Moored boats. This 21 feet distance also applies to clearance around moored boats below the Marina entrance.

Scoring Systems: Scoring shall be as provided in Appendix A of the RRS using the Low Points System, except that DNS, OCS, DNF and RAF shall score Number of Boats in the Event (B) plus 1, DSQ and DNE shall score B plus 2 and DNC shall score B plus 3. Three Races shall be scheduled. Each Boat's score shall be the total of its race scores, excluding its worst only if three races are sailed. This changes RRS A5.