

Minutes of the Combined Comet Class Association - Annual General Meeting

Burghfield Sailing Club - Saturday 27 May 2017

Chairman David Talbot

1. Apologies were received from Caroline McAusland (Treasurer), Andrew McAusland (Trio 472), Godfrey and Jan Ayres (Trio 385), Stephen and Helen Whittle (Trio 474). 8 members were present.
2. The minutes of the last AGM (28 May 16) had been on the CCCA website for some time. There were no comments or amendments and Chris Mayne proposed that they were accepted as a true record, seconded by David Talbot and unanimously agreed by those present.

3. Reports

a. Association Officers

i. Treasurer:

The accounts for the year ending Dec 2016 were presented and are attached to these minutes.

Current balance £4986.94 out of which we will be taking the cost of trophies.

The expenditure over income for the year ending Dec 16 is £728 which is higher than normal. This is due to the cost of the Dinghy Show and the second half of payment for the website upgrade. All the other expenses were the usual recurring ones such as trophies and RYA affiliation fees.

We have been fortunate in having our continued sponsorship of £500 by Noble Marine.

As long as our expenses continue to be modest there should be no need to reinstate a membership fee.

ii. Secretary:

The 2016 AGM was held in conjunction with the CCCA Inlands at Cotswold SC on 28/29 May 16. The minutes were published on the CCCA website in Jun 16.

At the Inlands sponsored by Noble Marine, 12 Comet Trios and 4 Comet Versas competed for the trophies over excellent courses set by race officer Neil Wetherley. North Easterly F3 or 4 winds enabled the full set of 5 races to be sailed over the 2 days in gusty and shifty conditions. Adrian and Tracy Padro from Shustoke SC dominated the weekend winning all 5 races. They were chased hard by Stuart and Rory Bush also from Shustoke SC with Stephen and Helen Whittle from Cotswold SC in 3rd.

The 18th Comet Trios Nationals sponsored by Noble Marine were again held at Exe SC from 12-14 Aug 16 and 20 Trios, 6 visitors and 14 from the home club, gathered for an event held in light winds. Once again Andrew and Caroline McAusland from Exe SC were worthy champions (for the 6th time). They were ably chased by Sam and Chris Mayne from Hawley Lake who finished 2nd and Bob and Colette Horlock from Exe SC in 3rd.

A meeting at Exe SC in conjunction with the Nationals considered the future of the Trio. A copy of the notes from this meeting are available on the CCCA website. In essence the meeting considered that:

It would be useful to have a 'Come and Try It' style event combined with some race training and racing.

This has been organised by Whitefriars SC for 29/30 Jul 17.

There is a need to take the Trio to Open Handicap events to show its true potential to the wider sailing world.

Alex and Bob Horlock sailed their Trio to 9th place in the Sailjuice Winter Series (3rd in the Speed Six Challenge) out of a total of 653 entries. Adrian and Tracy Padro also entered one of the races.

It would be good to update the image of the boat with the following changes:

New tapered mast.

New stiffer boom.

New mainsail, stiffer material (mylar), sail plan remains the same but with full length top batten.

The meeting considered that the challenge would be to make these changes without making the boat faster.

Glyn Rawson from Peak Dinghies agreed with the idea of these changes and has been moving these ideas forward with Seldon and North Sails with input from Phil Morrison. Trio 450, Wozzle, fitted with the prototype rig was delivered to Exe SC on 22 May 17. Sailing trials have been going well with a number of minor changes being identified to make the new rig better.

Shustoke held an open meeting for Trios in conjunction with GP14s on 25th Mar 17. Only one Trio travelled to the event to compete with the 5 home boats which was a shame because it was excellent event won by home team Adrian and Tracie Padro.

Sutton Bingham held an open meeting for single handed Comets, Supernovas and Comet Trios on 29 Apr 17. Unfortunately there was a mix up over dates and only 2 Trios were able to attend.

The membership register continues to be updated although it is very difficult to say with any certainty how accurate it is. I delete e-mail addresses that return e-mails to me undelivered twice. Otherwise I delete and add e-mail addresses as notified. Currently there are approximately 97 Trios registered (out of 196 built), 65 Versas (218), 14 Zeros (98) and 60 Duos (180).

Additional reports from other committee members are attached at the end of these minutes.

iii. Chairman:

David thanked all the officers of the association for their work over the year and everyone who had written reports, sailed in races and generally kept the Association moving forward.

b. Builders:

i. Versa, Zero and Duo (Andy Simmons).

Andy had had one enquiry for the Zero moulds which had not developed into a sale. He still had the moulds for the Zero and Versa. Repair work continues but is quiet with regard to Trios and Versas.

ii. Trios (Glyn Rawson).

The Trio is a great boat used for; racing, cruising and training and all those who sail one know this. As a result people who own them tend to keep hold of them. The problem is selling the boat to people who have not sailed one before and may have never seen a Trio before. Nothing about the Trio has changed since it was first built over twenty years ago and today, just like then, it competes for sales in a crowded and vibrant market.

We knew what the Comet Trio was when we took over production two years ago and we were happy to carry on producing the boat "as is". However, in that time we have sold; one new boat, a few sets of sails, a few Spinnaker Chute kits and a few foils. For a builder such a low level of activity is not sustainable in the longer term. Therefore I was pleased to read the views of the Forum that was held at the 2016 Nationals.

Since the end of August last year I have been working with the Class and the manufacturers to produce a new set of spars and sails, to bring the Trio up to date and make it more attractive to a wider market. I appreciate that some people are happy with the Trio as it is, unfortunately as I have already said we need to be selling more equipment especially new boats. The new rig gives us an opportunity to promote the Trio as we have something new to tell people about. This is not just change for the sake of change. I am confident that the new rig will make the Trio a better boat, whatever people use it for.

I am about to take Woozle down to Exe SC for people to try the new rig for themselves, she will then be taken round other Trio Clubs for others to try the rig out. After that we plan to give Woozle a refresh and then she will be available as a demonstration boat. I have already agreed for her to be taken to the RYA Regional Instructor Training Days held each spring. I am also looking at other ways to promote the Trio and the Class are doing their bit too. I see that the number of members of the Facebook group is growing steadily and non Trio sailors keep telling me that they have seen that a Trio came 9th in the Sail Juice Series. Congratulations and a big thank you to Alex and Bob Horlock, their success has gone a long way in demonstrating just how good a boat the Trio is.

I am very excited about the year ahead.

4. Accounts: David Talbot proposed that the accounts for the year ending Dec 16 be accepted. This was seconded by Chris Mayne and agreed by all present.
5. Discussion on Trio Update
 - a. The Secretary summarised the background to the changes starting with the Forum held at Exe SC during the 2016 Trio Nationals and the work subsequently done by Glyn Rawson and the CCCA to get to the stage where a prototype rig had been produced and was on tour fitted to Trio 450, Woozle, for sea and lake trials!
 - b. The Secretary described the actions that had been taken by Exe SC to evaluate the new rig. In essence this consisted of comparing the old and new spars and the old and new sails. Woozle had been sailed by at least 7 different Trio owners at Exe. They reported that the boat handled well in light and relatively strong winds (F4/5) in flat water and in waves at sea. The performance was increased significantly but so was the ease of control with better stability both up and downwind reported. A report was being prepared based on this work which would be circulated to all Trio owners on the CCCA membership register. Woozle would subsequently go to Whitefriars and Shustoke.
 - c. Glyn confirmed that prices had been obtained for the new rig and that he would be offering a 10% discount on the initial orders.
 - d. There was some discussion on how to change the class rules to accommodate the new rig. The Secretary noted that because of the way the class rules were written there were no changes required for the new sails but the new mast would need some minor amendments to the rules. It was suggested that once the details of the new mast were known the secretary would produce a set of amendments to the rules which would be put to the membership of the CCCA by e-mail ballot. This was provisionally agreed subject to final confirmation by the CCCA Committee.
6. Election of Officers and Committee
 - a. Chairman. David Talbot was re-elected unopposed.
 - b. Secretary. Bob Horlock was re-elected unopposed.
 - c. Cruising Secretary. Bob Presley had tendered his resignation. David Talbot thanked him in his absence for all the work he had done over the years. The Secretary would ask Cody SC if anyone from their club would be willing to take on this role as cruising was their prime objective as a club.
 - d. Treasurer. Caroline McAusland had stepped in to take on this role during the year and was re-elected unopposed.
 - e. Versa Captain. The Secretary stated that no-one had come forward to fill this vacant position. No Versas had been entered for the Inland Champs. The Secretary undertook to e-mail all Versa owners and seek their views on the way forward for the class.
 - f. Duo Captain. Stephen Linton was re-elected unopposed.
 - g. Webmaster. Steve Ashford was re-elected unopposed.
7. Venues for Inlands, National Championships and Open Meetings for 2018

- a. Inlands. The 2017 Inlands at Burghfield SC were poorly attended despite it being well publicised, in a central location with good facilities and an excellent race officer providing top class racing. The reasons for this were discussed. In essence it was concluded that many Trio owners chose to do other things on the second Bank Holiday in May which was also part of school half term. It was suggested the CCCA ask a club that has some Trios as training boats or a privately owned fleet of Trios to boost the numbers. The date should be the early May bank holiday if possible. The Secretary agreed to approach Llangorse SC to see if they would host the Inlands in 2018.
- b. Nationals. The Chairman expressed a desire to make a special event of the 20th or 21st Nationals (ie those in 2018 or 2019). To this end it was suggested that the Secretary approach the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy to see whether they would be prepared to stage the event. Co-location with the Comet Single handers would not be possible in 2018 and this would mean seeking another class to combine with as the numbers were unlikely to be high. The secretary agreed to look into options for the 2018/2019 Nationals prior to the 2017 Nationals at Exe SC on 1,2,3 Sep 17.
- c. Other Opens. Shustoke had held opens for Trios in conjunction with a GP14 open in 2015 and 2016. Very limited numbers of visiting Trios had turned up to compete against the home fleet. However, it was likely that they would be willing to try again. There was a suggestion that the class should seek one or 2 new venues particularly clubs that had a training fleet of Trios to see if we could change the perception of people at those clubs of the Trio as only a training boat. The Secretary agreed to speak to Glyn Rawson about potential venues.



Bob Horlock
Secretary CCCA
23 Jun 17

**Income and Expenditure
Year ending Dec 2016**

	<u>Dec11</u>	Dec12	Dec13	<u>Dec14</u>	<u>Dec15</u>	<u>Dec16</u>
Membership	£15	£17.50	£17.50	Free	Free	Free
Trio	41	32	27			
Versa	42	32	15			
Duo	13	8	5			
Zero	11	7	4			
Total	<u>107</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
INCOME						
Annual Subscriptions	1805	1988	910	0	0	0
Bank Interest	1	1	4	10	11	11
Championship Income	170	0	0	0	0	0
Noble Marine	<u>700</u>	<u>860</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Total Income (£)	<u>2476</u>	<u>2034</u>	<u>1392</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>511</u>
EXPENSES						
Dinghy Show (Alexandra Palace in March)	468	478	550	0	0	568
Luminous Tales (printing & postage)	(£ ed) 1112	(2 oas) 458	(1e-ed) 0	(1e-ed) 0	(none) 0	0
Internet (domain name, website)	125	20	20	24	525	315
RYA (Affiliation Fee)	190	195	185	115	120	125
Trophies (inc engraving)	<u>508</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>231</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2401</u>	<u>1298</u>	<u>929</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>733</u>	<u>1239</u>
SURPLUS (£)	75	736	463	421	-222	-728

Notes

1. Balance in Nationwide Account was £4482.86 on 1st Jan and currently stands at £4986.94 on 3/05/17

2. Noble Marine continue to support us, as we have their banner on our website and we refer to the National Championships as "sponsored by Noble Marine".

3. There is part payment for last years web redesign and the dinghy show costs.

Reports from Other CCCA Committee Members

Cruising

Poole YC kindly welcomed 6 boats for a splendid weekend in July sailing in the harbour, a motley arrangement of Wanderers, 1 Blaze, 1 Trio, and a Versa from a variety of clubs, Crawley Mariners, Kingstead and Cotswold. The weather stayed fair with light to moderate winds just the perfect setting and conditions for enjoying tripping around Brownsea Island and exploring the lagoons and inlets up to the Wareham River.

After arrival on the Friday we set up the boats at the Poole YC ate the Clubs very well appointed restaurant then retired to an evening of chatting at our campsite. Saturday saw us away to the club early, we sailed as a group around Brownsea, then splitting up to chase seals and explore before grouping again to navigate as close to Wareham as time would permit, Saturday evening we ate in a quayside Italian restaurant enjoying locally caught fish etc;

Sunday abit more wind than Saturday so free sailing among the many boats enjoying Poole Harbour.

I have enjoyed several years of cruising weekends with the class association and met some lovely people all have been very helpful and fun, we've sailed at Salcombe (twice), Ullswater, Dartmouth, Chichester and of course Poole, Thanks to all that joined in. I hope someone else will take up the challenge

Bob Presley

Cometcombinedclasses.co.uk website

The site was upgraded to a more modern platform over a year ago. I rely on input from Comet owners, race reports, events and boats and equipment for sale and wanted. Lately I have created a Facebook group. This is instead of a Chatroom link which was requested by members. Chatrooms do get spammed with unwanted "trolls". There are approximately 50 Facebook group members and I am hoping for a lot more. I respect people's preference not to use Social Media but emails are always an alternative media. The For Sale section has been very successful with nearly all boats being sold. This is a free service open to any doublehanded Comet derivative.

The new Trio proposals will be published on the site when the Woozle demo roadshow is underway. Meanwhile there are pictures and reports on Facebook. Reports to follow soon from Paignto PODD and Burghfield Inlands.

Steve Ashford ashford-steve@sky.com

Short Duo report:

In recent years there have been very few Duo owners willing to travel so we've concentrated on a single National Championships at either Hawley Lake or Cransley SC, where there are active Duo owners who race. Last year's championships was held at Cransley on a windy Saturday in July, with 9 boats competing, three of which had travelled to the venue. Nigel Austin won all three races so was a very deserving champion, with his crew Emily Britton. Peter Stein came 2nd and John Linnell 3rd. This year we will again hold the championships at Cransley, on July 1st. Although we only meet up once each year it is a friendly and mildly competitive day which is enjoyed by all who take part, so we will do our best to carry on that tradition even though no more Duos will be built.

Stephen