



**Minutes of the Combined Comet Class Association – Annual General Meeting
Llangorse Sailing Club – Saturday 4 May 2019**

Chairman – Adrian Padro

1. **Apologies** were received from Stephen Linton (Duo Representative), Glyn Rawson (Peak Dinghies) and Andy Simmons (Comet Dinghies). 19 members were present.
2. **The minutes of the last AGM**, 5 May 2018 had been posted on the CCCA website since June 2018. There were no comments or amendments and Chris Mayne proposed that they were accepted as a true record and this was unanimously agreed by those present.
3. **Reports.**
 - a. Association Officers.
 - i. Treasurer:

Caroline McAusland presented the Association accounts and her written report (attached).

The current balance was £4707.21 on 2nd April 18.
 - ii. Secretary:

Bob Horlock presented his report (attached). He noted that 15 Trios had attended the 2018 Inlands at Llangorse. Whitefriars SC had held a successful open meeting on 16/17 Jun 18 with 10 Trios and 2 Versas attending. The Trio Nationals at Exe SC 20-22nd Jul 18 was attended by 24 Trios, 11 visitors and 13 from the home club. 6 Trios took part in the first open meeting of 2019 at Shustoke SC on 23 Mar. The Duos had held their Nationals at Cransley SC on 30 Jul 18. 25 sailors in 13 boats took part with Nigel Austin being crowned National Champion. (See Duo Report attached).
 - iii. Chairman:

Adrian Padro presented his report (attached) in which he noted the years sailing highlights and the 3 new Mk2 Trios produced by Peak Dinghies since the last AGM. He remembered our former Chairman, David Talbot, who sadly passed away during 2018. He thanked all involved with supporting the CCCA both at events and behind the scenes.
 - b. Builders

- i. Versa, Zero and Duo (Comet Dinghies –Andy Simmons)

Andy had not submitted a report this year.

- ii. Trio (Peak Dinghies – Glyn Rawson)

Bob read the report that Glyn had submitted (attached). He reported that he had added the Mast Gate as a standard fit on new boats and that he had had enquiries from clubs that use the Trio as a training boat. He is trying to build up a stock of parts, and currently has a spare mast, boom etc in the workshop and is trying to keep other parts too.

4. **Adoption of Accounts** – The motion that the 2018 accounts be adopted was agreed unanimously.

5. **Trio Class Rules** – The Secretary stated that experience of sailing with the new rig had shown that it was faster than the previous rig. In recognition of this the CCCA and the Licensed builder (Peak Dinghies) had agreed a naming convention of Comet Trio and Comet Trio Mk 2. The Trio class rules need to be rewritten to reflect this distinction and the question to be addressed is what constitutes a Comet Trio and a Comet Trio Mk 2? The CCCA committee had put forward a proposal sent to all Trio owners on the CCCA on 16 Aug18.

Comet Trio

Spars:- Comet Dinghies mast and boom or Seldon mast and boom

Jib:- Rowsell or North Sails

Main:- Rowsell only

Spinnaker:- Rowsell only

Comet Trio Mk 2

Spars:- Comet Dinghies mast and boom or Seldon mast and boom

Jib:- Rowsell or North Sails

Main:- Rowsell or North Sails

Spinnaker:- Rowsell or North Sails

In other words if you start with Comet Trio and then buy either a North Spinnaker or a North Main then your boat is reclassified as a Comet Trio Mk 2.

The points raised during the discussion were as follows:

No Hybrids

This proposal recognised the fact that unless all the equipment on all the boats was the same then class racing was always going to be “unfair”. Therefore a Comet Trio should only be sailed with Comet Dinghy spars and Rowsell sails and a Comet Trio Mk 2 should only be sailed with Seldon spars and North sails.

Points for:

Makes the situation simple and makes for equal racing.

Points of difficulty:

Class rules require equipment to be purchased from the licensed builder and Peak Dinghies do not supply Rowsell sails or Comet Dinghy style spars. Therefore if the spars or sails require renewal the owner must buy the whole Mk 2 conversion kit and then sail as a Mk 2.

Owners with a Seldon mast fitted cannot easily change back to a Comet Dinghies mast in order to compete against other Comet Trios at club level as the mast step arrangements are not compatible.

Increased Flexibility

This proposal recognises that in order to maintain as many Trios racing as possible people may want (or be forced) to switch between the options available at a slower pace than the “buy the whole new rig” requirement. Therefore the designation of Comet Trio or Comet Trio Mk 2 should be determined purely by the type of mainsail fitted. Comet Trios sail with a Rowsell main and Comet Trios Mk 2 sail with a North main.

Points for:

Makes the situation simple.

Allows progression from one rig to the next in stages.

Enables sailors to sail as Comet Trio at club level against other Comet Trios and then fit the North main to race as a Mk 2 at open meetings and Championships.

Points of difficulty:

Allows disagreement as to whether the racing is equal.

The meeting did not reach a conclusion but on a show of hands 4 were in favour of the No Hybrids proposal and 8 were in favour of the Increased Flexibility proposal. **Action.** Bob would produce a discussion paper for the committee to consider and a set of revised class rules reflecting the committee’s preferred way forward.

8. Election of Officers and Committee:

- a. Chairman. Adrian Padro was re-elected unopposed.
- b. Secretary. Bob Horlock was re-elected unopposed.
- c. Cruising Secretary. Steve White offered to continue to provide cruising opportunities for CCCA members in conjunction with Cody SC.
- d. Treasurer. Caroline McAusland was re-elected unopposed.
- e. Communications Officer. Tracie Padro was re-elected unopposed.
- f. Versa Captain. No-one had come forward to volunteer for this role which had been vacant for 3 years despite e-mail requests to Versa owning members.
- g. Duo Captain. Stephen Linton was re-elected unopposed.
- h. Webmaster. Steve Ashford was re-elected unopposed.

- i. Events Coordinator. It was proposed that a new post was created on the committee to try to reduce the workload on the Secretary and to promote additional open events on the CCCA calendar. Darren Padro volunteered to take on this role and was elected unopposed.
9. **Venues for Inlands, National Championships and Open Meetings for 2019.**
 - a. CCCA Inlands. It was suggested that Llangorse be approached to hold the Inlands again in 2020. This was agreed and Llangorse SC have provisionally agreed to welcome us back at the same time next year.
 - b. Nationals
 - i. Trios. Brixham have agreed to host the 2019 Trio Nationals on 2,3,4 Aug 19. The event would be combined with the Brixham Dinghy Regatta on Sat 3rd and Sun 4th Aug. In 2020 Exe SC had agreed to host the Nationals again on Fri- Sun 14-17 August. Looking forward, Bob had provisionally approached Mumbles Yacht Club to ask if they would be willing to stage the Trio Nationals potentially in 2021. They appeared to be willing subject to further discussion. The Committee had agreed to wait to see the level of support for the Trio Nationals at Brixham before proceeding further with a venue for 2021.
 - ii. Versas, Duos and Zeros. The Duo Nationals would be again held at Cransley SC on 29 Jun 19. It was likely that they would continue to be held at Cransley, where there are currently 16 boats, in future years. In the absence of a Versa Captain and with no Versas having turned up for the last 2 years of Inland Championships the future of Versa racing does not look promising and a location for National Championships for either the Versa or Zero was not discussed.
 - iii. Open Meetings. It was likely that Shustoke would hold an open meeting again next year.
10. Other Business
 - a. It was suggested that we approach Yachts and Yachting to see if they would publish a test report of the Trio Mk 2. **Action.** Bob to discuss with Glyn and Y&Y.
 - b. In view of the lack of attendance by Versas, Duos and Zeros at the CCCA Inlands, it was suggested that the CCCA should be renamed the Comet Trio Class Association. This was not supported by the committee but the Secretary agreed to review the history of the formation of the CCCA and the implications of separating out the Trios from the other Comet classes. **Action.** Bob to review and put forward a position paper on this topic.

Bob Horlock
Secretary CCCA
10 May 2019

CCCA Income & Expenditure Year Ending 2018

	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18
Income					
Bank Interest	10	11	11	2	4
Noble Marine	550	500	500	500	440
Total Income £	560	561	511	502	444
EXPENSES					
Dinghy Show	0	0	568	0	0
Internet-website domain name	24	525	315	48	48
RYA affiliation fee	115	120	125	125	125
Trophies	0	88	231	275	519
TOTAL EXPENSES	139	733	1239	448	692
SURPLUS (£)	421	-222	-728	54	-248

Notes:

Balance in Nationwide account on 2nd April 2019 is £4707.21

Sponsorship from Noble Marine although it has recently changed hands so that may change.

Reports

Treasurers Report

Current balance £4707.21 on 2nd April out of which we will be taking the cost of trophies for the Inland and National championships.

The expenditure over income for the year ending 2018 is £248. This is accounted for by the cost of trophies. As a result of the introduction of the Trio Mk2, there are now two categories of prizes for the inland and national championships, thus extra trophies have been purchased. The other expenses have been the usual recurring ones such as the RYA affiliation fee and a small sum for the internet domain name.

We have maintained sponsorship from Noble marine Insurance which this year was £440, however I understand the business has changed ownership, at the moment we don't know about sponsorship next year.

The account balance seems quite adequate at the current level & will need reviewing depending on the sponsorship outcome.

Caroline

Secretary's report 2019

The 2018 AGM was held in conjunction with the CCCA Inlands at Llangorse Sailing Club on 5th May 2018. The minutes were published on the CCCA website in June 18.

At the Inlands sponsored by Noble Marine, 15 Comet Trios competed for the trophies in glorious sunshine and light breezes. 5 races were sailed over the bank holiday weekend of 5-6th May 18. With Original and Mk2 rigs all starting together, Adrian and Tracie Padro from Shustoke SC once again demonstrated how a Trio should be sailed winning 4 races to retain the overall title ahead of Andrew and Caroline McAusland, from Exe and Steve Ashford and Martin Yeomans from Whitefriars. Bob and Colette Horlock from Exe were first Original rig.

The 20th Comet Trios Nationals sponsored by Noble Marine were again held at Exe SC from 20-22nd Jul 18 and 24 Trios, 11 visitors and 13 from the home club, gathered for an event held in light winds. There was a fairly even split between Original and Mk2 rigs with all starting together. Unlike 2017 the Mk2 rig proved to be significantly faster than the original rig. With 2 races on Friday and Sunday and 3 on Saturday the full race programme was completed for the first time since 2014. Prizes were on offer for both rigs with the Original rigs being won by Richard Sallis and Carole Williams from Cotswold SC, 5 points clear of Symon Gregory and Veronique Hart of Exe SC with David and Charlie Talbot of Hawley Lake SC in 3rd. The Mk2s were closely contested with all 6 top boats beating each other in one race or another. Bob and Colette Horlock from Exe SC finally came out on top with 3 race wins and 2 second places one point ahead of Adrian and Tracie Padro from Shustoke SC. 7 times Trio National Champions Andrew and Caroline McAusland from Exe SC were 3rd.

Sadly, David Talbot passed away in Dec 18, the CCCA made a small donation to his local hospice in his memory.

3 new Mk2 trios have been produced by Peak Dinghies since the last AGM.

The Trio Class rules need to be updated to define what constitutes a Mk2 Trio and this should be discussed at this AGM.

Bob Horlock

Duo Report

Although no more Duos are being built, many are still sailed enthusiastically in clubs around the country and some are used as training boats. Unfortunately, most Duo owners are no longer willing to travel to events so we have continued to hold our annual National Championships at Cransley SC, where there is a large fleet of 16 boats, many sailed regularly, and we usually have a few visiting boats too. Our National Champion is once again Nigel Austin, of Cransley. This year's Championships will be held there on Saturday June 29th.

Stephen Linton

Chairman's Report

On reflections, The class benefited from a glorious summer in 2018 which made our Open and Nationals events even more special. The highlights included the:

- Trio Inlands – Llangorse – with 15 entries
- Trio 2018 Nationals @ exe – with 24 entries – look forward to a new location – Brixham this year.
- Duo world championship
- Shustoke and Whitefriars Trio open meetings
- Sailjuice series attended by Alex/Bob, myself/Tracie and Darren/Sharon.

This year the Trio's have their Nationals at Brixham, the Comet Duo's have their world championships at Cransley - 29th June. There are also regattas up and down the country that the Comet fleets have the option of entering

The CODY team are also planning some exciting events this year. Please check the website and Facebook for notifications.

2018 also saw the delivery of 3 new Comet Trios. This year, 2 new boats, Darren and Sharon Padro with Trio 504 and 505 in build. Delivery times are roughly 8-10 weeks, a great improvement.

Of course we cannot sign off 2018 without a special mention to our former Chairman, David Talbot, who sadly passed away before Christmas. His dedication and passion for the association was amazing, and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

David's legacy will always be remembered, and we witnessed a very emotional AGM this time last year when the "David Talbot Trophy" was revealed in honour of David, and presented to him, it was fair to say he was very touched, surprised and considered this a great honour.

Finally, it remains for me to say it's a pleasure to be part of an association that is both friendly and offers great sailing experiences.

Not forgetting, there is also a huge amount of support behind the scenes to make all our events successful and enjoyable. Thank You All involved especially the committee members.

Here's to 2019 let's make it another successful and enjoyable year.

Adrian Padro

Peak Dinghy Builders Report

It really doesn't feel like a year since my first visit to Llangorse, how time flies. So another year with the Trio and making steady progress. Some more new boats built, another on it's way and people tweaking their boats, to make sailing a Trio an even better experience. We have added the Mast Gate as a standard fit on our new boats, unless someone has a strong objection, it looks to me like a good thing.

Also, in the last year some existing Trio owners have been in touch for the first time. One sailing club in Yorkshire has some Trios that they use as training boats and their Vice Commodore rang to ask if we still made new Trios, he was delighted to hear that we do. He went on to tell me that they are looking for a new training boat and when the question was asked "what do we want to go for" the unanimous response was "why a Trio of course, why would we want anything else?"

I also learnt that Avon and Somerset Constabulary Club Sailing Section have a couple of Trio's. Would a flashing blue light be an unfair advantage on the start line?

I was at the Dinghy Show when the new PY's were announced and it was interesting to read the Facebook posts. I know that PY's are always a topic of hot discussion. In my conversations with the RYA they have always been very forthcoming with requests for information and I genuinely think that they are trying their best with what will never be a perfect solution. There was some talk within the class association about a PY subcommittee, did that happen at all?

I am trying to build up a stock of parts, but it will inevitably take time. I currently have a spare mast, boom etc in the workshop and am trying to keep other parts too. I still have not solved the issue of shipping a mast, I have some lines to pursue, but if anyone has or hears of anything that works elsewhere, please let me know.

Another way you could help me and each other, is by sharing rigging/tuning tips for the new rig and a detailed piece all about "Bob's Bobble".

I hope you have a great time at Llangorse, sorry I can't be there, but we are on a family break in Cornwall, tied in so that Matt can sail in the South West Enterprise Event at Mounts Bay Sailing Club.

If you have any questions at all, please let me know.

Thanks for being Trio Sailors and here's hoping that you grow in number.

Kind regards

Glyn