



# C M Y C

---

*THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?*

DECEMBER 2024

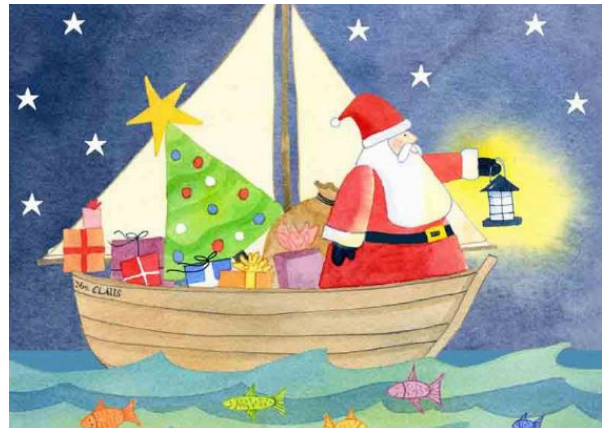


## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

---

Commodore's News - Fantastic 24	01
Training & Development	02
Thinking of becoming a DI?	05
RYA First Aid Course	05
Cobnor Weekend 2025	06
The Grebe Club	08
Membership Survey Results	09
Suggestion Box	10
Hedgecourt Heroes	11
Work Parties	12
Boat Park	13
Membership Renewals 2025	13
Hidden Animals	14
RYA Dinghy & Watersports Show	15
RYA Membership	16
Hidden Animals - Answers	17



# FANTASTIC 24

Haven't we done well?

No; I don't mean the Vendee Globe although the British sailor Sam Goodchild held 'pole' position for a while. I don't mean SailGP either, even though GBR has done well in that too with Dylan Fletcher at the helm after an amazing America's Cup challenge.

I mean we, 'CMYC' have done well. It has been a fantastic 2024 at Hedgecourt. The AGM concluded my first year and the requests for support have been forthcoming as a couple of long serving Volunteers stepped down. We welcome Ted T., as VC Estate and Augustine E., as Duty Manager. Ian M., has also taken on the Race Results role. My thanks to those who have held these positions previously for all that they have done.

We have been able to provide the full programme of Sailing, Racing, Training and Social events plus support all the other opportunities we offer. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of others.

My thanks go to everyone involved behind the scenes and on the water. Volunteering is key to a members' run Club like ours, as is completing your duties – thank you once again, to each of you, for all that you've done and all that you've yet to do.

As we start to wrap up another successful year ready for Christmas and conclude the 2024 programme over the next few weeks, there is still more to do...

The final couple of races are Autumn Saturdays (pm) on 07 Dec., and Autumn Leaf on 08 Dec., followed by a Hedgecourt Heroes session from 1pm.

But what are Hedgecourt Heroes?

In essence these are same as the classic CMYC Work Parties, 'a social gathering of members that wish to help maintain the grounds and estate'. The accent is raised because the stakes are higher and those that help will become Hedgecourt Heroes saving the lake and the Club in the process.

We will need your assistance in 2025 on 15 & 19 Jan., and 13 & 16 Feb., as we address the concerns of the dam inspector to fill and lay more sandbags and meet our obligations under the Lake Management Plan. We need at least 15 fit and able crew members for a prompt 9am start with a soup lunch being planned – more in the January Newsletter.

Naturally I hope that seasonal cheer is plentiful and that you'll renew your membership for 2025 as we have an enhanced programme ready and some new initiatives available. If there is any hesitation or deviation please let me know, as we're seeking some repetition.

I wish you and your family good health, happiness and an insatiable urge to get on the water to experience the feelings it creates and enjoy the beautiful lake that we own.

Richard  
Commodore



# Training & Development

## Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- First Aid Course - 9th February - booking open on WebCollect
- Race Coaching (junior/youth) - 19th January & 16th February - book on WebCollect, see separate flyer for details. These are concurrent with work parties, so parents can be busy helping maintain the club estate while their youngsters learn or improve their racing skills.
- RYA Sailing with Spinnakers - 2nd & 8th March - book on WebCollect, see separate flyer for details.
- Topper Coaching - 9th March - details to follow
- Double Handed Team Racing Coaching - 9th March - details to follow

## Feedback

Please give feedback on any CMYC training, click [here](#) to complete the form, there is a link to form on the club Website in Members Area – Policies and Documents.

## New Dinghy Instructor

Congratulations to Vanessa on becoming a Dinghy Instructor.

## RYA Pathway Club

The RYA is changing the way it runs its youth training, with the aim of reducing costs and travelling whilst bringing the more training back into clubs. There are certain criteria a club must meet to become a Pathway Club, we meet most but may need to increase our race training if we decide to apply. Another requirement is to have a Lead Race Coach, I am pleased that Dan has accepted this position, he will be monitoring developments as they are announced by the RYA, the formal launch will be at the Dinghy & Watersports Show.

## Adult Saturday Club – report by Jeff Smith

Unfortunately we had to cancel due to storm Bert. Looking forward to seeing you next year.

## Junior Saturday Club – report by Jeff Smith

Thanks to Dan for acting as SI in charge and to all our instructors and helpers for making the best of a windless day. There was no morning Oppie session, the five Topper sailors were given an introduction to trapezing using the two Quest dinghies, which went down well with only a couple of dunkings. This was followed by some paddling races to warm up again.





# Training & Development

There was no Fun Race due to the total lack of wind.

The afternoon followed a similar format with a couple of kayaks and Oppie joining in the paddling.



# Training & Development





# Thinking of becoming a Dinghy Instructor?

If so, the first two steps you need to take care of are:

- ❖ Attend a 1 day RYA First Aid Course (these are valid for three years)
- ❖ Complete a 2 day RYA Power Boat Level 2 Course (this includes Level 1 and there is no revalidation requirement). No previous experience is required but you must be 16 or over. We usually run two of these a year, so if you are interested please book onto the 'Powerboat Waiting List' on Webcollect as spaces are limited. Mike Smith, our Chief Power Boat Instructor, will then contact you when a space is available.

\*Club courses are for **members only** and are run at a very reasonable cost as we hope members will use either (or both) of these skills to volunteer and assist in club events such as racing duties and Saturday clubs.

**'RUSTY' (or lapsed instructors):** following Covid lock-down many RYA instructor qualifications lapsed and if yours has it is worth contacting the RYA as it may be possible to attend a revalidation course. They are keen to get as many instructors back onboard as they can.

(Diana)

## RYA First Aid Course

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 @ CMYC Clubhouse, Hedgecourt Lake

**Booking is OPEN via WebCollect: Booking closes on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

**Start and finish times:** The course starts promptly at 08.30am and finishes at 16.30pm, as it has to be a full eight hours.

**COST: £50.** *(There is a discount for club instructors revalidating)*

The course includes current CPR methods and each pupil will be able to practice the technique shown on their own dummy. Parts of the course are specific to water-based activities and covers hypothermia and secondary drowning.



**Defibrillator** – although no training is necessary to use a **defibrillator**, taking training can ensure you are familiar with the device and ready to act quickly in an emergency.

The club has one of these located on the outside wall by the galley. During the course you will be shown how they work and get a chance to examine and check one out.

This course is open to all club members and would suit anyone who feels these skills would be useful to them - particularly volunteers who help at our events.

*(As spaces are limited, priority will be given to club dinghy instructors needing to revalidate)*

N.B. Any instructors needing to revalidate but unable to make this date, contact me as soon as you can and I will see if there are any clubs running one in the South East area.

**Diana Thompson – [cmjc.junior.youth.devel.advisor@gmail.com](mailto:cmjc.junior.youth.devel.advisor@gmail.com)**



# Cobnor Weekend 2025

## Sailing Weekend in Chichester Harbour for our Youth Sailors (and maybe some adults)



If there is sufficient interest and offers of help we would like to run a weekend of dinghy sailing at the Cobnor Activity Center Trust (CACT) in the beautiful Chichester Harbour. These weekends offer accommodation, wholesome meals and the opportunity to sail in the tidal waters of Chichester harbour. These weekends are a great way to widen the scope of your sailing.

You can see some videos of previous Cobnor weekends on our website:

<https://www.cmyc.co.uk/sailing-activities/juniors->

[section/cobnor-weekends.htm](https://www.cmyc.co.uk/sailing-activities/juniors-section/cobnor-weekends.htm).

These weekends are aimed at our youth sailors aged 13 or older, however we may accept younger children (11 or 12) who are competent and confident. If there is space we are happy to take adults as well. Priority is given to older children.

We hire boats and the log cabin from CACT and run independently, which means supplying and preparing our own food and clearing up. This may sound like a chore but it helps keep costs down and builds friendships and teamwork.

The boats are Wayfarers, which are quite quick and stable, allowing good progress over the tides and allowing us to easily reach East Head or Dell Quay. Usually we see some high performance skiffs and foilers in action as well as some traditional keel boat racing. Typically we have an instructor with two or three pupils on board. We may also take our own Quests or 2000s, depending on numbers.





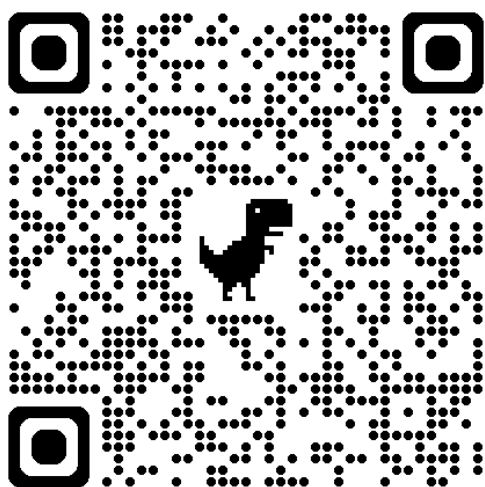
# Cobnor Weekend 2025

The dinghy fleet is supported by two RIBs, typically one belonging to CMYC and one hired from CACT. These have a Safety Boat qualified helm and crew with PB2.

In 2022 we ran two weekends, as we have done many times before. However, the second weekend was very poorly attended and our instructors ended up doing all the catering. So we took a break in 2023. In 2024 we tried to run a weekend in October, but again there was little response to the emails and publicity. We will try again for 2025, as the number of youth sailors has recovered post covid and these weekends are a great experience. If we get enough interest then we will try to book a weekend in October.



Please register your interest in attending a Cobnor weekend, by completing the Google form using the link or the QR Code below. This is for: sailor participants, Dinghy Instructors (AI, DI or SI), powerboat helms and crews, anyone who would be willing to cook and sail, or just cook. Cost is dependent on the numbers going, the form allows you to indicate the maximum price range you would be willing to pay. The sooner we get sufficient numbers the more likely we are to get a booking, so don't delay - act today.



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXvih-58FJsHaqtk4mZve\\_mnMJFmj6q5nDCooNkur7rVyTbw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXvih-58FJsHaqtk4mZve_mnMJFmj6q5nDCooNkur7rVyTbw/viewform)



# THE GREBE CLUB

Last month we presented the first of four themes that we will be using during the sailing season for 2025, these were:



The remaining four are:

Crew Development  
Active Adventure  
Navigation  
Oceanwide



Four of these are aligned with those of the Club's strategic categories, which do you think they are? (Answers below).

Each one will form a monthly theme from March until October as this is the warmer period we set most of our junior sailing programme within. Topical challenges will be set accordingly and achievement of these will be recognised.

We will officially launch The Grebe Club in 2025 but if you would like to know more in advance there are several options:

- Join us on 08 December in the morning and stay for the afternoon Hedgecourt Heroes event\* (see elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter)
- Attend the New Year Social &/or Pursuit race from 10 for 10:30 on 05 January.

In essence the Grebe Club is a fun way to develop some additional skills and participate in the various activities we have on offer (both on and off the water) to help you get to know other members and get more out of being a Crawley Mariner.

Don't just join the Crawley Mariners, become one of the Crew.

\*Bring some lunch and some gardening clothes and stay to help clear the grounds in the afternoon from 1pm (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Iron on Grebe Club Badges are also available at this event for valid crew members.



# Do You Know?

The November Membership Survey posed a range of questions about the Club to see how well we communicate.

Taking them in order from the least known to the best known we start with:

25% did not know you can report problems with any of our fleet of Club boats online.

This is very useful to all of us – it helps us maintain the fleet ready for you and avoids disappointing you if you can't get on the water because we didn't know there was a problem.

You can report problems by scanning the QR in the storage areas or visiting the 'Members Area' on the Club's website ([www.cmyc.co.uk](http://www.cmyc.co.uk)), using the 'Policies and Documents' sub-menu and selecting the 'CMYC Boat Defect Form'.

18% did not know that you can have the newsletter sent to all family members.

This is perhaps not surprising as it involves the use of Webcollect. Login to webcollect and find the panel that shows 'My Family', click 'Details'. This should show a screen with each family member in a tab of their own. In each tab there is space for a unique email address for that person.

This may also be useful to do when renewing your membership and updating your training preferences for 2025.

12% did not know that we have a Major Accident Procedure up in the Clubhouse.

This is perhaps worrying given the purpose of the procedure. Please take the opportunity to locate this and the other safety equipment we have in the Clubhouse from the first aid kit, the telephone to the fire blanket.

6% did not know that we have Club Bye Laws that govern many things expected of members such as the use of trees, keeping boat spaces tidy and duties?

While a low number this is important as it includes obligations such as own boat insurance. Full details are available on the Club's website ([www.cmyc.co.uk](http://www.cmyc.co.uk)). Use the 'Members Area' menu, then 'Policies and Documents' sub-menu to find an array of information including the Club Bye Laws.

Everyone that responded knew that Club boats are available to loan.

*"If there is anything you don't know then please ask us about it."*

Or if you have any questions, ask fellow members while at the lake or use the contact form on the website. Thanks to all those that responded this was the last poll for 2024.





# SUGGESTION BOX

We've had several suggestions added to the little blue box just inside the Clubhouse under the large white First Aid box in the main hall.

Suggestions are always welcome and, just sometimes, these cards are better than mentioning things to a committee member who may be busy, as they have been known to forget things – well I have.

The suggestions we received recently are:

## ***The ability to camp over would be fantastic***

This was potentially prompted because we are seeking ideas for junior development as part of the Grebe Club that is being introduced in 2025. The idea of an overnight camp could be used to help our juniors prepare for the regattas we attend at other clubs as well as a star gazing or other similar development / fun activities. This has been added to the Grebe Club list of challenges to avoid it being forgotten as it will need further planning and resourcing.

## ***More access to the 2nd hand clothing so people can use it more as an 'honesty shop'***

This is very sensible suggestion as the clothing is currently stored in the loft and needs retrieving for every event to avoid members using the loft ladder to access the items – something we discourage for obvious safety reasons. We only have two other places to store these items; the containers or the boathouses (powerboat garages). The garages could store jackets in the loft space and lowered for sale on Dutch airers?



## ***Developing the upstairs of the Clubhouse***

This has been considered by previous committees and a satisfactory solution has never been reached due to the cost of adding a permanent staircase either internally or externally. There have also been concerns over the design of the Clubhouse loft as a loft not a first floor. While this is a good suggestion it is not possible.

## ***Winter activity for the kids (Nov through Jan and Feb) indoor if possible.***

This is such a good idea we have had it too! The committee agreed the introduction of the Sunday Socials for 2024 and in 2025 we will continue these with activities for Juniors (and adults) as part of the Grebe Club also being planned by the committee. We will continue to build on what we have already, and the indoor pre-Christmas Laughter event (01 Dec.,) and the New Year Pursuit Race & Social event (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan., from 10 for 10:30) are examples of this – hope to see you there.

## ***Thank you for all you do.***

This was such a nice suggestion card to find in the box. It has been shared with the committee. I'd also like to thank everyone that helps the Club, even in a small way such as recommending the Club to family, friends and colleagues, through to those volunteering their time behind the scenes on the committees, to those we are more familiar with instructing us at the unique range of events that we offer.

Thank you, Richard



# HEDGECOURT HEROES

Don't think about the blackberry jam



December 08<sup>th</sup>

A short afternoon session to

Clear leaves and brambles

Please bring with you some suitable footwear & gloves, and if you have them a rake, some secateurs or shears, gardening clothes, and eye and ear defenders as we might have a strimmer in use.

It is amazing what we achieved in the two November sessions:

We prepared a path for Surrey Wildlife Trust so that they can help us on 11th December, cleared around the gas storage tank to make it accessible for safety checks and cleared an area of 'horse tail' – a plant that is keen to take over.

Another plant, like the Giant Hogweed (for those of a musical or botany interest), that wants to take over is *Rubus Fruticosus*. This is a large and diverse genus of flowering plants in the rose family, Rosaceae, commonly known as brambles!

These need to go! Forget about blackberry jam, the brambles have to be removed. They are along the car park boundary and in the boat park. They and the leaves that have fallen are on the 'hit list' for 08 December.

Please come along and join the increasing number of Heroes, including Ted, Alan, Brian, Heather, Jeff, Stuart, Ursula, Ian, Martyn, Theo, William, Isobel, Harry and Richard helping to maintain the Hedgecourt estate.

This is a social gathering of members that wish to help restore and maintain the beautiful environment that we operate. The accent is raised because the stakes are higher and those that help will become **Hedgecourt Heroes**.



# WORK PARTIES

## For Hedgecourt Heroes

### **Regardless of the name we need your help**

In addition to the afternoon leaf and bramble clearance on 08 December from 1pm described elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter, we have much bigger challenges too.

The independent Dam Inspection in November highlighted some action we need to take which will require:

- galley support for drinks and soup
- mixing and filling sandbags
- wheelbarrow bag movers to load the powerboat
- powerboat drivers to deliver and unload
- bag layers on the dam wall.

As a minimum we need 12 to 15 members keen to share the above tasks and be prepared for a prompt 9am start.

Four dates are planned:

- 15 January 2025
- 19 January 2025
- 13 February 2025
- 16 February 2025.

Four dates have been planned because once the remedial dam work is complete, we then need to cut back some of the reedbeds as part of our Lake Management Plan obligations.

A work-party is a social gathering for members that wish to help restore and maintain the beautiful environment that we operate. We hope that you will join us and become a hero in maintaining Hedgecourt that is vital if we are to provide a legacy.

Thank you,  
the CMYC Committee





# Boat Park – Disposal of Abandoned Craft

We have a number of abandoned boats currently in the 'graveyard' area of the boat park, which we will be disposing of in the New Year.

If anyone is interested in adopting any of these, can you please contact [membership.cmyc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.cmyc@gmail.com)

The area is in the right hand corner, of the boat park on the right as you drive into CMYC.



## Membership Renewals 2025

In preparation for 2025 membership renewals, we will be locking down the subscriptions page on Webcollect during December. This lockdown period allows us to complete our end of year audit and make any required updates in the system.

If you need to make any changes to your membership during this period, please contact [membership.cmyc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.cmyc@gmail.com)

The webpage will be unlocked again on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, and you will be able to renew your subscription from then. We will send out a reminder email at the same time with your subscription details.



# HIDDEN ANIMALS

A bit of fun and a chance to join the next flotilla...

There are 21 animal names hidden in the text below.

Can you find them all and will you join the next adventure?

After many years of enjoying Saturday sessions and Grebe Club activities at Crawley Mariners Yacht Club the sailor thought he would join the Club's Greek Flotilla.

To make his dream come true he contacted the organiser and was excited to be sailing a catamaran on the Club's October 2025 holiday flotilla.

One of his friends from Oxford came late to crewing, and wanted to join in, though he was afraid he would be unable to help much due to a deep bullet wound that still gives him trouble.

Another had arrived by train but found the marina was rather a long way from the station. He didn't have to worry as the charter company collected him and was able to arrange his transfer returning afterwards by taxi.

The third crew member seemed to be worrying or ill at the sight of waves with white horses on them, he cowered in the cockpit when the sea turned choppy for a spell.

One night they all agreed to go at six for a taverna supper with rabbit on the menu and enjoyed just a gin and tonic beforehand.

They moored on keys, (although are really quays or staithes). In one pretty location they followed several paths like a maze branching out across trampled grass and dandelions grew everywhere, but worth it for a tasty supper.

They all really enjoyed the holiday along with other Crawley Mariners and are looking forward to the next Club flotilla (October 2025).

It would be a real help to know if you are interested.

Contact Neil and get on board.



# RYA Dinghy & Watersports Show 2025

22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 @ Farnborough International

See you at the RYA Dinghy and Watersports Show again next year!

The must-see sailing and watersports event of the year will return to Farnborough International on 22-23 February 2025.

Featuring dinghy sailing, windsurfing, wingsurfing, foiling and paddleboarding, however you like to get afloat, we've got you covered.

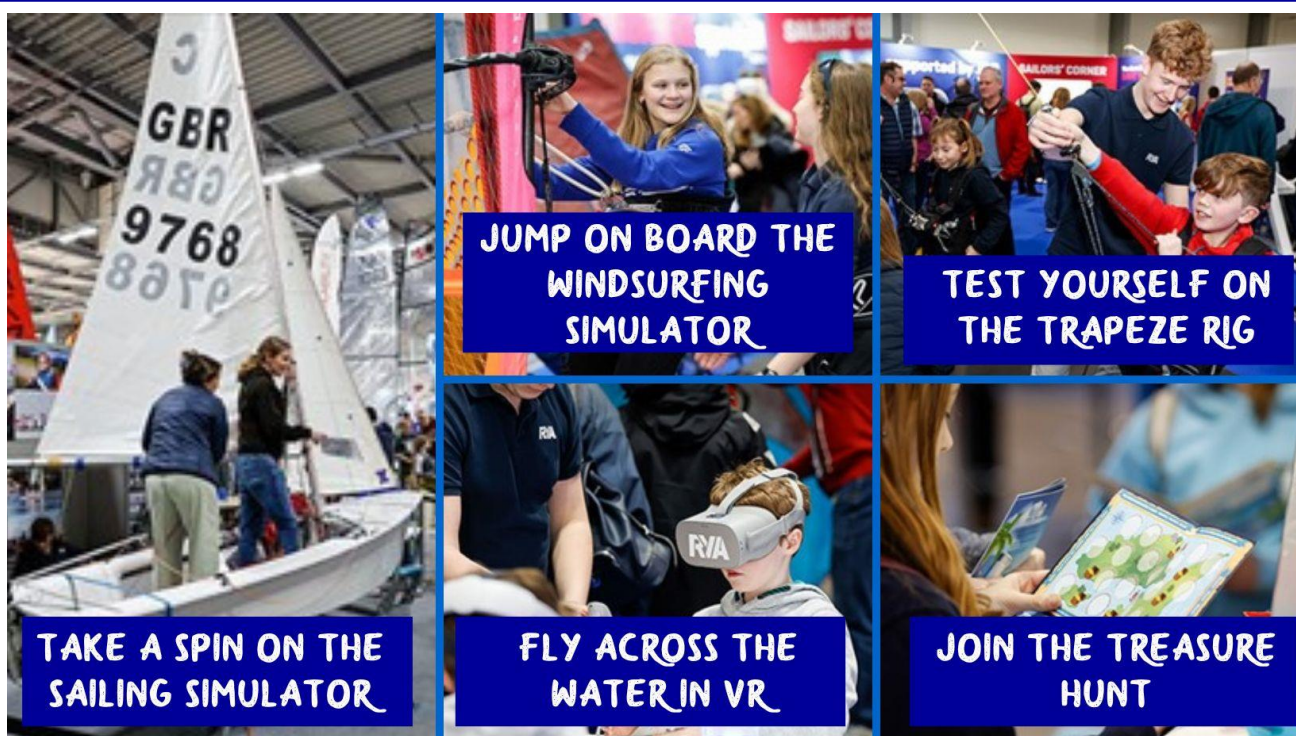
Join us for interactive family fun, watersports displays and demos, live coaching sessions, hundreds of boats and the biggest names in marine retail all under one roof.

Get your tickets in advance and save:  
RYA members and children 15 and under go free!  
Adult tickets start at £14, buy in advance and save.

(Diana)

## Things to do at the show

22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 @ Farnborough International





# Why you may be interested in becoming a member of the RYA

There are many reasons why you may find joining the RYA would be of interest and beneficial to you and your family. To start with the more members there are the stronger the voice the RYA will have to represent its members and the wider boating community, ensuring legislators, regulators and other authorities understand and take account of recreational boating activity.

Members also enjoy access to free boating related legal, regulatory and technical advice from their in-house experts when they need it most. While the quarterly RYA Magazine and regular e-newsletters help keep members up to date with all the latest news and events, advice and tips.

As an RYA Registered Training Centre CMYC has found the RYA Legal Department very helpful over the years, as owning our own lake is great but does involve a fair bit of work complying with being a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and the Reservoirs Act. All our instructors have to join the RYA and this enables them to revalidate their certificates every five years at no cost. During the Covid crisis having a large number of members enabled the RYA to lobby parliament to greater effect.

*Plus*, a whole host of benefits, rewards, discounts and offers from over 80 member reward partners, offering great savings on everything from kit and clothing to holidays and travel. For families the discounts for some of the sailing holidays makes a great saving. Many club members have taken advantage of these offers.

There are a number of types of membership available to suit each individual. If you decide to join please do use the club's specific joining point number as the club receives a small amount of commission for each new membership. If you decide to join either online or whilst visiting the RYA Watersports and Dinghy Show, do remember to use the club code then. Thank you.

Next time you visit the club please take time to look at the information about RYA Membership, it is clearly displayed on the window sill by the Race Officer's desk.



**CMYC Joining Point Code: 008100275**

Online by  
visiting [www.rya.org.uk/membership](http://www.rya.org.uk/membership)

Or telephone: 023 80 60 4159.

(Diana)



# ASSORTMENT

## Hidden Animal Answers:

Grebe	Camel	Rat	Horse	Rabbit	Hare	Lion
Cat	Toad	Ferret	Cow	Stag	Zebra	Ewe
Ox	Bull	Gorilla	Goat	Donkey	Ram	Bear

These are in the order they appear reading down the columns.

