



C M Y C

THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?



OCTOBER 2025



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Changing Direction

I was fortunate enough to speak to Mike S., this month. He is one of our long standing and highly respected members (DI, CI and founder of the Junior Saturday Sessions) who had some interesting points to make.

It is almost two years ago our Coastal Membership category was introduced, and concern at the time was that the focus would be taken away from the lake.

Almost a year ago the Grebe Club was introduced. Again, concern at the time was that this would impact on our Instructor team and take support away from our other events.

When you have the Club's interest at heart these concerns are worthy but have been proved to be unfounded.

The membership category simply allows us to entice prospective members to join and see all the Club has to offer and attend the RYA Navigation courses that we run at a cost-effective rate – a value we all uphold with our low membership fees. This however, like the Open Water Swimming category, hasn't been the crowd-puller we hoped.

The Grebe Club has been a great success thanks to two members; Will and Steve, helping those attending to learn new skills through interaction and fun rather than classroom theory. This month's Navigation theme was a case in point; demonstrating navigation techniques, SOLAS V concepts and Club tips & rules without even mentioning them.

In watching this latest session, it was great to see the children getting to know each other and playing together outside of any structure on the day, and that is also an ambition of the Grebe Club and why it is linked with a social in the programme.

Integrating our events and activities is what gives the Club its friendly community feel, expanded upon this year with introduction of the Galley Duty to help bring a more proactive social dimension to attending events, and more recently with the Hobbies and Interests themes (see later in this edition of the Newsletter).

Also introduced this year was the Community Space initiative. This featured in last month's Newsletter item "Two Firsts". It has taken a while to come to fruition, and this is thanks to Mandy, one of our social members, providing some 'marketing' assistance. The concern here is that we are offering something for nothing. Notwithstanding the ability to enhance someone's mental health and wellbeing, this will help us too.

Put bluntly we are going to be looking for funding, not least to help us manage the lake and the first questions we get asked are about; developing the young, supporting the local community and caring for the environment.

As a Club we are actively working on these topics, and if you want to help or have any concerns about the direction we're taking, just let me know, I'm ready to listen.

Richard
Commodore



Training & Development

Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- Junior Saturday Club - 11th October - [book on WebCollect](#).
- Grebe Club - Oceanwide - 19th October
- Adult Saturday Club - 25th October- [book on WebCollect](#).

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.

Junior Saturday Club - September

There were few instructors available for this Saturday Club, which was exacerbated when one of those who had been available fell ill, so we had a last minute swap round, Jeff moved to Race Coaching and Fevas, Alison moved to Topper 1 AM and Esther took leadership of the Oppies. When we arrived at the lake there was hardly a ripple on the water, however the sun was out and the wind built throughout the day to a SE F3 gusting F5 - so it became quite challenging in the afternoon.

Oppies AM - report by Esther

This was a small group with not much experience so the session started going through basics such as rigging and changing sides. There was not much wind so we started off paddling and fun games. As the wind picked up they went for a sail in their own boats with some follow the leader to get used to tacking and being in the boat. Ended off the session with towing them around the lake. They all sailed in a boat on their own confidently.

Topper AM - report by Alison

A fun session with our beginner toppers, with a shifty wind, it was confusing at times for them to work out where to set their sails. A new game was introduced using a dog ball thrower. This gave the sailors their own target to aim for and we could challenge them to sail on different points of sail. We finished up with practicing dry capsizes.

Race Coaching - report by Jeff

WE had six sailors signed up for Race Coaching, all in Toppers. After our briefing we started by practising a herringbone tow, this had been requested as most of the sailors will be attending WSSYSA Regatta and will be towed from Cobnor to Itchenor. We had a few problems with ropes getting caught on the securing rings on the jetty, but once underway all went well, all the rolling hitches held.

This was followed by leeward mark rounding practice, becoming familiar with being in a bunch of boats and trying to work out who is entitled to mark room



Training & Development

We finished off with a couple of short races round a triangular course. Diana joined us for an extended debrief, where we went through the start sequence and flags that are used.

Fevas - report by Jeff

We had seven sign up for the Feva session, which meant three Fevas and a Laser. Some of the youngsters were having their first sail in a Feva, so with the wind gusting F5 as forecast we reefed the sails, but not very well, as I hadn't done this in a long while. Ben was held up due to a road closure, so the Laser was abandoned. The three Fevas struggled a bit getting clear of the jetties. The aim had been to start off sailing a triangular course at the eastern end of the lake, but two of the Fevas were struggling with the conditions and had multiple capsizes. Ben arrived shortly after we got down the lake. Martyn kindly rigged a Topper for him and he sailed down to join us, then swapped with Zoe to sail in the Feva.

Adult Saturday Club - report by Jeff

Six adults attended this Saturday Club, there was no wind when we started off but by the end of the session we had some quite challenging gusts, as always with a southerly wind they could come from varying directions. Franc & Kirk sailed with Mike in the Omega, finishing off some exercises for Franc's Level 2. Daniella & Jane sailed the Wanderer Caroline. Clementine took the Pico out and she had a fun time. Sarah-Jo sailed her Gull with Alan. It was great to see her staying on for the Beginners race in the gusty and challenging conditions. Although not part of the Saturday Club, it was also good to see Brian's confidence increasing and staying on for the Beginners race. Well done all of you.



West Sussex Youth Regatta 2025

We have always enjoyed these regattas as they give our newer sailors the opportunity to experience tidal water sailing and real waves! Good preparation for doing the National Schools Regatta when they are at sea clubs. These regattas also tend to be closer to CMYC so less travel time involved.

Ideally we do like to include at least four Rookie sailors (those who have not taken part in Open meetings etc), and this year we had five. Out of these we had two finishing in 1st and 2nd place – Hugo and Caitlyn, with the others finishing well up the fleet.

I had a feeling that this year would be Charlotte & Esther's best so far and so it proved to be, finishing with a 2nd place in the Medium Fleet.

Ollie consolidated our winning result as highest placed team by keeping several 420 sailors at bay and finishing 1st in the Fast Fleet. Good to see his brother Seb adjusting well to his change to the Laser 4.7 with a great result of 7th in the Fast Fleet and 3rd 4.7.

It was good to have both Amy and Dan on the water with the Rookie Fleet on the Saturday, acting as coaches for the fleet and great to see Donal spectating, cheering and generally helping as his cruise did not go ahead.

The parents who came were quick to find out how they could help with everything from towing, launching and recovering boats to ordering and collecting the much-needed fish and chips on Saturday evening at Cobnor.

Very tiring but an incredible opportunity to see what a wonderful group of sailors - from 10 to 19 - plus the very supportive parents we have.

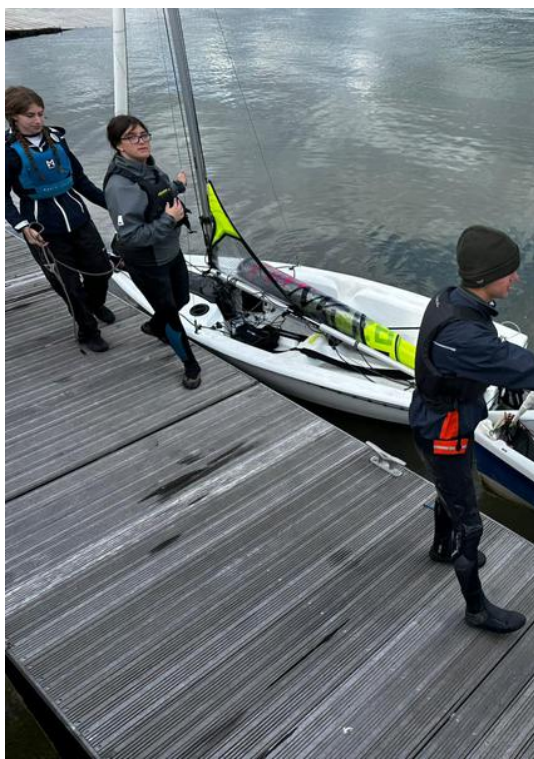
For the Team Award they took the top four results from each team, so were in a great position with two 1sts and two 2nds.

Thanks to everyone involved for making it such a memorable weekend for Mike and I. I will put together a more detailed account of the various happenings that occurred during the week, as at present we are away on holiday having left on the Tuesday.

PS The full results can be seen via the link on the Club's Facebook post.

Diana





YACHT SKIPPER TRAINING

RYA Day Skipper Theory - **Booking Closes 30th November**



This course is a comprehensive introduction to chartwork, navigation, meteorology, yacht safety, the basics of seamanship and more.

It is invaluable if you are considering taking the Day Skipper practical course to enable you to charter a yacht and book flotilla holidays etc.

It is intended to provide this course within the warmth of the CMYC Club House (see programme) with the Club's Navigation Instructor Richard W., and a limited number of participants.

We are also planning a visit to a yacht and if you would like to step on board and explore you are very welcome (and this is also useful if you are joining this course with limited experience).

Book either or both now, full details via [Webcollect](#).



**Yacht Visit
also suitable
for those seeking
RYA Competent Crew
course**



THE GREBE CLUB



WE'VE MOVED THIS MONTH!

This month's event is combined with the fun filled and tidal experience that is... the Club's Cobnor Weekend. Not only that but our stand-by host is yacht sailing on the Club's Flotilla in the South Ionian. Consequently, the October Grebe Club is being hosted at Cobnor.

You remain warmly welcome to attend the Clubhouse on Sunday 19th October for the social and you never know there might be some Grebe Club Challenges too. All members are welcome to attend, not just the Juniors. 10am for 10:30. The sessions give everyone a chance to get to know each other, something that is not so easily achieved when in a boat out on the water.

The theme for October is Oceanwide. The idea behind this is to help understand the bigger picture and how we fit in.

Consider these simple challenges:

- How many oceans are there, and can you name them?
- What lake is downstream from Hedgecourt?
- What has sailing around the World got to do with understanding the Oceans?
- When we watch SailGP racing in different locations around the World what are they trying to achieve apart from winning the grand prize?



Take a look at these via your favourite media or library and take a look at the Grebe page on the Club's website: Activities / Junior / Grebe = <https://www.cmyc.co.uk/sailing-activities/juniors-section/grebe-club.htm>

If you learn just one fact you are one step further ahead than you were before. If you can see the connections then make that two steps, and if you can see what part you can play then you're not just stepping ahead you're on a run.

We will back as usual in November (Sunday 02nd), and look forward to seeing you then,

Steve, Will, Liam, Richard and the Grebe Team.

Research Tips:

Vendée Globe / Ocean Monitoring Equipment / Drifting Weather Buoys / Argo Floats / Sea-explorer / Team Malizia / Onboard Data Collection / OceanPack™ RACE® System / A Race We Must Win / SailGP / Impact League: The podium for the planet / Green Blue – Take the pledge / have fun, send us your answers.



HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Following last month's newsletter item on hobbies we promised to let you know what has been of interest...

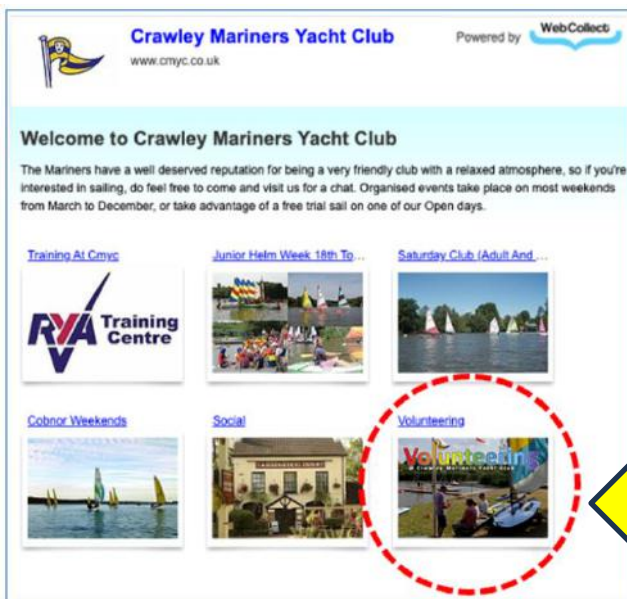
See past newsletters:

<https://www.cmyc.co.uk/members-area/newsletter.htm>

Star gazing

Star gazing is one such interest and that may be because it was referenced in the previous article.

The time is right for this topic as the dark winter sky forms a great backdrop to see the various constellations and stars. There is also a deeply human, romantic and scientific interest in the stars from legends and mythology through to sailing navigation.



We will put something together on this so don't miss out and register your interest in Star Gazing, or anything else for that matter using WebCollect.

- Do you have an interest that you'd like some help with? or
- Do you have an interest that you'd like to help someone with?

<https://webcollect.org.uk/cmyc>

Velocity Made Good

Another was about understanding Velocity Made Good and how this relates to Course Made Good that is one of the Five Essentials we teach on the RYA Courses. This of course shouldn't be confused with VMG that was mentioned in the recent Ocean Race but there is a connection on how VMG relates to a sailing boat's Polar Diagram.

All will be revealed to those registering interest on WebCollect as shown above.

CMYC - Sharing our interests and knowledge for the benefit of others.

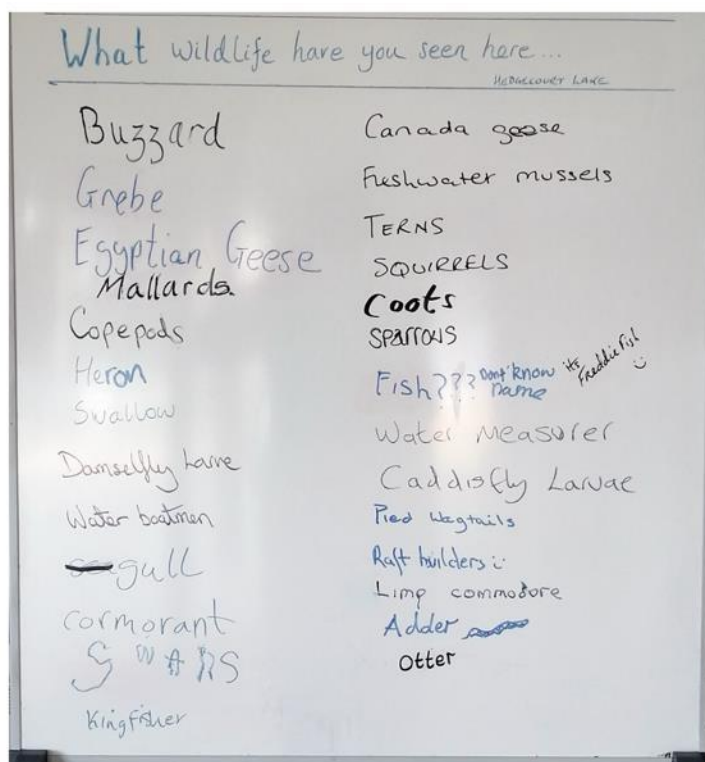


IN THE WILD

Inspired by member going pond dipping (obviously that's 'lake' dipping in our case), we placed a white board in the Clubhouse asking:

What Wildlife have you seen at the lake?

The results are clear, but can you place each to its name?



Not depicted to scale & some are so wild we've not got a photo of them:

Answers, starting with the Grebe in the circle and working clockwise – Heron, Kingfisher, Freshwater mussel, Tern, Dragonfly Larva, Copepod, Water boatmen, Caddisfly Larva, Buzzard, Coot and lastly the see Gull (note it's not a seagull, there isn't such a bird).



The Commodore has obtained a few RSPB magazines that you normally have to have a subscription for and will offer these on a first come first served basis – email for your chance to win.

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Background and Update:

We owe a lot to the previous committee, and particularly Matt K., for establishing a Lake Management Plan (LMP) approved by Natural England and supported by the Surrey Wildlife Trust.



Natural England are the government's adviser for the natural environment in England. They help to protect and restore our natural world including Hedgecourt Lake. They are an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and we must have their approval when we are planning the management of our lake.



Surrey Wildlife Trust is a wildlife charity that work with other organisations and landowners (like us at Crawley Mariners Yacht Club) to extend, protect and connect habitats for wildlife across the county and to inspire local communities and young people to care for nature where they live. Like us they require the invaluable support of volunteers and members. Be sure to know, when we support them, they are working on our behalf.

In rough terms we have three main concerns; our reed beds, the trees and the lake weeds.

Starting with the reed beds we have 8 listed but now have 10. This indicates the point nicely that if we do not manage them, they will simply take over. The trees are overhanging the lake, waiting to fall in as do their leaves. The weeds are annoying but have something in common with the trees and reeds, they also end up depositing themselves in the lake.

In turn these all combine to the silt at the bottom of the lake and reduce the depth, and of all these concerns dredging is our priority which therefore means we have to manage our complete environment, as agreed with Natural England and minimising the impact on the wildlife.

We continue to pursue options for dredging and for cutting the reed beds. This has not been easy or quick. As an example, we are still negotiating terms and conditions of an initial engagement and that has currently taken over two months.

This initial engagement is a commitment to have a professional survey. This is necessary to enable future dredging while also defining how we might restore the bank erosion under the trees and deal with where to put the waste product. This survey is also a prerequisite for any serious funding we will require to pay for the dredging.

We hope that work will commence soon so that we can start 2026 with firm plans on how to move ahead. We will keep you posted but feel free to ask.

Richard & Ted



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Most of you will know Duncan, our Membership Secretary & Boat Park Manager who has held these positions for the last five years and has always received many compliments for the help he gives new members. Thanks, Duncan.

It is with regret that he is standing down in 2026, and as you might have guessed we are now seeking help in these areas.

To make it easier we are suggesting this is split into two roles each providing mutual support to the other as they are the primary requests of our new members. Two heads are better than one, an approach we are applying to all our roles.

Please also note that the new member process is now largely automated via WebCollect so that also reduces any hassle factor.

Membership Secretary

- First point of contact for new members
- Confirm membership payments
- Send out membership packs and handbooks
- Manage annual renewal communications
- Manage membership database using WebCollect software package
- Report new members and leavers to the Committee
- Respond to RYA Membership Survey and report to Committee.



Boat Park Manager

- Allocate boat park spaces based on Club and Members needs
- Arrange for the printing of boat park stickers
- Maintain boat park space identification
- Organise the relocation of boats
- Liaise with boat park users.



The Membership Secretary role has the added benefit of being a Committee position.

With the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November we would love to receive your nominations.

Please ask if you have any questions as this is valuable contribution to the Club and not that demanding.

Thank you,
Richard, on behalf of Duncan.



Comet Open at Crawley Mariners

Sunday 14th September

The weather forecast was hardly encouraging. We had had days of rain and squalls and now more strong winds were forecast. However as the day arrived it seemed like we might have a small weather window, maybe just enough to have the four races we planned, two back to back in the morning and again in the afternoon with one discard allowed. The wind gradually came in from the South, a direction which creates large wind holes on the lake and makes setting a true beat more difficult. Twelve boats signed on for the racing, four visitors and eight home boats.

Race one was a light wind affair. Eddy Pope led from the start followed by Chris Robinson. Race two provided a similar result. Racing resumed after an excellent lunch with Eddy after some lead swapping eventually taking pole again followed by Simon Thompson. By now the wind has increased and there was some very close racing indeed in race four. The three lead boats finishing within five seconds of each other. This time Andy Dale just snatched the lead from Eddy and Chris.

Thank you to all on the race team and to the team in the kitchen for helping to make it such a successful day.

Overall Results:

1st Eddie Pope, Ogston S.C; 2nd Chris Robinson, Burghfield S.C; 3rd Simon Thompson, CMYC.

Pos.	Sail No.	Name	Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Points
1	377	Eddie Pope	Ogston	1	1	1	2	3
2	867	Chris Robinson	Burghfield	4	2	2	3	7
3	809	Simon Thompson	CMYC	2	6	3	5	10
4	788	Andy Dale	Eyott	5	8	5	1	11
5	288	Dan Gibson	CMYC	3	3	7	8	13
6	872	Jeff Smith	CMYC	6	7	4	4	14
7	532	John Copenhall	Hunts	7	4	6	6	16
8	518	Mike Thompson	CMYC	8	5	10	7	20
9	78	Duncan Newell	CMYC	9	9	8	9	26
10	504	Maciej Giersz	CMYC	12	11	11	10	32
11	516	Ian Burroughs	CMYC	11	10	12	11	32
12	174	Meg Warren	Chipstead	10	RTD	9	RTD	32

Donal, Race Officer



Comet Open 2025



Saturday Club 'Fun Race'

11th October

The Fun Races to join with- just a short approximately 20 min race either after your AM session, or before your PM session.



Start time is 12.40 and ideal for Oppie and Topper sailors to improve their skills. Fevas; Laser; Pico etc. are welcome to join in.

**Open to all Junior/Youth sailors,
so do come and join us.**

September Race Results: Sadly, there was no Fun last month due to rather strong wind.

However, they all had great fun practising in their Toppers being towed round the lake several times by Jeff and Piers. This was preparation for the WSSYSA Regatta, where they were all five Toppers were to be towed from Cobnor to Itchenor SC, and back after racing.

It proved to be well worth while and a great way to move sailors quickly to the venue!

WSSYSA Regatta was a great success and the team did really well, but I must just off on holiday so you will have to wait until the November Newsletter for all the details – Sorry.

How to take part in the Fun Race:



AM sailors can use the boat they used in their morning.

PM sailors – if you want to race, let us know when booking and a boat can be saved for you.

Do be ready to go on the water by 12.35 so we can finish on time for the PM sailing session.

Sign on – Outside the clubhouse there will be someone there to help you sign on.

Briefing: the Race Officer will explain where the race will be and the marks to go around.

12.35 - Head out to the starting area by the Maid of Kent. Looking forward to seeing you there.
(Diana)



Halloween Cake Sale

In aid of Ellen MacArthur Trust



Once again Vanessa will be baking cakes for the annual Halloween Cake Sale in aid of the **Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust on the 11th October at Saturday Club.**

Do come along and remember to bring some small change, or we can now accept card payments.
For the last few years Vanessa have raised over £100 from this sale,
plus sales at school and guides.

The Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust do a fantastic job taking children who have had cancer out sailing and helping them regain the confidence lost though months and often years in hospital. Showing them they can do things again and giving them the support of other children who have already walked that journey to help them not just sail the boat but to believe that an active life is possible again. Vanessa has been very lucky to sail from the Isle of Wight on a yacht with the Trust and she would like to volunteer helping children to sail and regain their confidence. Hopefully this will be possible in a few years' time and a few more qualifications.

Pictured above is of Vanessa, and her Mum Lynn from a few years ago, the also made a great job of decorating the Halloween inspired cake stall.

Look on their Ellen MacArthur website for more information and inspiring stories
<https://www.ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org/>

