



# C M Y C

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*THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?*



*December 2025*



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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Many thanks to those that attended the Annual General Meeting. With your participation and contribution on behalf of all our members, we were able to confirm and approve all the necessary requirements to run the Club for another year. Thank you.

The AGM also saw the approval of the revised Articles of Association, and these will be updated on the website ready for 01 January together with the Club's revised Byelaws. Please accept my apologies that the table of 2026 membership fees was not circulated to everyone prior to the meeting.

If, like me, you are wondering how it is December once again it is perhaps because, as the saying goes, "*time flies when you're enjoying yourself*". It has been a great year to enjoy with so much on offer at Crawley Mariners and some reasonable weather too.

There are many highlights to reflect on that we have achieved in 2025 but rather than look back at the successes I'd like to take a moment to consider those members less fortunate. Over the years I have sent cards of condolences, and a few get well cards to members on behalf of you all and my thoughts remain with them. If you know a fellow Mariner that would appreciate a card of sympathy or of congratulations from the Club, then please let me know.

Some things have taken longer to realise than anticipated, for example our Lake Management Plan. We recognise the need to dredge to maintain a suitable depth of water as well as support the ecology under the surface, but it took six months to get contractors onsite and a further five months to start work, three of which were 'simply' contract negotiations. The company we have engaged have been proactive and the contract for a pre-dredging survey has now been signed and work has started.

The result of the lake survey aims to provide at least two solutions. In essence we are looking to recover the situation in one go or know how to spread this over a longer period while remaining effective. Spreading the cost over a longer period may sound feasible but both will need more funds than we have. We are therefore looking to create a fund-raising team starting January 2026, not just for this but to accelerate other plans we have including reducing the need to ask members to do the 'heavy' work and to replace kit including our aging powerboat fleet.

If you can help in any way to support and form a fund-raising team to suit your availability, please let me know without obligation and I will contact you to explain more. Thank you as this is vital for our longer-term success.

Looking ahead we still have a few events to run including some races; Autumn Saturday (06<sup>th</sup>), Autumn Leaf (07<sup>th</sup>), and socials; Pre-Christmas Laughter (07<sup>th</sup>), a work party and lunch social (13<sup>th</sup> December) – book your lunch via this link: <https://rally.co/invite/tRYI1PiE9U36> and the New Year Pursuit and Social (04<sup>th</sup> January). See you there.

Merry Christmas,  
Richard  
Commodore@CMYC.co.uk

What did the ocean say when Santa flew over? Nothing, it just waved!  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 07 December



# IN THE NEWS

## History of Hedgecourt

There is a surprising amount to be learnt about Hedgecourt Lake as it dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century when it was created by damming the Eden Brook to form a mill pond.

How iron and flour have anything to do with it is a mystery, but one we hope to resolve on Tuesday 10 February 2026 when Guest speaker, Jeremy Clarke comes to The Oak room at the Haven Centre in Crawley Down between 7.30 and 9.30pm. The Haven Centre has a bar, and time will be available for questions.

Today we know that it is connected to two other lakes in the area and is a wildlife reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and home to the fabulous Crawley Mariners Yacht Club. Put the date in your diary as booking for this event will be made available nearer the time. From Sarah-Jo.

## Duties in 2026

There is an opportunity being created for you to pre-select the duty options and dates you would prefer in person. This will be at the above historic talk. See you there. From John S.

## CMYC Advent Calendar

You can see the CMYC Christmas Advent Calendar with a new event picture every day on CMYC Facebook and Instagram. From Harry W.

## New Year Pursuit Race & Social

Something for everyone. Come and join the race regardless of ability as it is designed to cater for all. A pursuit race is a race where competitors start at different times based on a handicap, with slower participants going first and faster ones starting later, with the goal of having all racers finish at roughly the same time.

If you'd rather watch from the comfort of the Clubhouse then please do as we will also host a social. This is also an excuse to share some of your Christmas leftovers if you have any so do bring them along. From Ian B., & the Sailing Sub-committee.

## SailGP

What an event. We referenced this last month but with GB doing so well, can they win the series? They are leading on the environmental league table too, but in the race they are up against the New Zealanders and Australians (sounds like cricket, but only better). If you missed it, you can view this via the on-line video platform 'you tube'. Rather than spoil the result you just have to admire the tactics – give the SailGP Final a try (Mubadala Abu Dhabi Sail Grand Prix 2025 Season Grand Final), you won't be disappointed. From Richard.

Hundreds of people lined up for the kayak sale. It was quite an oar deal.  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 07 December



# Fun Race – 2025 Overview



It has been an interesting year, starting with the first fun race at the March Saturday Club and finishing with a very light winds at the November one.

We only had two racing in the March one, following this there was a core of four regular racers at the others with several others joining them at other times.

October was very windy, so we practiced towing six Toppers around the lake, in preparation for the WSSYSA Regatta. This proved to be invaluable, as our Rookie Toppers really got the hang of it!

**WSSYSA Regatta:** We won the Team Trophy which was a great achievement with such a small team. From my Fun Race records I see all those in the team started in Oppies (even Oliver!) and all did their RYA Stage 1 & 2 at CMYC. Two of the Rookies only completed this in June this year. Three of those in the team qualified this year as Dinghy Instructors. Currently three of them are entering Open Meetings etc.

Most of the team have taken part in the Fun Racing over the past couple of years and it indicates the Fun Races have been useful.

Hopefully we will have more deciding to take part and then perhaps attending the National Schools & West Sussex Regattas in 2026.

**OPPIE SAILORS:** we do have two Oppies that could be used to sail at either of these regattas (in the Rookie Fleets), we just need a few sailors who would like to improve their skills further and join the team in 2026 or 2027.

We would also like some of our newer **TOPPER** sailors to consider joining in some of the Fun Races, RYA 1&2 course, Saturday Club Race training sessions. Do come and take advantage of all the training (and FUN) and we look forward to seeing you on the water next year.

Contact - [Diana](#) if you want to know more.

A red boat and a blue boat crash into each other. All the passengers were marooned.  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 7<sup>th</sup> December



# PRE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

## and Autumn Leaf series

Sunday 07<sup>th</sup> December from 10:30

Join us for some festive fun and pre-Christmas laughter at this our last social before 2026.



We'll be there from 10am, watching from the warmth of the Clubhouse as the racers prepare their boats for the **Autumn Leaf series** and have them ready for the start line at 10:30.

We can't promise you any mince pies or stollen unless you're early to the party as we're not asking you to sign up in advance for catering, but some mulled wine has been purchased ready for the event.

There are several short fun themes being planned plus a chance to meet fellow mariners and discuss the Club's 2026 Flotilla and other plans for next year.

Simply just come along and meet some of your fellow Mariners over a relaxed hot beverage.

*It's going to be a 'cracker' of an event.*

See you there,  
Neil, Andy and Richard.



PS Our New Year Social & Pursuit Race is on 04<sup>th</sup> January at 10:30.

What do you call it when lots of mariners stand on a wooden jetty? Pier pressure!  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 07 December



# CHRISTMAS POST BOX



In 2025 we introduced the Grebe Club.

Our ambition was to further help develop skills, friendships and have fun.

We also wanted to give recognition to those that participated, not just at the lake but at home too in developing their skills or, just as importantly, having fun.

To accomplish this, we provided a Challenge Record Card and promised the...



...Chance of an Award

That time is coming.

We want to give recognition to all those junior, youth and adult mariners that have achieved anything that they enjoyed or are proud of in 2025.

Yes - anything that you, or they, enjoyed or are proud of in 2025.

Now is the time to ensure your card is up-to-date, and

Now is the time to post a record of your achievement(s) in the Post Box at the Clubhouse (available from 07 December at the Pre-Christmas Laughter event) to be in for a chance of a CMYC award. One card per person please.

We will collect all the cards posted before the end of January in readiness to announce the winners at the prestigious CMYC Awards Evening.

We are already looking ahead for more fun in 2026.

We plan to present some easy and fun challenges on the Club's. The suggested challenge for all members is to participate in as many different events as possible throughout 2026 – how many will you attend?

Any record card or copy of certificate(s) will do so don't worry about that, just come along to the pre-Christmas &/or New Year socials and races and get your entries in before the deadline.

Richard, Will, Steve, Liam and Jeff.

Name:	What I did	Sticker	Sign off
<b>Safe and Sure</b> Confidently looking after each other			March
<b>Together</b> Support for our own and other community			April
<b>Green Blue</b> Practised safe and fair environment			May
<b>Fun</b> Discovered things and enjoying all the while			June
<b>Crew Development</b> Develop skills and knowledge			July
<b>Active Adventure</b> Experiences in and out of our marina			August
<b>Navigation</b> Solving problems and finding a way			September
<b>Oceanwide</b> Understanding the bigger picture			October

Complete every category for a chance of a CMYC annual award.  
See the website for the events and challenges to choose from.



Why did the sailor fall asleep? Because he went snore-king!  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 07 December



# DECEMBER WORK PARTY

## for Hedgecourt Heroes

We urgently need to repair a hole that has formed in the front wall of the Dam.

Some older sandbags have disintegrated and need replacing.

We need to complete this repair before winter sets in and are targeting Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 09:30 until 14:00, when experienced help will be on hand.

Lunch will be provided on demand. You are welcome to have lunch at any time from 12:00 as we intend to swap and move volunteers around so that we don't get too cold or tired.

We need people to:

- Prepare sandbags at the Clubhouse
- Wheelbarrow them to the powerboat
- Ferry them to the dam via powerboat
- Lay them at the dam
- Help in the galley and to clear some leaves.



Do not be put off as we will also be making a start on leaf clearing and this will continue on 14 & 18 January for the same time range.

Come prepared, if possible, with waders, gloves and the like.

All help is gratefully received, and you only need to do what you wish to, including clearing your boat space if you have a boat in the park.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 09:30 until 14:00 or any part thereof

You can quickly and easily register your support to ensure you get some lunch using the following link <https://rally.co/invite/tRYI1PiE9U36>

A work-party is a social gathering for members that wish to help restore and maintain the beautiful environment that we own. Join us and become a hero in maintaining Hedgecourt because it is vital we keep the water in!

Thank you,  
the CMYC Committee

What is an ambulance ship called? A blood vessel.  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 07 December



# RYA FIRST AID COURSE - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Where:** CMYC Clubhouse

**Who should attend:**

- Instructors who need to revalidate.
- Anyone hoping to become an instructor within the year.
- Anyone who runs or is regularly involved in group activities at CMYC.
- This course is open to all club members, space permitting, 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 instructors needing to revalidate.

**Duration:** 8 hours

**Start and finish times:**

The course starts promptly at 08.30 and finishes at 16.30.

**COST: £50** - Applicable to those not intending to instruct at CMYC

**Booking:** book on WebCollect, before 1st February.

**Content:**

The course includes current CPR methods and each pupil will be able to practice the technique on a 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 a defibrillator located on the outside wall by the galley. During the course you will be shown how to use one and become familiar with the equipment.

**Jeff**

When is a boat just like snow? When it's adrift!  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 07 December



# Training & Development

## Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- Grebe Club - Pre-Christmas laughter - 7th December
- RYA Day Skipper Theory - 8 Saturdays from 8th January - [book on WebCollect](#).
- RYA First Aid - 25th January (fully booked) & 8th February - [book on WebCollect](#).
- RYA Seamanship - 8th & 15th March (TBC)

## 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 helm Week - 2026

Although the programme for 2026 is by no means finalised it looks like JHW will be 17th to 21st August.

## Cobnor Weekend - 2026

Booked for 23-25 October - tide times are similar to those we had this year. Make a note of the date and check when the programme is finalised.

## Junior Saturday Club - November

### Race Coaching - report by Dan

It wasn't the usual November JSC with temperatures nearly 15 degrees and beaming sun; it would have easily been confused for a summer's day. The focus for the race coaching group this month was improving their race starts and boat control. They were introduced to the concept of line bias and were able to practice this through a variety of race starts. With a mix of lasers and toppers in the group, it allowed for some competitive sailing and has set them up well for next year's racing.

### Feva PB - report by Dan

This month's Feva session looked slightly different, with the group taking out two Laser 2000's instead. For some, this was their first time in a large double-handed boat, so we worked on some boat handling before joining up to run some practice starts and fun races. It was a great way to end the junior Saturday clubs for 2025, and I hope to see all the sailors back on the water in the new year.

## Adult Saturday Club - report by Jeff

I can't think of any more boat puns. Canoe?  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 7<sup>th</sup> December



# Training & Development

We only had two members register, one of whom didn't have suitable clothing, so the session was cancelled. The morning turned out to be quite windy, cold and damp.

## RYA Connected Conference

Five of our instructors attended the RYA Connected Conference in Crawley. During the day there was a choice of workshops and talks allowing clubs to share ideas and become aware of new developments. These conferences have improved significantly over the years with much more interaction between clubs and fewer presentations by the RYA. On the whole CMYC seems to be doing pretty well compared to other clubs, although most have similar problems.

## Winter Cleaning

Just a quick note as we go into the winter months: The clubhouse will continue to be stocked with hot drinks for members but as always please wash up, dry up and put away anything used.

If you have any rubbish and/or recycling, please take this home with you.

During the winter months, the clubhouse will only be cleaned twice a month.



I can't think of any more boat puns. Canoe?  
Come along to the Pre-Christmas Laughter social at 10:30 on 7<sup>th</sup> December

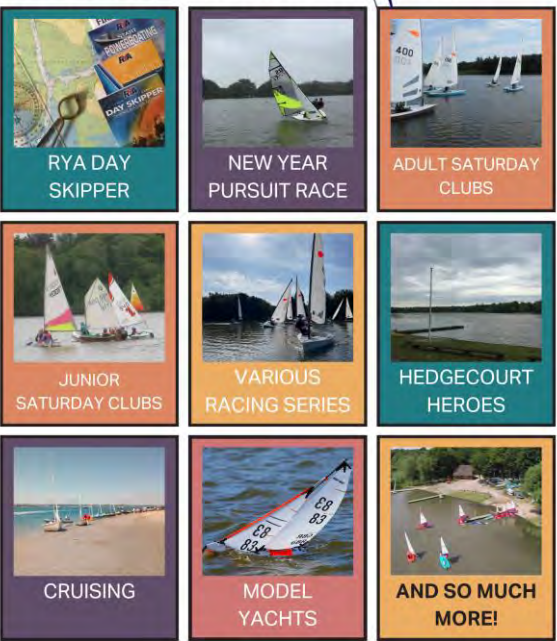


# CMYC Programme

Date	Event	Timings
<b>December 2025</b>		
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Autumn Saturdays (PM)	2pm – 3pm
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Autumn Leaf Race	10:30am – 12:30pm
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-Christmas Social	10:30am – 12:30pm
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Work Party – Hedgecourt Heroes	9am – 3:30pm
<b>January 2026</b>		
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Navigation Theory	9am – 5pm
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Pursuit Race	10:30am – 11:30am
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	New Year Social	10:30am – 12:30pm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Work Party – Hedgecourt Heroes	9am – 3:30pm
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Work Party – Hedgecourt Heroes	9am – 3:30pm

## WHAT'S ON?

at Crawley Mariners in 2026



- RYA DAY SKIPPER
- NEW YEAR PURSUIT RACE
- ADULT SATURDAY CLUBS
- JUNIOR SATURDAY CLUBS
- VARIOUS RACING SERIES
- HEDGECOURT HEROES
- CRUISING
- MODEL YACHTS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

