

C M Y C

THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?



January 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

January Newsletter 2026

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Commodore's News - Happy New Year | 01 |
| 1 st New Year Event | 02 |
| January Work Parties | 03 |
| Challenge Accepted | 04 |
| A Surprising History of Hedgecourt | 05 |
| RYA SafeTrx News | 06 |
| RYA Seamanship Course | 07 |
| 2026 Programme | 09 |
| RYA First Aid Course | 12 |
| New Year New Teams | 13 |
| RYA Dinghy & Watersports Show | 14 |
| CMYC Programme | 15 |



Happy New Year

Happy New Year We have a full programme prepared and ready for your enjoyment in 2026 that includes events, activities, cruises, socials, training, swimming, model yachting, kayaking and more.

The change of year encourages most of us to think ahead with some reflection on the past.

If you are one of those looking for a New Year's Resolution with a difference – *in my case the difference might be to keep it for more than a few weeks* – join one of our new teams that are being formed. This way you can be sure of it lasting longer and you only need to contribute as much or as little as you want.

If you are one of those that likes to reflect on the past you may be interested in the event we've organised for Tuesday 10 February 2026 that will look at the History of Hedgecourt. We have an entertaining guest speaker, and you can book your duties ahead of schedule at this free event over a drink from the bar. See related news item later in this edition.

It is also that time again - If you have any hesitation about renewing your membership or have any questions or concerns, please write to me or come and talk to me at the Pursuit Race and Social this coming weekend – 10am for 10:30 start Sunday 04th January and enjoy some of our refreshments and hospitality.

My wife and I visited the Clubhouse this week as part of the preparations for this social. The fridge was in a mess and between us we each spent a couple of hours cleaning. Yes, we have a cleaner, but we pay hourly for that service (that incidentally does not include clearing the cups and dishes) and every hour we save them from cleaning we save the club some money – and we need the money for the Club as plans unfold in 2026 and beyond.

While we were there the Starlings started to gather in the sky over the lake and within half an hour there were more than I have ever seen, and they flew over the Clubhouse. The noise of hundreds of birds flapping their wings is quite something and the visual images they form in the sky as part of their synchronised murmuration's are extraordinary. Just another great reason to enjoy a trip to the lake (especially if you stand under the veranda when hundreds fly overhead – it might be lucky to be pooped on once, but you don't want to shower in it).

With the help we get from Members including the Committees we have exciting plans for the Club, but to start with I'll limit this to the mid-week and weekend work parties and lunch socials (14th & 18th January) – book your lunch via this link: <https://rally.co/invite/ytA73q06MvYZ> and as always you only have to do what you want – no pressure.

Wishing you a very happy and healthy 2026, Richard (Commodore@CMYC.co.uk)



1st New Year Event



04 January 2026

A social with one 60-minute pursuit race - 10am for 10:30 start

Enjoy some Crawley Mariner hospitality with mulled wine and nibbles while watching the pursuit race unfold from the comfort of the Clubhouse or join the Pursuit race.

You can of course do both

The race is for everyone.



A pursuit race allows for personal ability and handicap so that the slowest boats go first and this avoids lots of boats on the start line at the same time. The idea is that the fastest boats catch up with the slower ones and everyone ends at the same time. In practice this means you can have enjoyable sail and wait for the supporting powerboat to tell you it has ended so that you can come in and have a cuppa.

If you have any Christmas goodies that you feel would be better shared than consumed at home free to bring them along. It is a great way to start the year in the company of other mariners, meet and make new friends and find out more about what is planned for 2026.

CHALLENGE

We are challenging everyone to participate in as many different events as possible throughout 2026 so why not make this your 1st.

TIP

Start a participation diary or download a Challenge Record sheet from the website to record everything you attend in 2026 and be in for the chance of an award.



Happy New Year from the Sailing Sub-committee.

Make the most of your Membership in 2026



January Work Parties

for Hedgecourt Heroes

With thanks to everyone that helped in December we have nearly completed repairing a hole that has formed in the front wall of the Dam and made a great start on clearing leaves from the boat park corridors.

You won't be surprised to learn that there are still a few more leaves to clear and some more work on the dam because some older sandbags have disintegrated and need replacing.

We need to complete this repair before winter really sets in (snow is forecast) and we are returning on Wednesday 14th January and Sunday 18th January from 09:30 until 14:00, when experienced help will be on hand to guide us.

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.



Come prepared, if possible, with waders, gloves and the like although we have a few items to share for the various tasks in hand.

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.

Come from 09:30 until 14:00 or any part thereof on either or both days

You can quickly and easily register your support to ensure you get some lunch using the following link <https://rally.co/invite/yta73q06MvYZ>

We will continue managing our estate in February too so keep your eye on the CMYC Website's on-line programme and in next month's newsletter.

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,
Ted (VC Estate) & the CMYC Committee



Challenge Accepted

We want to recognise all those Junior, Youth and Adult mariners that have achieved anything, yes anything, that they enjoyed or are proud of in 2025. For a chance of an award, you simply have to enter.

How to enter

- Post a record of your achievement(s) in the post box in the Clubhouse. Use either the Record Card included in the 2025 membership pack or anything similar
- Alternatively submit a scan of the record card or description of your achievement(s) in an email to the Commodore @cmyc.co.uk
- Now put the date of the Awards Evening (13 March 2026) in your diary so that you can collect any awards that may be presented
- One entry per person before Valentines Day 14 February 2026 in readiness to announce the winners at the prestigious CMYC Awards Evening.



We are planning more fun in 2026 and will be listing some monthly challenges on the website alongside our related events. We also challenge everyone to participate in as many different events as possible throughout 2026 – how many will you attend? Start by coming along to the New Year social and Pursuit race to post your entries in the Clubhouse post box before the deadline while enjoying some CMYC seasonal hospitality.

Will, Steve, Liam, Grant, Jeff and Richard.

You have to be in it to win it.



The Surprising History of Hedgecourt

including canons, water speed records and horses on water.

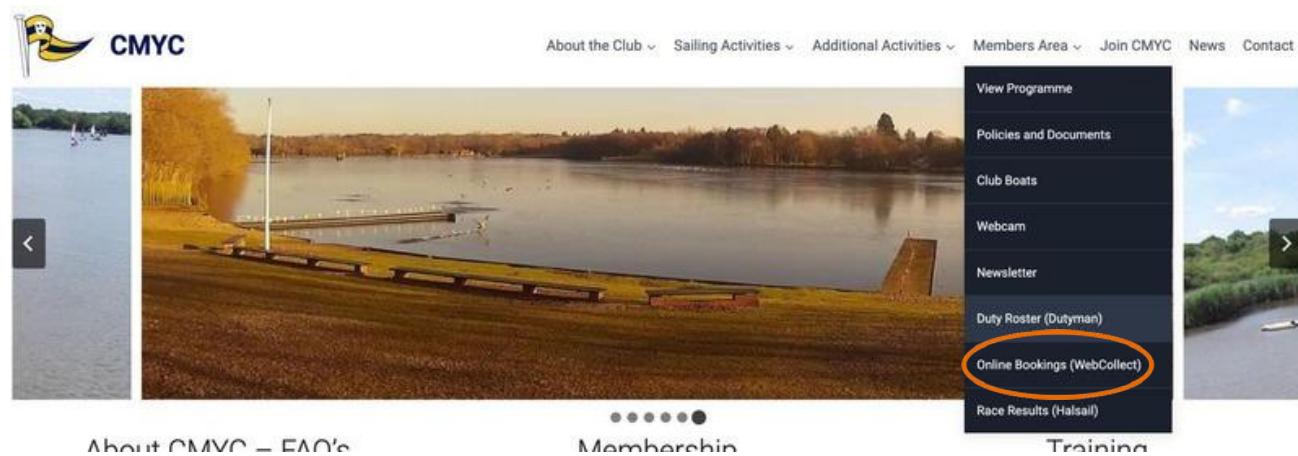
FREE EVENT – VENUE BAR – BOOKYOUR PREFERRED CLUB DUTIES

Date Tuesday 10 February 2026
Speaker Jeremy Clarke – Hedgecourt Historic Society
Venue The Oak Room, Haven Centre, Crawley Down, RH10 4LJ
Time 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.

Come and join your fellow CMYC members at our special Dry Meeting social for an evening talk where our guest speaker will enlighten us on the local area and the often, surprising history of Hedgecourt.

Learn about the lake over the centuries from working mill pond to today's fabulous Crawley Mariners Yacht Club with its wildlife reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The venue has a bar and there will be time for questions and to meet and socialise with fellow members.

Our Duty Manager, John, will be on hand during the evening to give you an opportunity to select your preferences for Club duties in 2026. There is no charge for this event however, if you are able to indicate your intention to attend, on Web Collect, that would help us to anticipate numbers for chairs. This can be found via the Club's website as shown here:



You will need to log on to Web Collect to reserve your place.
We look forward to welcoming you to this special event,

Sarah-Jo and the Committee



RYA SafeTrx is Closing

The vessel tracking, safety and communications platform **SafeTrx has been discontinued from 31 December 2025.**

The decision to close RYA SafeTrx (the UK version of SafeTrx) has been made by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), in discussion with HM Coastguard, due to advances in technology since the app's inception. HM Coastguard's search and rescue services remain fully operational, alongside all other safety measures, equipment and resources.

As always, we recommend you plan ahead and know what to do if there's an emergency at sea:

- To call for help when needed, please make sure you have a reliable means of communication onboard, such as a VHF / DSC radio, a personal locator beacon, or mobile phone in a waterproof pouch
- Tell someone at home where you are going and when you expect to get back
- If you are late returning, they can raise the alarm by calling 999 and asking for the Coastguard
- While on the water always wear a personal floatation device like a lifejacket and regularly check onboard and personal equipment.

The RYA and HM Coastguard are working together to ensure that the data originally provided to RYA SafeTrx will be transferred to a secure database within HM Coastguard. Users that do not want their data to be transferred to HM Coastguard are asked to delete their account prior to the app closing on 31 December 2025. Thereafter, you can update or remove your details at any time by emailing safetrxdata@mca.gov.uk

Mel Hide, RYA Director of External Affairs, said: "We appreciate that the news that the tracking side of RYA SafeTrx will no longer be provided will be disappointing for active users of the app. However, we are pleased that ownership and vessel data held within RYA SafeTrx will be transferred to HM Coastguard and can continue to be referenced in an emergency."

Assistant Chief Coastguard Matt Leat said: "While we are sorry to see RYA SafeTrx come to an end, we want to reassure all water users that this change will not affect HM Coastguard's ability to respond to emergencies and rescue those in distress. Your safety remains our top priority. To ensure you can call for help when needed, please make sure you carry appropriate safety equipment, such as lifejackets, and have reliable means of communication, such as a VHF radio or mobile phone in a waterproof pouch."

For additional coastal safety advice visit the HM Coastguard website or the RYA Water Safety Hub.

Please note: SafeTrx is also offered in other countries by other licensees. This change only applies to the UK's RYA SafeTrx

Richard (Chief Navigation Instructor) - Information taken from RYA Website 18 December 2025.



RYA Seamanship Skills course 8th & 15th March

Rudderless Sailing



Reefing ashore and afloat



Just two of the skills you will learn on this course.

Interested? Then read on =>

Who is it for:

Anyone wanting to become an Assistant Dinghy Instructor – they need to hold an advanced sailing qualification.

Those thinking about becoming a Dinghy Instructor – it teaches key skills that a DI will require.

Those intending to cruise – it teaches key skills that any cruiser should have.

Those wishing to improve their boat handling skills.

Open to youth (age 14 or over) and adult sailors.

Required experience:

Sailing skills to the standard of the RYA Level 3 - Better Sailing or RYA Stage 4. This does not mean that you must hold those qualifications, but you should be able to sail to that level, i.e. you must be able to handle your boat competently in a variety of conditions on all points of sail including sailing upwind efficiently and knowing the Five Essentials.

What does it cover:

Launch from and return to a beach, jetty or mooring, including lee shore.



RYA Seamanship Skills course 8th & 15th March

Man overboard recovery, sailing backwards, sailing in adverse conditions (no rudder or centreboard), reefing afloat and more.

Preparing to tow. Capsize recovery. Meteorology and more.

The course will use double handed dinghies.

What is included:

Use of club boats, Advanced Sailing Handbook.

What you will need:

Students are expected to have their own sailing clothing, as the course is being held in early March a full wetsuit or drysuit will be required. Keeping extremities warm is important, so warm dinghy boots, gloves and hats will be needed.

Where:

Both days will be held at Hedgecourt Lake, as an RYA Training Centre all our courses must be held here.

How much:

£65 or £60 if you have a recent copy of the RYA Advanced Sailing Handbook.

How to book:

Book via WebCollect at <https://webcollect.org.uk/cmvc/> booking closes 1st March.

Any Questions? Contact Amy Gibson - amydaniellegibson@gmail.com



2026 Programme - What's new or changed?

Overall

The 2026 programme is similar to the one for 2025, however there are some differences, which are outlined below. Copies of the 'At a Glance' quick reference programme, the full chronological programme and calendar view were attached to the Newsletter email, however we encourage you to use the programme on the website and the eCalendar as these will be updated as and when necessary, if they have not been updated for 2026 yet then they soon will be.

NEW: Powerboat refreshers

As part of the Adult Saturday Clubs we are now offering powerboat refreshers. These must be booked through WebCollect - Adult Saturday Club. These sessions are aimed at those who have passed their Level 2 and would like to spend time with a Powerboat Instructor to brush up on their skills.

There will also be refresher opportunities during the 'Get on the water challenge' day on 17th May.

NEW: Topper Race Series for Juniors

We have introduced a Topper race series. This will be scored as part of the Once per Month (OPM) race series, which is in the afternoons following Adult Saturday Clubs. OPM has had a low attendance, so Topper sailors need not fear a busy start or intimidating race. The series, as the name implies, has one race per month starting at 15:00. It is typically two weeks before Junior Saturday Club, but may vary on the odd occasion. Sailors should have achieved RYA Stage 2 or sail to an equivalent standard (i.e. they should be able to sail a triangular course). Topper sailors are also welcome and encouraged to take part in the Beginners' Race Series, which is on the same day. The race start is 13:30, and the race is just 30 minutes long, so there is time to come ashore between races. Also, during the Beginners' races coaching is allowed. If you want to borrow one of the Club's Toppers then you should complete the '[Club Boat and Associated Equipment Loan Form](#)'. You will need to use the same sail (number and size) for all the races.

Race Coaching

There is a Topper coaching day on 18th April, it is recommended that anyone intending to sail at the CMYC Topper Open on 25th April or other Topper or open events such as NSSA or WSSYSA should attend, book on WebCollect.

Changed: Have a Go Racing will focus on skills & tactics rather than results, there will be no duty Race Officers, the session will be run by a Race Coach and will be supported by a duty powerboat.

NSSA prep: We intend to have a day sailing at Lancing Sailing Club prior to NSSA, which is at Downs SC on the Kent coast. The prep session is to prepare sailors and their parents for



2026 Programme - What's new or changed?

launching off and recovering onto a shelving shingle beach and sailing in waves, skills we cannot teach at Hedgecourt, we cannot guarantee waves either! Parents will be asked to come prepared to wade into the sea to assist with launching and recovery. The date is to be decided.

On 5th July there will be a morning session on the Racing Rules of Sailing followed by Rapid Races in the afternoon. These sessions are open to everyone, ideally those going to NSSA and WSSYSA will attend both sessions.

Training

Training is broadly similar to last year, with Levels 1&2 and Stages 1&2 running over three weekends in June & July, two Powerboat Level 2 courses, a Safety Boat course and the usual Saturday Clubs.

New: We will be running an RYA 'Seamanship' course on 8th & 15th March. We don't run this course very often, so be sure to book on if you are interested. The course is ideal for those thinking of becoming a Dinghy Instructor or wishing to join the cruises. Those wishing to become Assistant Instructors need an 'Advanced Module' such as this before they can become AIs.

New: We are looking at the possibility of including RYA Stage 3 theory sessions in some Grebe Clubs. When finalised, details will be published in the Newsletter.

New: We are looking at the possibility of running a 'Dinghy Day Cruising' theory session, if you are interested please contact Donal cruising.cmyc@gmail.com.

New: On 16th May there will be an OnBoard training session for Dinghy Instructors, this will be run by a RYA OnBoard coach and may involve Dinghy Instructors from other local clubs.

NEW: Work Parties during Junior Saturday Clubs

We'd really appreciate parents of children taking part in the Junior Saturday Clubs joining these work parties, rather than heading home or waiting while the session finishes. This work will help the club to remain in good shape and give parents an opportunity to meet up with others. The work parties run from 9:45 to 11:45 and 13:45 to 16:00, these times should allow parents to see their children settled into their groups and be ready to meet them at the end of their sessions.



2026 Programme - What's new or changed?

Changed: Grebe Club

In 2026 Grebe Club will run from March to October. We are looking at the possibility of including RYA Stage 3 theory sessions in some Grebe Clubs. When finalised, details will be published in the Newsletter.

Changing: Model Yachting

The Model Yachting has been increasing in popularity through 2025, it is hoped to add some weekend sessions in 2026 to allow junior and working members to join in the fun.

NEW: Race Registration

We are quite aware of the frustration caused when duty crews turn up only to find that no one is racing. This year we will be trialing a registration system based on the website based programme. Racers will be able to show that they intend to race. This will be much simpler and quicker than using a system like WebCollect. More details will be published in the New Year.

Changed: Race Officer Training

If you have raced you may be given a Race Officer duty, even if you haven't raced you can help the club by volunteering to become a Race Officer. Training will now be done on the job during normal club racing, if you need some training please contact the Duties Manager duties@cmyc.co.uk so that he can put you with an experienced RO. It is not difficult, you do not need to be a dinghy racer or have knowledge of the racing rules. Experienced racers will always give advice if asked. Being a Race Officer supports our instructors, committee members and Tuesday Volunteer Group who give a lot of time to the club and like to race. All club members benefit from their efforts so please give a little back.

NEW: Galley Duty

We are introducing a Galley Duty on days when Adult Saturday Clubs are scheduled. The Duty will run from 12:00 to 15:00. This will cover the end of Adult Saturday Club, the Beginners Race and preparation for the Once per Month Series, which incorporates the Topper series. During this period there is a quite varied range of members and hopefully this duty will encourage those members to sit and socialise a little. As last year, other Galley Duties are available on days when there is Have A Go Racing, Bart's Bash, Get on the Water Challenge, Grebe Clubs and Socials. There are also Galley Duties for the Comet and Topper Open Meetings, but these involve the purchase and preparation of food and are organised in conjunction with the Sailing Sub-committee.



RYA First Aid Course - 8th February 2026

Where: CMYCClubhouse

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.

book on WebCollect, before 1st February.

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

Booking: 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 Smith



New Year New Teams

We have great ambition for Crawley Mariners Yacht Club with lots going on both on and off the water throughout 2026.

On the water we are powered by nature. Off the water we are driven by the inspiration and passion delivered by you. My thanks to those already stepping forward to create these small teams:



Funding Our Future

Possibly the biggest challenge we've ever had is dredging as part of our Lake Management Plan. This coupled with other expenditure to bring things up-to-date is where we will need to generate additional funds rather than increase fees.

Can you help?

Social Friends

We have a fantastic reputation of being the friendliest sailing club and wish to build more fun and social opportunities into the 2026 programme of events. The two main events (early and late summer socials) could do with an injection of your imagination to include what you'd like to do.

This can be at any level to suit your availability. Is this for you?

Special Projects

We wish to support the Tuesday Volunteer Group (TVG) and our Sailability initiative. Either visit the Club on a Tuesday morning or contact me as we have a range of small projects requiring DIY, woodworking and other such handy skills. The choice and scope of involvement is yours.

Think of this as TV's Repair Shop meets Boat Shed at a lake near you.

Swim Safe

This is a specific RYA scheme and may well be suited to an Open Water Swimmer or Swim Instructor to enable us to offer this to our membership.

The frequency of delivery is entirely in your hands and would benefit all, especially in generating water confidence in our youngsters.

Natural World

We rely on mother nature to power our sailing, and we are dependent on the natural environment with an abundance of wildlife at our doorstep.

We would love to form a small team who understand the natural world and help us learn about it as we visit the lake.

These are intended to be small teams with fun at heart sharing support for the Club. Step forward individually, as a family or with other members that you are friends with to help promote these initiatives.

Make it a New Years Resolution as it is time to join one of our new teams for 2026. We're in your hands, you decide. Without obligation, please show your interest by writing to the Commodore and he'll be in contact with you, because with your help we can do more.





The must-see sailing and watersports event of the year will return to

Farnborough International - 21 & 22 February 2026

Get your tickets now

RYA members and children 15 and under go free!

Adult tickets start at £15, buy in advance and save.



More than 170 exhibitors -
Things to do at the show
Fun for the whole family



Talks &
expert
coaching



Opens at 10.00am and closes at 6.00pm each day

CMYC Programme

SUN

4

January 4 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Pursuit Race

Hedgecourt Lake Copthorne Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead, United Kingdom

Pursuit Race

[RSVP Now](#) Free

SUN

4

January 4 @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

New Year Social

Social & The Grebe Club - New Year Social

WED

14

January 14 @ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Work Party - Hedgecourt Heroes

Work Party - Hedgecourt Heroes



SUN

18

January 18 @ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Work Party - Hedgecourt Heroes

Work Party - Hedgecourt Heroes

SAT

31

January 31 @ 12:00 am

Dinghy Show

Dinghy Show



SAT

31

January 31 @ 12:00 am

Dinghy Show

Dinghy Show

SAT

31

January 31 @ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

First Aid

First Aid



February 2026

TUE

10

February 10 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

The Surprising History of Hedgecourt

Haven Centre, Crawley Down Haven Centre, Crawley Down, United Kingdom

Come and join your fellow CMYC members at our Dry Meeting, social, evening talk where our guest speaker will enlighten us on the local area and the often surprising history...

THU

12

February 12 @ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Work Party - Hedgecourt Heroes

Work Party - Hedgecourt Heroes

