



C M Y C

THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?

February 2026



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Christmas Past – Welcome to 2026

Ice on the lake meant that we have to skate over the fact we couldn't hold the New Year Pursuit Race as planned however the New Year social was a great success and very well attended. Many thanks to all that came and a belated Happy New Year to those that couldn't make it.

The early swimmers broke the ice and had a dip before joining us for hot mulled wine and other treats. We had 43 mariners share news and good tidings.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back as renewals are well underway supported by our past and present Membership Secretaries (Duncan and Julian).

The new teams are also taking shape with Swim Safe being first to dive in – thanks to Open Water Swimmers Beth & Lindsey, and DI Esther. This is not the only new course that the Training Team are planning. Donal is seeking interest in a Day Cruising Theory course, and we're running the Seamanship course this year. More information is included in this edition of the Newsletter. Be sure to book or let Donal know you are interested.

The Training Sub-committee aren't the only ones working hard in the background with the Management Committee also going above and beyond. See Accelerating our VMG later. If you want more information on this and how we are shaping the future of the Club, ask Richard at the History Talk. See the advert for this free event elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you want to see dedication in action come along to a February Work Party and book a free lunch <https://rally.co/invite/NOG12NyAYvqQ>. This is an exceptionally great way to meet members, socialise and you only need to do what you would like to. Again, there is more on this elsewhere.



Thought I should also remind you that Valentines Day is just days away. Why not treat your loved one to a date by taking them to the History Talk (you don't have to tell them the tickets are free). Additionally, give your loved one some recognition at the Awards Evening – Note: Valentines Day is the deadline for this – See elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

Did I mention that a new season of SailGP has started. This is just fantastic sailing, easy to watch and quite motivational too. Watch how teams pick their start and pick themselves up when all is lost. Amazing, just like the Crawley Mariners.

Richard (Commodore)



Accelerating our VMG

Something you might not know...

Velocity Made Good (VMG) is all about sailing the fastest angle to reach your goal as quickly as possible, but you probably knew that.

What you might not know is... that the Committee have been meeting every weekend in January and plan to continue throughout February to resolve issues and help each other make progress that we don't always have time for in the regular monthly Committee meetings.

This is extraordinary dedication to the Club, your welfare and the future. Firstly, thanks to the Committee for their support, but some additional assistance would be very welcome. This is why we are asking you to consider helping with one of the following.



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

☒ We now have sufficient support for this initiative – thank you.

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.

Without obligation, please show your interest by writing to the Commodore and he'll be in contact with you in early March, because with your help we can do more.

Richard
Commodore



Awarding Achievement

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 @cmyp.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.



Awards Evening (Presentation of 2025 Awards)

Friday 13th March 2023 - 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Venue: The Ark, Mount Lane, Turners Hill. RH10 4RA



Although the awards are being presented – for both racing and volunteers - this will still leave plenty of time to enjoy an informal get-together to catch up and, we hope, encourage each other to take part in our sailing events over the year.

An optional light buffet will be available at a small charge (£12.50)

- Sandwiches & Wraps (with various fillings)
- Sausage Rolls
- Indian snacks and chutney – crudités and dips
- Chocolate Brownies/Flapjacks
- Tea and Coffee

(All dietary needs catered for – enter on booking)



Do bring your own alcohol/soft drinks (and glasses)

Booking, via Webcollect, now open and closing on the 2nd March



Fancy a race?

Warm Up Race - Saturday 7th March

This **1-day** race series is **open to sailors of all abilities**

We hold two races in the morning, break for lunch then complete the third race in the afternoon. Sailors can qualify for awards in the Warm Up by sailing just two of the three races.

If you want to try sailing with another helm or crew, why not reach out on our WhatsApp “CMYC Racing Chat” group to find a buddy for the day.

To borrow a boat for the day, contact sailing.subcommittee@cmyc.co.uk

It is a great way to get a start on the new season!

Want to take home an award this year? Beyond our Overall awards, we offer prizes for leading Single Handers, Double Handers, Ladies, Under 16s, Under 13s, Novices, and our Comet Silver and Bronze fleets. Many of these were uncontested last year, meaning that simply entering enough races to qualify puts you in a great position to win!



Spring Sundays - 22nd March

Unlike the Warm Up Race, Spring Sundays is a “race series” of 12 races over 6 Sundays, from March to May.

To qualify for an award you would need to sail in at least 7 of the 12 races, but you can take part in any of the races if you just want to get some time out on the water and build up your racing experience - everyone is welcome!

Those beginning to race are welcome at all our races, do not be put off by the more experienced racers, they will be pleased to give advice before and after the races – most of all they will be pleased that you are joining in. We were all beginners once. The [Benefits of Racing](#) gives more information on racing.



Cruising & Seamanship Courses

CMYC has a long history of providing training courses for its members and is now offering a Day Cruising Theory course.

I have been asked by various people about a navigation course for day sailors especially those joining the CMYC cruises in Chichester harbour and beyond. CMYC already offers the RYA Essential Navigation, Day Skipper and Yachtmaster Theory Courses but we wanted to focus on information required to enjoy our cruises.

This is being offered as a stand-alone course, but it is recommended as an add on theory course to the CMYC RYA Seamanship Course scheduled for the 8th and 15th March.

RYA Seamanship Course

Despite the name this will take place at Hedgecourt 8th and 15th March. I would highly recommend this course to anyone aspiring to dinghy cruising or sea sailing or considering becoming a dinghy instructor as it consolidates on the basic Level 2 boat handling skills. It covers such skills as launching and recovery from lee shores, picking up and leaving a mooring, anchoring, reefing, M.O.B, sailing in adverse conditions and dealing with inversion capsize. While the last one is difficult to practice at Hedgecourt these are the essential skills to be able to sail in more challenging waters.

CMYC Day Cruising Theory

This course will cover some of the skills needed for sailing in Chichester Harbour or other Club Cruises. Although it is stand-alone learning it is recommended as an add-on to the Seamanship course. I would plan to cover, boat preparation and equipment, weather for sailing, passage planning and basic chart work. It would also include pilotage, buoyage, tides, using GNSS (aka GPS), waypoints and decision making afloat. It would also include the nuts and bolts of getting your boat afloat at our preferred cruising sites and generally keeping out of trouble!

I am seeking interest in this course that I would envisage running 3 or 4 two hour evening sessions in the spring at the Clubhouse. To make this viable I would need a minimum of 4 or 5 sailors prepared to commit. I would see it as being learner centred and it should be fun. What about the practical skills you ask? Just have a look at our comprehensive 2026 Cruising calendar and pick your dates.

Please let me know asap if you are interested by emailing me on cruising.cmyc@gmail.com

Dinghy Cruising

On a completely different subject. There is an excellent series of videos on YouTube about day sailing with family on Tarka the sailing dinghy. You will find the introductory episode here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-fZh83OdUE&list=PLJqpmD8udzoKkRxRbGRjkfcg1wzRK7MS>. They look at different sailing waters, and it even includes a round Hayling Island trip. Something for you to enjoy while waiting for the winter weather to improve.

Donal



The Surprising History of Hedgecourt

including canons, water speed records and horses on water.

FREE EVENT – VENUE BAR – BOOK YOUR 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.

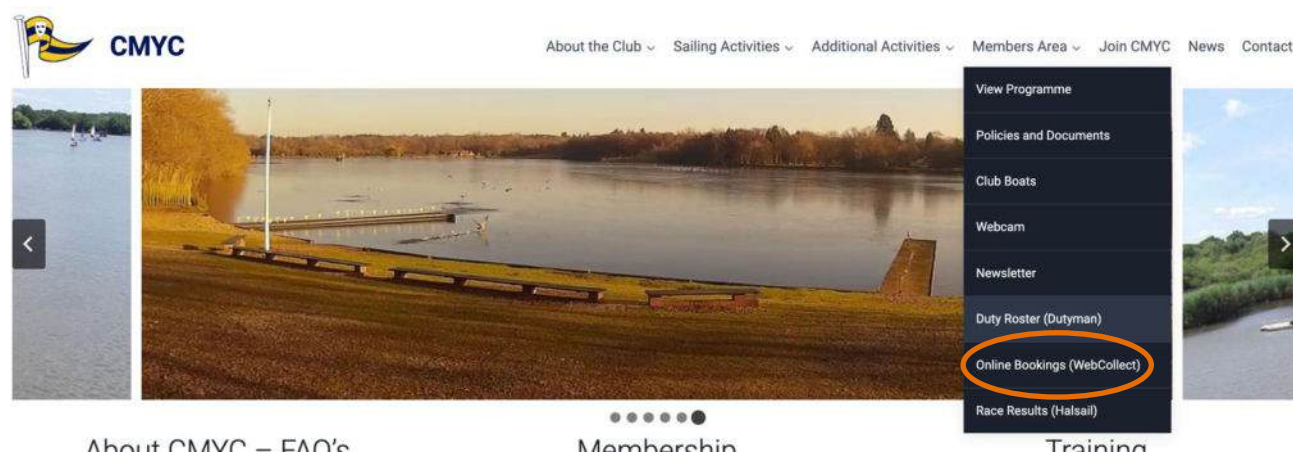
Come and join your fellow CMYC members at our special Dry Meeting social for an evening talk where our guest speaker will enlighten us on the local area and the often, surprising history of Hedgecourt.

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



Juniors – The fun starts here

March is just around the corner so here is a quick reminder of what is on offer:



Hedgecourt History



Saturday Club

Grebe Club

Hedgecourt Heroes



Work Parties

Hedgecourt History and social on Tuesday, 10 February for those that want to know more about the lake, and depending on age, a late night out (19:30 – 21:30 at the Haven Centre). You can even plan your duties in advance at this event.

Work Party for Hedgecourt Heroes at the lake on Saturday 15 February, any time between 10am and 3pm. Lunch is provided but you'll have to click the appointment here: <https://rallyy.co/invite/NOG12NyAYvqQ> Come and help out, do as much as you want and enjoy.

RYA Dinghy & Watersports Show between 21 – 22 February 2026 at the Farnborough International Exhibition & Conference Centre. See <https://www.rya.org.uk/dinghy-show/>

Grebe Club on 01 March 10:30 to 12:30 at the Clubhouse. The topic for March is Safe & Sure to ensure we all get off to a great and safe start in 2026. Fun games to convey a message we take seriously at Crawley Mariners.

Awards Presentations on Friday, 13 March at The Ark. This is a great event for all, and you can still get your juniors recognition. It is not too late as you have until Valentines Day to enter – refer to Awarding Achievement in this newsletter.

Junior Saturday Club on, wait for it... "Saturday". The first session this year is on 14 March for more informal sailing training. See elsewhere for details.



February Work Parties

for Hedgecourt Heroes

What a result – Thanks to everyone that has contributed to these events.

It is amazing what we can achieve together and what might be really surprising is how helping clear leaves, cut and clear reeds and fill and move sandbags is enjoyable.

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 continue this work while the lake levels are low, we may have had a lot of rain, but the spillway has been lowered for this work – hence the urgency – all help is gratefully received on Thursday 12th and Sunday 15th February from 09:30 until 14:00.

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 help:

- with sandbags
- to clear some leaves
- cut and clear reeds
- plus other task to suit you.

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://rallyy.co/invite/NOG12NyAYvqQ>

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



Junior/Youth Racing Opportunities 2026

Awards for all club race series - including junior specific

All our race series have awards for the leading boat in the following categories:

Overall	Lady
Double Hander	Novice
Single Hander	
Under 16 (but over 12, age taken at the start of the season)	
Under 13 (age taken at the start of the season)	

So there are lots of opportunities for our young sailors to win awards recognising their achievements, they just need to race in at least half the races in a series to qualify. More details of awards and trophies can be found in the [Award and Trophy Descriptions](#) document on the club website.

If you can sail a triangular course and make reasonable progress upwind then you are welcome to join any club race.

Step 1: Fun race

At each Junior Saturday Club we run a short race, maximum 30 minutes. Instructors will be on the water to help. The race starts at 13:00 so you need to be on the water no later than 12:40. We would really like to encourage Junior Saturday Club attendees to join in the Fun Race, it is a great way to improve sailing skills and as the title suggests it is meant to be fun.

Dates: 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 5 Sept, 10 Oct, 7 Nov

Step 2: Beginners Race

On days when Adult Saturday Club is held there is a 30 minute race starting at 13:30. These are similar to the Fun Race in that there are instructors on the water to help. They are aimed at encouraging more members, both adults and juniors, to take up racing. In the last couple of years attendance has been quite low so don't be put off thinking that there will be lots of adults racing.

If you are feeling confident then stay on for the Topper Series, see below.

Dates: 28 March, 18 April, 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, 22 August, 26 Sept, 17 Oct, 21 Nov

Step 3: Have A Go Racing

Have A Go Racing sessions are a flexible format where the emphasis is on learning race skills rather than winning. The sessions are run by a race coach and may include very short races or race exercises.

Dates: 17 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 29 August, 6 September



Junior/Youth Racing Opportunities 2026

Step 4: Topper Race Series

This year we have introduced a Topper Race Series. This is part of the Once per Month race series. Races start at 15:00 on the same day as Adult Saturday Clubs and the Beginners race, you can do the Beginners Race as well, provided you are not a race series overall winner. Attendance at the Once Per Month races has been low, so it would be great to have some Toppers come along to boost numbers. Consider participating in the beginners race, which starts at 13:30 on the same days.

Dates: 28 March, 18 April, 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, 22 August, 26 Sept, 17 Oct, 21 Nov

Step 5: Junior Saturday Club Race Coaching

The Race Coaching session held in the morning of Junior Saturday Clubs is aimed at those who can sail efficiently on all points of the wind and are wanting to learn racing skills and tactics. You must register on WebCollect as part of the Junior Saturday Club booking.

Dates: 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 5 Sept, 10 Oct, 7 Nov

Step 6: Regattas and Open Meetings

Each year we take a group of our junior and youth sailors to the National Schools Sailing Association (NSSA) Regatta (20-24 July 2026) and to the West Sussex Schools and Youth Sailing Association (WSSYSA) Regatta (20-21 Sept 2026) and we also hold a Topper Open Meeting (25 April 2026) at Hedgecourt. This might all sound a bit scary, but there are Rookie fleets for those attending the regattas for the first time. They are a terrific way to improve sailing skills and have a really good time. Ask someone who has been.

To help those considering any or all of these we have some specific preparatory sessions. On 18th April there is a Topper Coaching Day. On 13th September there is a coaching and boat preparation day for WSSYSA. There will be a preparation day for NSSA (including parents), this will be held at Lancing Sailing Club (date TBD).

Other Racing Events

One Day Series we have three one day series planned, 7th March (Warm Up), 18th July & 15th August. Each day is a mini series with two races in the morning and one in the afternoon, you need to sail two races to qualify. These are good days to get some training in. There is no coaching but experienced sailors will be willing to answer any questions before or after the races.

Racing Rules & Short Races day 12th July The morning is spent in the clubhouse looking at some of the racing rules, this knowledge will help you on the race course. The afternoon is a series of short races, great for practising starts.

Club racing - see the programme for details, the more competitors the better. The 'At A Glance', circulated in January makes it easy to see dates for each series.



Powerboat Level 2

The next Power Boat Level 2 course is on **Sunday 19th April and Sunday 26th April.**

There are people on the waiting list but we have at least one spare place.

If you are interested in doing the RYA Power Boat Level 2 course, either this one or later this year, please register in WebCollect on the '*Powerboat Level - 2 waiting list*'



Here is the RYA description of the course:

RYA Powerboat Course Level 2, The National Powerboat Certificate.

This two-day course provides the skills and background knowledge needed to drive a powerboat and is the basis of the International Certificate of Competence. It includes Close quarters handling, high speed manoeuvres, man overboard recovery and collision regulations.

Assumed knowledge - None

[Mike Smith](#)

01403 262102



Training & Development

Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- RYA First Aid - 8th February - [book on WebCollect](#)
- RYA Seamanship - 8th & 15th March - [book on WebCollect](#)
- Junior Saturday Club - 14th March - booking on Webcollect open mid-February
- Adult Saturday Club - 28th March - booking on Webcollect open mid-February
- Powerboat refresher - 28th March - (see below)
- Social & The Grebe Club - Together - 5th April (the first Grebe Club of 2026)
- Topper Race Coaching - 18th April - details to come in March
- RYA Powerboat Level 2 - 19th & 26th April (see below)

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.

Powerboat refresher

This year we are introducing powerboat refresher sessions as part of Adult Saturday Club, places are limited to two per morning. Booking will be via WebCollect - Adult Saturday Club, but won't open until later in February.

RYA Powerboat Level 2

If you are interested in gaining your RYA Powerboat Level 2, then please add your name to the waiting list. Our Chief Powerboat Instructor, Mike, will then contact you. It is not possible to book directly onto a specific course and just because you are on a waiting list doesn't mean that there isn't space on the next course.

Junior & Youth Racing Development & Opportunities

Please read the separate Newsletter article to find out more about the many and varied opportunities for our junior and youth sailors to start and progress their racing. Racing is one of the best ways to develop sailing skills.



Last Reminder: RYA Dinghy & Watersports Show at the end of February

A great day out, especially with FREE entry for children in the family, and a good place if for new dinghy boots and other type clothing.

Next year is an Olympic year, so you can see and speak to the Team GB sailors here.

Lots for everyone as there are interesting talks for adult racers. Plus a number of 'hand's on' things to have a go at, such as trapezing, computer simulated sailing and stands where you can pick up some great **FREE** sailing bits and pieces to aid to your kit box.

A chance at some of the new botas available, plus checking out the latest Topper; Laser and even the Optimist.

I am unable to get there this year so would really like to hear from you at our first Saturday Club (Saturday 14th March) what you saw and found interesting. Do remember to book onto the Saturday Club and to make sure we know you are coming.



The must-see sailing and watersports event of the
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

