

A P R I L

# C M Y C

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*THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?*



April 2026



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April Newsletter 2026

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# 2026 'Making Way'

What a great start. We have a very active programme of events for you that cast off in glorious sunshine and is truly 'making way'. This picture is the March Junior Saturday:



In light of the sailing challenge given to me, I participated in this Junior event and while I didn't qualify (*apparently, I'm a little too tall*) it was fun to be on the water.

Speaking to a parent after the event they described the professionalism of their son's coach and the friendly atmosphere. A great result, but don't take their word for it, come and join in and see for yourself, be that an event for those slightly taller, greyer, shorter or even dryer as we have land based skills and social activities too.

Don't stop there, invite a school friend, work colleague or simply anyone you meet who thinks giving sailing a try might be fun as our Open Day is just weeks away on 10<sup>th</sup> May. In truth we need more members so your help with this and promoting your Club would be greatly appreciated.

For those attending the awards evening the story about the nest building pigeon was true and to be inclusive, as we are at the Club, the pile of twigs I left as a gift has now been taken from my garden. The pigeon has put them back in the tree where they came from.

This was hardly a generous gift but others of you are more generous than me. You have offered time and skills collecting our new powerboat, and the leaf clearing the other week at the monthly work-party / help-day was very impressive and much more – Thank you.

Inspiring our youngsters is something I normally leave to those leading the Junior Saturday and Grebe Clubs, but the story from Angus is worth noting. It just goes to show how amazing our Club is in helping us achieve our dreams.

Richard  
Commodore

PS The tree surgery is complete, and you can put your boats back now.



**TOPPER OPEN**

**CMYC**

**25TH APRIL  
2026**



**ALL ABILITIES  
WELCOME**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SIGN UP VIA ITCA GB WEBSITE**

**ENTRY FEE: £13 FOR CMYC SAILORS, OTHERWISE £18**

# Galley Duty (Lakeside Café)

The Galley Duty was introduced last year but is still relatively new, so what is it about?

At the March Adult Saturday session, the Galley Duty was hosted by Ashley, Hazel and Innes. Together they made this a real treat by creating a social atmosphere and connecting the morning and afternoon sessions together.

This is what Galley Duty is all about – adding a social dimension to lake events and bringing people together...

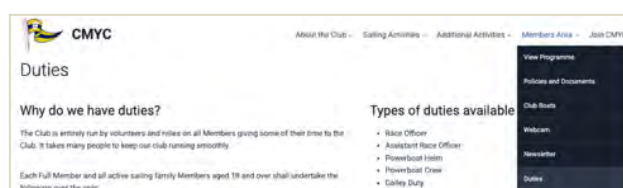


...not only that it was great to be offered a cuppa after coming off the water. Thank you.

Picture includes those enjoying lunch having participated in the Adult session (am) and those joining the Beginners Race (pm) including a couple simply there to enjoy the lake in the afternoon kayaking.

If you would like to help add social events to our programme as part of a small likeminded team of members, please let Richard know.

If you would like to know more about the range of duties we offer, including how to volunteer or swap a duty please look at our website: Members Area menu / Duties:



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

*Crawley Mariners, run by its Members for the Members*

# Sailing a Healthy Lifestyle

My pre-sail breakfast included some yoghurt with fruit (sultanas, grapes, blueberries and 4 chopped prunes - *tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor!*), plus a teaspoon of mixed seeds.



This is a specially selected diet to enhance my athletic ability, balancing flavour with a blend of nutritional goodness.

Who am I kidding?

In truth this was my breakfast before setting out to help Instruct at Adult Saturday last weekend, but it was simply because I like it and believe it to be healthy.

Any food experts out there that wish to comment please write to the Editor.

Sailing is a healthy lifestyle. It involves physical movement, fresh air and has mental health benefits not least from enjoying the natural world and some chat with other members.

Having completed an enjoyable sail with Sarah-Jo (thanks SJ), I prepared for the afternoon 'race' with a salad lunch (mixed salad plus a few chopped nuts, grapes and cheese). It was the Beginners Race, so it was more about enjoying a sail than competing.

The Beginners Race was fun. It is only 30 minutes so even with my fitness level I managed it, and watching for any gusts coming on the water made it exciting.

I may have a 'slight' bias, but I cannot recommend sailing enough, and Crawley Mariners has everything you need to get started regardless of your ambition – be that to; learn how to sail, enjoy the lake, the social side, the open water swimming, kayaking, the mix of races and junior events; e.g., Saturday (11 April) and Grebe (05 April) sessions to develop skills and live your dream.



Whatever your ambition sailing provides a positive way to stay fit and healthy even without the yoghurt and salad, just come along and participate in anything that catches your eye.

Invite your friends and colleagues to benefit too and help us make our 2026 Open Day (10<sup>th</sup> May) a fresh and healthy start for everyone regardless of athletic ability.

# From Sussex to South Georgia

Hi, I am Angus, 27 years old and began sailing at CMYC during Junior Helm Week when I was 12. Joining CMYC gave me the opportunity to sail at Hedgecourt as well as race at some of the leading regatta venues in the UK. I volunteered with the Jubilee Sailing Trust working on a tall ship. I met a lot of people when sailing and came to realise that I could have a career that allowed me to enjoy being on boats as well as travel the world.

That's how I got from Sussex to South Georgia and from Skye to the Scilly Isles.

## How did you qualify and progress as a Navigation Officer?

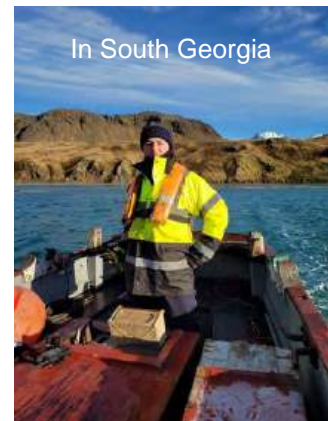
A cadetship with a shipping company gave me an alternative to university whilst also gaining a professional qualification. After three years at nautical college and with sea time I achieved Officer of the Watch status that enabled me to sail as a Third Officer. Promotion to Second Officer came after a year at sea. I returned to college to study for my Chief Officer's ticket and have now served enough sea time to apply for a Master's ticket. I am currently working as a Chief Officer for the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group, working on their freight service from Penzance in Cornwall, where I now live.



Image of new Scilly Isles freight ship on which I will be Chief Officer when she comes into service this spring. She is a Menawethan Freight Ship weighting 1000 gross tonnes, length 45m, beam 11m, draft 3.1 to 3.6m, speed 10 knots, cargo capacity 207 metric tonnes and up to 12 passengers.

## What have you most enjoyed working at sea?

The adventure of being able to travel the world whilst working has been amazing. As a cadet I cruised the Pacific Islands from Australia; served in a sail powered cruise ship in the Caribbean and crossed the Atlantic numerous times going to and from Europe to the banana producing countries of the West Indies and South America. One of my first jobs as a Third Officer took me to the Falklands Islands, Antarctica and South Georgia. I have been all over northern Europe and the UK whilst working. The feeling of navigating a ship and watching the sunrise on a new day is a very special feeling.



## What's your day-to-day routine look like?

In my current role I am responsible for: planning the navigation for each trip, loading the vessel, maintaining the vessel, ensuring the stability of the vessel, and navigating the vessel when on watch on passage. So, every day is different, we can be loading so I am on deck organising the cargo and deciding where the cargo is placed, then we can be departing Penzance and sailing to the Scilly Isles, so I am keeping a watch and ensuring safe navigation. Other days we may have a free day where we are keeping the vessel in good trim and ensuring that essential maintenance is carried out.

# From Sussex to South Georgia

## What experience have you had?

I have been lucky to travel to 40 different countries on multiple vessel types which has been brilliant. I have worked on a wide variety of ships; everything from cruise ships, reefers (refrigerated cargo ships), general cargo ships, freight ferry and fishery patrol vessel. I also did a stint on the Trinity House lightship support vessel and recently worked in the Hebrides (Skye) on an equipment testing vessel.

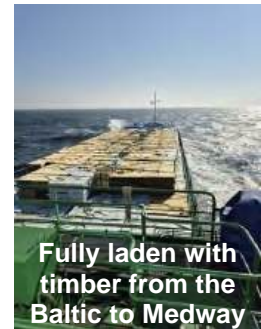


## What's your favourite part of the job?

The variety of knowing that every day is different and that each day will produce a new challenge.

## What's the most challenging part of the job?

The weather! Sometimes when you have had a long day working and you get caught in some nasty weather it can be a real rubbish time. Time away from home can be hard as well but this is all part of the job.



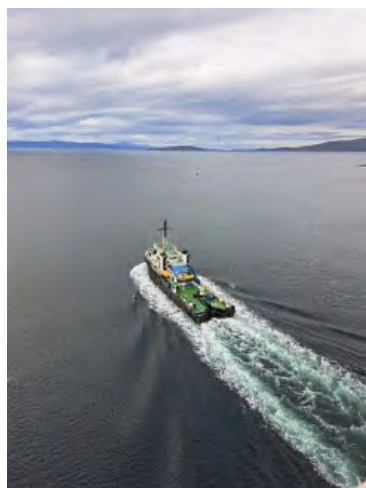
## What would you say to young people starting a career at sea?

Make the most of any opportunity that comes your way. This includes all the Junior activities and events at Crawley Mariners because the skills you learn on and off the water can be applied whatever your journey. Always get stuck in and ask lots of questions. Enjoy the adventure and the experience of sailing with different people from all walks of life.

Thanks Angus

Ex: CMYC Junior Family Member

Now: Chief Officer for the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group and an inspiration to us all.



# Race Ready

Why be **Race Ready** when you don't want to race?

There are many good reasons to be **Race Ready** even if you don't want to race.

The numbered sequence of courses within the RYA scheme (levels or stages 1, 2, 3 etc.) can be misleading but it is all about skills development.

"Practice makes Perfect" is a familiar expression but not all of us want perfection.

Typically, we want to achieve confidence and that comes from familiarity and application of skills. Familiarity of joining in, getting the boat ready to go on the water and getting ourselves ready too with the right clothing is a good start. Familiarity with these stages helps develop our confidence and if you attend the same race series you'll get to know the other sailors too.

Participating in a race series gives us that practice. Applying the skills happens when we are on the water and in ways that we might not otherwise achieve. Sailing across the wind is a first step with up wind and downwind sailing being extensions of this. Applying the knowledge to sail any 'point of sail' is something racing adds because following the course will help cover this, and help is always on hand – either from other sailors, or the powerboat teams\*.



\*No not just if you capsize – in some sessions including the 'Have a Go' and Race Coaching sessions the support team can give you advice while out on the water.

Building confidence can be achieved through participating in the CMYC programme that has been designed to help you progress from Junior Saturday Clubs including the Fun Races, to 'Have A Go Racing', to Junior Helm Week, to CMYC Topper Open meeting, to external regattas (e.g. NSSA or WSSYSA) etc. Perhaps on to sail around the World.

The CMYC Weekend at Cobnor Activity Centre and participating in a Cruise will help develop an even wider range of skills and knowledge not least with tides.

Skills & Techniques also develop from those above using the five essentials (CTBSB = Can This Boat Sail Better aka Course Trim Balance Sails Board) to:

- Helm both a single and double handed dinghy
- Sail in tidal waters
- Sail with a spinnaker etc.

Perhaps this article gives you a different view on why we have so many races at different levels with our programme. Racing is not the issue. We want you to enjoy your sport safely by making the most of everything we have on offer.

Why? – because if you can sail confidently, you will achieve that sense of freedom, but we can't guarantee that you won't get hooked on being competitive too. Have fun, Richard

# RNLI & CMYC

Two of our guests; Alan and Helen, that attended our Awards evening wrote the following for publication in the Tandridge Independent News, not just to promote their RNLI charity work but our Club too:

On 13<sup>th</sup> March we were delighted to attend the Crawley Mariners Yacht Club's annual awards ceremony held in Turners Hill. Welcomed by Commodore Richard, we mingled with the 50 or so club members and guests in attendance before the official proceedings commenced.



We were honored to be invited by Richard to present an award to Caroline for her considerable voluntary support for the Club and to receive a generous personal donation from Richard for our fundraising challenge. It was heartwarming to see so many young mariners receiving awards for their achievements through the year.

We are visiting all 238 Lifeboat Stations around the coast of the UK and Ireland to raise vital funds to support the lifesaving work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Having visited 190 stations, we thought we would love to add a visit to our local sailing club and still be on target to complete our challenge at the end of May at Poole Lifeboat Station and the headquarters of the RNLI.

Having visited the tranquil and picturesque Hedgecourt Lake, home of the CMYC we discovered that they can help you learn to sail as an RYA Recognised Training Centre, and provide kayaking, open water swimming and stand-up paddle boarding opportunities to members. They also actively support local Care Home communities in providing space for mental health and wellbeing and we are keen to assist them when we have finished our challenge.

Crawley Mariners are having a public Open Day on 10<sup>th</sup> May when you can try sailing for free with an experienced helm on a first come first served basis from 10am until 3pm. All welcome.

[www.cmyc.co.uk](http://www.cmyc.co.uk)

Look out for this in the Tandridge Independent News and promote the Club's Open Day on 10<sup>th</sup> May to friends and colleagues, the more the merrier.

*Crawley Mariners, making a splash promoting our Club*

# Women on Water

The club is pleased to continue offering Women on Water, a monthly sailing opportunity designed for women who would like to experience sailing in a relaxed and supportive environment. The sessions are also a great opportunity for non-sailing members who are curious about the sport, as well as those whose partners or children already sail and would like to try it for themselves.

Women on Water runs once a month on Friday evenings from April to August, with dates for the 2026 season listed below. The group meets at 6.00pm, with the aim of being on the water between 6.30pm and 7.00pm and returning to shore by sunset. While weather conditions vary, an evening on the lake provides a rewarding and enjoyable end to the week.

The group operates on a friendly and informal basis, and no prior sailing experience is required. Participants do not need to own a boat, space for crew is usually available on member's boats or, on suitable club boats, subject to instructors' availability.

A WhatsApp group is used to share updates, and a reminder for each session is circulated on the Monday preceding the event.

Members who are interested in taking part are warmly encouraged to join the group and enjoy an accessible introduction to sailing in a supportive setting.

2026 dates, all at 6pm

- 17 April
- 15 May
- 12 June
- 17 July
- 14 August

Any changes to these dates will be communicated in the What's app group.

For further information please contact Ursula via email [secretary@cmcy.co.uk](mailto:secretary@cmcy.co.uk) or by joining the Women on Water WhatsApp group.



# New – Useful to know

To save costs, we have decided not to post out the Club Handbook and Boat Stickers this year.

These will be available for collection from within a light grey two drawer filing cabinet that is already located in the Clubhouse.

Also available is a tri-fold flyer about the Club.



Please take these and use them as invitations to our Open Day on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Please feel free to invite work colleagues, school chums, and friends as everyone is welcome.

As members you can arrive as early as you like on the day ready to welcome your guests and help prepare the venue or perhaps get your boat ready to enjoy as this is quite a social event. Guests and members of the public are welcome from 10am until 4pm with last boat trips at 3pm.



<https://www.cmyc.co.uk/event/open-day-2026/>

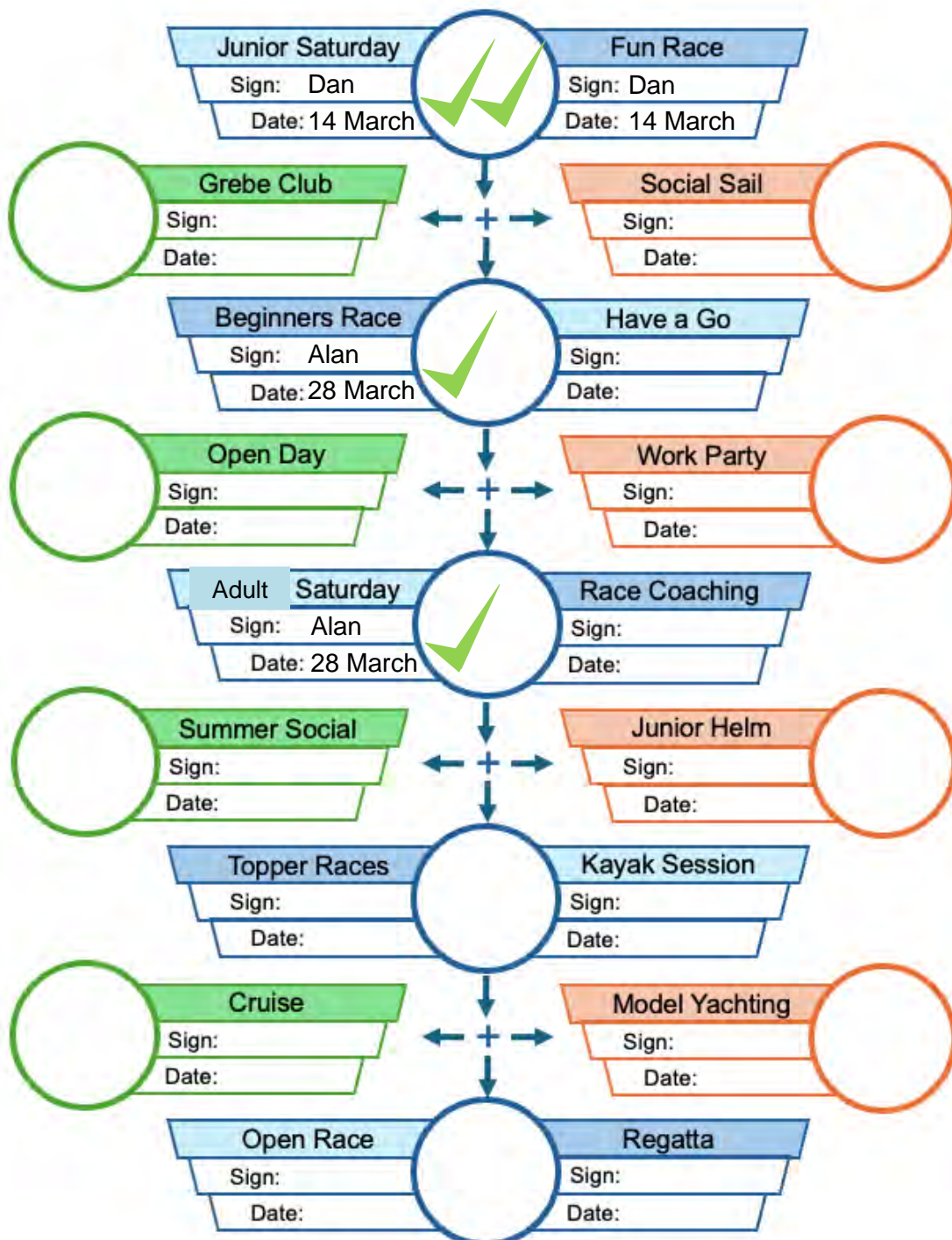
*Crawley Mariners, The friendliest yacht club in the south east*

# Participation Challenge

The Challenge is on!

Richard (Commodore) has been challenged to sail more in 2026 and complete as many different events as possible. His signed Participation Record is on the Clubhouse noticeboard but, your challenge is to do more than him. Awards may be given so be ready to present your record sheet at the end of 2026 (or before if you're quick off the mark).

Enter the challenge: print yours from the website, double sided if you can, adding your name (page 2) and start recording what you complete with a date and the signature of the event lead.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Chichester Cruise

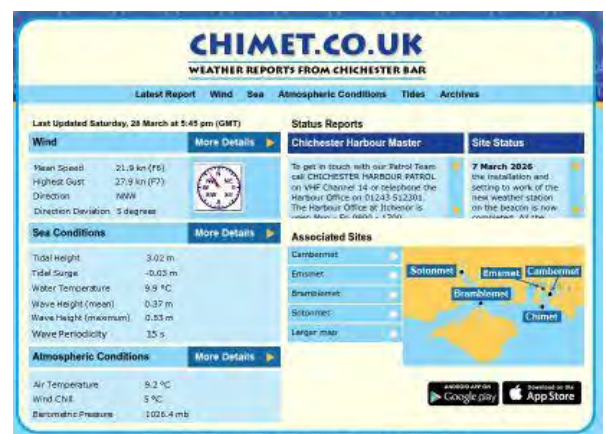
## 28<sup>th</sup> March

Just two boats came out for the first cruise of the season. I was in my Victoria 16 with John Pilkington and Steve Grey as crew. Patrick Hamilton sailed his Wanderer with Kevin East as crew. We launched from Cobnor as both boats are now kept there.

The forecast was for winds NW 4-5. I opted for two reefs in the main and Partick also reefed. As we exited the Bosham channel and rounded Cobnor point it was clear that the wind was never less than F5 gusting 6. We both left our jibs furled and set off at a cracking pace with the ebb tide assisting. The only other boats out were some RS Feva XIs from Itchenor SC all expertly sailed and fairly creaming along. We landed at East Head with the tide still on the ebb. Though it wasn't a spring tide there wasn't enough water to hide out of the wind in Snowhill Creek the little rythe that meanders up to West Wittering SC. We picnicked ashore having anchored the dinghies next to a bright Barby pink Sadler 28 bilge keeler with "stop genocide" painted on the side. It was lovely and sunny but the wind was strong enough to raise flurries of sand along the beach. Though it was still early we raised sail again and planed continuously back to Cobnor point with just the double reefed main. We had considered continuing up to Birdham pool but the would have meant then beating back against the flood tide and wind over tide creating a chop. The wind was still increasing so we decided to quit and we returned to Cobnor. It was an exciting start to the cruising season and it certainly blew away the winter cobwebs!



When I arrived home I looked at Chimet on the internet. (Chimet is the live weather station on Chichester Bar Beacon). This confirmed that the wind was indeed NW F6-7.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Chichester Cruise

## 28<sup>th</sup> March

Not all our cruises are so windy! I am looking forward to some gentle spring and summer sailing days. Why not come and join us?

Fair winds  
Donal



# RYA Dinghy Sailing Course for Adults

## Start Sailing – Level 1 & Basic Skills – Level 2



**Course Fee per person using a club boat:  
£180**

**Course Fee per person using own boat: £155**  
(If you wish to use your own boat, it must be a suitable double handed dinghy large enough for 3 adults)

***All course training books and certificates are included in the cost of the course.***

This four-day course covers the Start Sailing and Basic Skills syllabi from the RYA National Sailing Scheme. No previous sailing experience is necessary. The course provides a basic knowledge and understanding of dinghy sailing. On successful completion of the course, you will be able to handle a dinghy competently in light wind conditions.

This course is essentially a practical one giving instruction in the basic techniques needed to rig a dinghy, launch, leave the shore, sail around a course involving all points of sailing and return to land. Practical sessions are held on Hedgecourt Lake. Theory sessions required to support the practical aspects of the course along with briefings will be held in the CMYC Clubhouse. The emphasis is very much on a safe, seamanlike approach to sailing.

For this course we use appropriate double-handed dinghies, club dinghies include: RS Quests; Laser 2000; Wanderers and Topaz Omega. You may also use your own boat provided it is capable of holding three adults and considered suitable for the course.

The course is intended for adults and older teenagers, as younger members will have the opportunity to join the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme Stage 1 & Stage 2 course running on the same four days, details elsewhere.

**Day 1 – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June; 9:00 – 17:00**

**Day 2 – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June; 9:00 – 17:00**

**Day 3 – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June; 9:00 – 17:00**

**Day 4 – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July; 9:00 – 17:00**



**Booking via Web Collect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

(This may all seem a bit early but Open Day is on 10<sup>th</sup> May this year, so to avoid disappointment, book before then.)

**Payment is required by the 14<sup>th</sup> June and should be made by bank transfer if possible.**

**Any queries? email: [training@cmyc.co.uk](mailto:training@cmyc.co.uk) - Bookings close on the 7<sup>th</sup> June**

If the course is fully booked, please add your name to the waiting list, we may be able to add more places if we have sufficient instructors and boats.

# **RYA Young Sailors Stages 1 & 2 Course**

**Course Fee: £115** - for those using their own Topper

**Course Fee: £140** - for those using a club Topper

*All course training books and certificates are included in the cost of the course.*

**Day 1 – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June; 9:00 – 17:00**

**Day 2 – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June; 9:00 – 17:00**

**Day 3 – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June; 9:00 – 17:00**

**Day 4 – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July; 9:00 – 17:00**



This course is ideal for complete beginners and for those who have been attending Junior Saturday Clubs, it will teach the basics for beginners and reinforce knowledge gained previously and expand on this for those with some experience. This course covers Stage 1 & Stage 2 of the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme and is open to young sailors aged 10 to 15 years. It runs concurrently with the adult course, giving parents the opportunity to achieve RYA Level 2 at the same time.

By the end of the course the young sailors will be safety conscious and able to rig and sail a dinghy confidently in light winds. Toppers dinghies will be used and each sailor will be in a boat on their own. Please be aware there are a limited number of club Toppers available and you should use your own Topper if you have one. Numbers on the course are also limited by the number of instructors available. All sessions are held at CMYC.

**Booking opens via Web Collect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025**

(This may all seem a bit early but Open Day is on 10<sup>th</sup> May this year, so to avoid disappointment, book before then.)

**Payment is required by the 14<sup>th</sup> June and should be made by bank transfer if possible.**

**Any queries? email: [training@cmyc.co.uk](mailto:training@cmyc.co.uk) - Bookings close on the 7<sup>th</sup> June**

If the course is fully booked, please add your name to the waiting list, we may be able to add more places if we have sufficient instructors and boats.

# Seamanship Course 2026

Seven sailors recently signed up for our latest Seamanship Course, with the goal of becoming independent, self-reliant sailors capable of handling all conditions.

The course kicked off with a light breeze, providing the perfect opportunity for the group to focus on boat handling and some land theory. In the afternoon Instructor Dan Gibson took advantage of the gentle conditions to jump into each boat, providing valuable one-on-one tuition on advanced skills, including sailing backwards and rudderless techniques.

Day two brought a sharp contrast with strong gusts blowing across the lake. Undeterred, the group embraced the challenging conditions, which served as the perfect time to practice reefing and build confidence in heavier weather.

Following a “follow the leader” session to solidify skills from day one, the sailors headed in to warm up and take part in classroom sessions run by Instructor Donal.

To wrap up the course, the group tackled the “dreaded” inversion drill (using a cut-down mast). Luckily, because everyone had already taken a dip earlier in the day, the practical drill wasn’t as daunting, and everyone successfully recovered the boat.

A huge thank you to all the sailors for their enthusiasm, and to Donal and Dan for supporting and running such a successful course.



# Training & Development

## Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- RYA Seamanship - 8th & 15th March - [book on WebCollect](#)
- Junior Saturday Club - 14th March - booking on Webcollect
- Adult Saturday Club - 28th March - booking on Webcollect
- Powerboat refresher - 28th March - (see below)
- Social & The Grebe Club - Together - 5th April (the first Grebe Club of 2026)
- Topper Race Coaching - 18th April - see below
- Topper Open Meeting - 25th April - see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter
- 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.

## New WhatsApp groups

Two new WhatsApp groups have been created within the CMYC WhatsApp community to provide more timely and better directed communication for training. Information will continue to be supplied via Newsletter and noticeboards. The groups are:

**CMYC Training - Adults**

**CMYC Training - Juniors**

Please join these groups if you are interested in our training programme.

## 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.

## Topper Coaching 18th April

It is recommended that anyone thinking of racing in the CMYC Topper Open meeting or other Topper races such as NSSA or WSSYSA regattas attends this coaching day starting at 9:00. Sign up on WebCollect if you wish to attend, The Topper Open Meeting is a great way to experience racing in a class fleet, we recommend that entrants have achieved Stage 2 or can sail round a triangular course reasonably proficiently.



# Training & Development

## 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 Saturday Club



The weather was as good as could be hoped for in March, we had sun and a gentle breeze if a bit variable.

Thanks to all the parents who joined the work party. Ted was pleased with what was accomplished. Hopefully at the next Saturday Club we will get more volunteers in the afternoon. Please remember that the club has no paid staff so the more we can spread the burden of maintaining the club and estate the better.

March is usually one of the quieter Saturday Clubs and this year was no exception, but it was great to see three Lasers/ILCAs, getting some coaching from Oli, three double handers being coached by Dan and two Toppers under Alison's instruction, on the water in the afternoon.

In the morning Esther and Charlie took five Oppie sailors, while Dan and Alison took the three Toppers.



# Training & Development

## Oppies AM - Report by Esther

The oppies had a great session at Saturday Club! Most of the oppies were fairly new to sailing so we took the time to get them all comfortable being in the boat. We started off showing them how to rig an oppie and ended off with a group favourite (the ball game!). It was fantastic to see their growing confidence throughout the session. By the end they all had big smiles on their faces which I'll take as a sign they all had a great time.

## Toppers AM - Report by Dan

The junior sailors had a great morning on the water in Toppers, with a mixed ability group working on the basics of steering, sail control, and tacking. It was fantastic to see everyone gaining confidence, and the smiles as they came ashore showed how much they enjoyed their time afloat.

## Fevas PM - Report by Dan

For some of the sailors, it was their first time in the Feva. Therefore, we spent some time learning how to rig the boat before heading out onto the water to practice their tacking, gybing and upwind sailing. All the sailors did well to brush off the cobwebs and learn about the teamwork required to sail a double-handed boat.

## Adult Saturday Club

Although chilly, the sun was out and there was wind albeit a rather gusty North Westerly. Unfortunately one booking was cancelled due to illness and we had one no show.

This was our first Adult Saturday Club day with Galley duty, thanks to Innes who also helped moving club boats back after the tree surgery and changing trolley wheels, and also to his daughter who did a great job cleaning the patio and removing moss from between the slabs.

We had a 2000, a Wanderer and a Gull on the water. Thanks to instructors Mike, Caroline and Richard. It was good that Sarah-Jo stayed on for the beginners race, crewed by Caroline. We had four dinghies in the race, including Richard, which was good to see,

Jerry received some powerboat tuition from Alan, who was also RO for the afternoon races - thanks Alan.



# FUN RACE at Junior Saturday Club

11<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Open to all Junior & Youth sailors, do come along and join us.



The weather for the March Saturday club was a little chilly but it did not rain, and we did have a little sunshine. Light wind in the morning filled in a little more by lunchtime, so all those in AM & PM groups managed to get out onto the water for some sailing.

**FUN RACE:** there were four sailors signed on, all managed two or three laps in these rather light, shifty conditions - so 'well done everyone'.

POSITION	NAME	BOAT
1 <sup>st</sup>	Geoge Parker	Laser Radial
2 <sup>nd</sup>	George Fairhurst	Laser Radial
Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Frankie Jones	Oppie
Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack Evans	Pico

*N.B. Our Commodore, Richard, also joined in the race to get some practice for his 'Challenge' to spend more time sailing this year. Well done Richard, for a great start.*

Fun Races run between AM and PM group sessions at Saturday Club and offer extra sailing with additional coaching. You will be surprised how much your sailing improves even after just a few races.

A support boat and instructor will be on the water giving help and advice.

If you can tack, gybe and sail a triangle it will be easy for you to take part, and the race is only 20 minute long. There is always someone who can help get your boat on and off the water and get to the start line.

**For those new to the fun race.**

1. **If you are using a club boat** ask an instructor to allocate one for you and if you have your own boat do ask an instructor if you need help with your rigging.
2. **Sign on** - Outside the clubhouse there will be a form to complete (please put your full name **clearly** on it). There is bound to be someone there if you need help.
3. **Briefing:** The person running the race will blow a whistle before you launch and explain where the race will be and the marks to go around. They will also explain how you will know when the race is about to start (and finish). Then sail out to the start area.

*Looking forward to seeing you and it would be great to see new sailors having a go, along with the regulars. Indicate when booking Saturday Club if you want to race. (Many thanks – Diana)*



# Bring a Friend to Open Day

Open Day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
Why not bring a friend along

It's a great opportunity for them to get a chance to have a ride in a boat on our very beautiful lake.



**On OPEN DAY we will be selling home-made cakes**

The proceeds from this will go towards Team Tops for our young sailors entering this year's NSSA Regatta at Rutland Sailing Club

*You can pay by card or cash*

Why not treat yourself to one or two cakes – or even three or four!



# Racing during March, April & May

A follow-up reminder

## **RACING**

**'SPRING SUNDAY'** kicked-off on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March with Races 1 & 2, followed by two more on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This is a series of twelve races that consist of two races on Sunday mornings.

You need to do half the races sailed to qualify, so the more races you sail will improve your chances of a good result.

Races start at 10.30 and consist of two 45 min races each morning.

Races 5 & 6 - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April  
Races 7 & 8 - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
Races 9 & 10 - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Races 11 & 12 - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May



## **TOPPER OPEN Meeting at CMYC:**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March - one day event  
with 4 races

## **OTHER EVENTS**

Saturday Clubs are on:

11<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> May & 13<sup>th</sup> June

OPEN DAY – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May

This is the day when club members are asked to come along and help when we open the club to visitors.

Help is required on and off the water, taking people out for a ride in dinghies, assist with powerboat cover or sharing working in the 'galley' during the day.

OnBoard Day – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

RYA Area Rep organising the day and including updates on the OnBoard scheme.



# Ready, Steady and TIME TO GO!

**Well done to those sailors who have certainly 'hit the water running'!**

MARCH Saturday Club: It was wonderful to see so many completely new sailors in the AM Oppie groups. Esther and Charlie had a great time introducing them to how the Oppies work. Incredibly by the end of the session they were all out sailing in an excellent 'follow my leader' fashion before they finished the day. Well done to you all, and a really big WELL DONE to Frankie Jones in the Oppie who went straight out again to take part in the first Fun Race of the year 'WOW'

What a really pleasing sight with two Laser sailors out there, giving Ollie Gatton an opportunity to practice his Racing Coach skills, and then joining in the Fun Race. It was also great to see that one of the George's went straight home and booked in for next months Saturday Club. The other George has since joined in the club Spring Race Series, and we look forward to seeing them both even more this year.



Not as many Toppers as usual, I think the cold weather may have put some off. There were several Fevas returning back in the afternoon.

**\*JUNIOR SATURDAY CLUBS - 11<sup>th</sup> April\***

**OPPIE Sailors** - Rumour has it that the Easter Bunny is preparing a hunt, hopefully with some eggs to be found!



**So, why not bring a friend along to have a trial sail, and then join the Egg hunt?**



# CMYC Programme

Date	Event
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Thursday Informal Sailing
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Itchenor Cruise <b>CANCELLED</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Sundays 5 & 6 Social & The Grebe Club - Together
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday Informal Sailing
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Junior Saturday Club Work Party
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Sundays 7 & 8
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Instructed Kayak Session
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday Informal Sailing
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Women on Water
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Itchenor Cruise Topper Coaching Day Adult Saturday Club Beginners Race Series & One Per Month
19 <sup>th</sup> April	RYA Powerboat Level 2 - Day 1
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Instructed Kayak Session
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Thursday Informal Sailing
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Topper Open 2026
26 <sup>th</sup> April	RYA Powerboat Level 2 - Day 2
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Instructed Kayak Session



and so much more...

