



C M Y C

THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?



July 2026



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Knowing When to Reef

I'm hoping you won't notice that a record of my challenge to sail more at the lake this year is missing from this edition of the newsletter. It could of course be tactical, and I'm hiding some excellent results or as it happens, things haven't gone my way in June. Work and no play makes Jack a dull boy – luckily my names not Jack. No offence intended to the three members we have called Jack.

In a similar way I learnt today that the boat that invited me to crew for them 'around the island' isn't going to attend, so another great opportunity missed.

GBR also had their worst performance to date in SailGP, so it isn't just me. The next event is being staged in the UK, Portsmouth and we hope to watch this in the Clubhouse. See the letter to us from the GBR Driver (Helm) later in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, not everything has gone to plan here too. We were devastated when we had to cancel our flagship sailing course this year. If you were affected by this, please accept my apologies.

But we're Crawley Mariners.

We don't shy away from difficult situations or questions, we tackle them head on and, as any Skipper would, look at ways to overcome the big waves. We live this approach and have encouraging news too:

- the New Natural World Team are already cataloguing the wildlife at the lake. This will support future membership drives with schools and the very important renewal of our Lake Management Plan with Natural England next year
- you can join all those wanting to help with the New Teams on 05th July – see later
- alternative dates are being looked at for the postponed training
- new members continue to join us, be sure to say hello and welcome anyone that looks a bit lost as being friendly is something we are renowned for
- the Early Summer Social went well, and you can read about this later.

Other great opportunities not to be missed:

- booking for the Cobnor Weekend is now open and we urgently need to know if you're interested in coming – see later and WebCollect
- put your ideas in the CMYC Time Capsule – see later
- Portsmouth cruise 04th July
- Grebe Club, Social Sail, Have a Go and New Teams Info Session 05th July
- Regular weekly; Monday kayaking, Tuesday Volunteer Group, Wednesday Race & Thursday Social Sail plus Open Water Swimming opportunities
- Safety Boat course starts 26th July
- Junior Helm Week is coming (17 – 21 August) don't miss out

Talking about not shying away from difficult questions, in this edition we also ask: Why did the Commodore take up archaeology?

Enjoy,

Richard (Commodore)

Letter from Dylan Fletcher MBE

Dylan Fletcher-Scott is a British sailor and Olympic champion. He started sailing at age 11 and raced from 13. He is representing GBR in SailGP and the next America's Cup.

He wrote to me on behalf of CMYC (extract, it was along letter):

We want to start by thanking you and your club for your support throughout the past year. It has been incredible to feel the energy and encouragement from the British sailing community.

*Looking ahead, we are gearing up for the Emirates Great Britain Sail Grand Prix in **Portsmouth on 25-26 July 2026**, and I am reaching out to clubs across the UK to help make this event one to remember.*

SailGP is about more than racing; it's about celebrating athletes, inspiring the next generation, and bringing our sailing community together. With your help, we can turn this into one of the biggest sailing events the UK has ever seen.



We want to share the excitement of racing by offering you all the opportunity to watch the event on the big screen in the Clubhouse.

It is very easy to watch with computer overlays so you can tell what is going on all the time. If we have some of our coaches available they might give us some detailed insight applicable to our Club racing too.

You may be watching the FIFA World Cup 2026 and know how it feels to be part of the crowd cheering on and watching the twists and turns, the highs and lows. SailGP is like this.

I echo Dylan's appeal and ask that; *With your help, we can turn this into one of the biggest sailing events the 'Club' has ever seen.*

26th July from 14:30 at the Clubhouse

We need to move quickly

If you can help deliver this event please contact me (access to the event via YouTube without adverts would be an advantage). Otherwise just turn up and say hello.

If you want to hear more from the team and SailGP you can via:

- www.emiratesgbrsailgp.com/en/newsletter.

Richard (Commodore)

Junior Helm Week - 17th to 21st August

Our week of fun week of sailing for juniors is on the horizon. Booking will be open from 13th June until 19th July, full details of how-to book are on the WebCollect Junior Helm Week page (log in then go to <https://webcollect.org.uk/cmhc/category/junior-helm-week>). The cost will be £60, the same as last year. You can book either mornings (10:00 to 12:30) or afternoons (13:30 to 16:00), but not both. A member of your family who is not a member in their own right and is not covered by family membership may only be booked onto the waiting list. Oppies (for those 6 to 10 years old) will use club boats. Toppers (for those 10 to 15 years old) should use their own boat if they have one, club boats will be available for those who don't have their own.

The great egg boat race will be held during the Friday lunch break, more details nearer the time.



WE NEED YOUR HELP! Junior Helm Week has always relied on volunteer helpers which is why the costs are so favourable. Safety on and off the water is the highest priority. We need parents, grandparents, instructors, first aiders, and support boat helms. Even if you can only manage half a day, it will be a great help, but ideally at least two sessions. We need help with: rigging, launching, making tea and myriad other activities that go into making the week a success. We value the experience of those who have helped in previous years and welcome new volunteers who will be shown exactly what to do – no experience necessary! Volunteering helps you to get involved in the club and make new friends, it can also help you appreciate what a great time the children are having. Please sign up on WebCollect.

Jeff & Sarah



Cruising Update

We have had some lovely fine weather cruises in May and June. The cruise on 30th May attracted six boats and fourteen sailors. Interestingly for the first time all the boats launched from Cobnor rather than from the public hard at Itchenor. More cruising members are keeping their boats in the dinghy park at Cobnor and a few more have opted to buy a carnet of launch passes from Cobnor estate office.

The winds were light and we headed down channel against the last of the flood tide towards the Camber beacon with Prinstead as a possible destination. Though there was a little more breeze near Camber I was concerned that we might struggle back against the ebb tide in the afternoon as High Water was about 12.00. I decided to reverse our course and we headed back up channel, past Itchenor, past the pool and Chichester Yacht Basin before finally landing on the beach at Dell Quay, next to the Crown and Anchor. We had a picnic lunch on the beach before returning with the ebb to Cobnor. It was another very enjoyable sail.

The Chichester cruise on 20th was another very enjoyable sail. We had quite a few helms with boats but a shortage of crew for a change so helms teamed up leaving a few boats in the dinghy park. I sailed with Rachel Danvers, Steve Grey and Mike Smith sailed in the latter's Comet Versa. Kevin East sailed solo in his Wanderer. Ian Pepper, Dave Edgar and Alan sailed in Ian's Wayfarer. It was a spring tide with HW late afternoon so we made our way to East Head against the early flood arriving early. After lunch we reviewed our options and decided on a trip out of the harbour to visit the Bar Beacon. The flood was at its maximum meaning a slow sail out past Eastoke point but an easy enough sail when over the bar. Ian Pepper turned back as his crew was feeling unwell. The rest of the boats rounded the Chichester Bar and West Pole beacons before making a rapid sail back to Cobnor propelled by wind and tide. Meanwhile Ian and Judith Michel, Kathy Lugt and Kevin Egan had managed to fit in a local fun run before having their own private cruise around the harbour in their Comet Versa.

We have a number of events coming up in July and August including a Portsmouth Harbour Cruise, a Solent Cruise and our annual Round Hayling Island Challenge. Most importantly we have our family camping and cruising weekend in August. Please email me if you want to come to any of these events and I will add your names to the list. The camping weekend is NOT bookable by WebCollect.

Upcoming dates for your diary :

Sat 4th July	Portsmouth LW 09.07	14.37 no support boat	4.2	2.7	Sp
Sat 25th July	Solent 1	09.25	3.7	1.7	Np*



Cruising Update

Family Cruise Camp Weekend, Cobnor Estate Thur 06th to Sun 09th Aug incl.

Fri 07 th August	Chichester	06.14	4.0	2.3	Np
Sat 08 th August	Chichester	07.30	3.9	2.1	Np*
Sun 09 th August	Chichester	08.55	4.0	2.4	Np
Sat 22 nd August	Round HI	07.08 LW 13.29	3.6	1.4	Np*

Fair winds

Donal



Racing Rules (am) & Short Races (pm)

Both these sessions are open to adults and children. You can attend either or both. The Racing Rules session will be held in the clubhouse, it is ideal for those intending to go to events such as NSSA & WSSYSA or just joining in club racing. There is no need to register, if you have any questions contact Jeff jeffsmith76@gmail.com

Racing Rules 10:00 to 12:30

The morning is spent in the clubhouse looking at some of the racing rules and tactics, this knowledge will help you on the race course. The afternoon is a series of short races, great for practising starts. If there are a number of NSSA & WSSYSA sailors attending we can also spend some time talking about sea sailing techniques. The format is flexible, aiming to meet the needs of the attendees, so if you have any rules or tactics questions here is your chance to resolve them.

Short Races PM 14:00 to 17:00

We will run as many short races as we can fit in during the afternoon session, just very short to practice starting and then, typically, one lap of a short course. There will be a race coach on the water to advise and assist. These races are not about winning, they are for learning and improving.



Why did the Commodore...

Why did the Commodore take up archaeology?

It may be time for us to let you in to a secret... read on to find out.

This was the opening question that kicked off a Committee meeting early June when number of Committee members got together to progress and review various ideas and improvement suggestions while monitoring a wide range of topics.

Here they are taking time out at the lake before starting another session:



This is only half of the Members that form the main Management Committee, and shortly we'll include photos of them all in the Clubhouse so you know who is who. For now, you may recognise (left to right):

Harry (Publicity and Open Water Swimming Coordinator), Ursula (Club Secretary), Martyn (Vice Commodore Sailing and IT), Jerry (Vice Commodore Finance and Admin), Andy (Open Day Event Organiser and currently leading on our Signs Project), Richard (Commodore) and Stuart (currently leading on Powerboat strategy and maintenance).

The topics discussed cover Safety, Finance, Training, the Programme, Membership, maintaining the Estate (i.e., the lake, grounds, Clubhouse and boat park) as well as others.

All the topics are included in copies of minutes that are circulated to all members that register an email within WebCollect.

Achieving things on behalf of the Club is rewarding and you are welcome to join us, just let Richard know. The last meeting started with the important question:

Why did the Commodore take up archaeology? Because his career was in ruins.

The meetings are enjoyed even if we groan about a few 'Dad' jokes. If you want to know more about what we do for you please ask, seriously it's no laughing matter.

CMYC Time Capsule

We are going to bury a time capsule in the Clubhouse grounds and would like your suggestions about what to put in it and when we should dig it up again.

A time capsule is a deliberately sealed container filled with present-day items such as; letters, photographs, newsletters, and everyday objects. It is buried in a known place so that it can be found and opened at a set date in the future.

The CMYC Time Capsule will preserve a snapshot of the current Crawley Mariners community for future generations to discover.



Where will the CMYC Time Capsule be put?

We intend to plant this near to the Commodore's Tree. This will be a Hornbeam tree that we plan to plant at the **Early Summer Social on 07th June** near the picnic area. Come and watch, throw some compost in and wish the tree a long future.

The tree is to recognise the important contribution that our previous Commodores and their supporting committee members have made over the last 60+ years, making CMYC recognised as the friendliest RYA Sailing Club in the area.

PS: The name of the Hornbeam stems from Old English "horn" meaning hard, and "beam" meaning tree. It is native to our woodland and historically has been used in boat building so is ideally suited for the commemorative purpose.

When will the CMYC Time Capsule be buried?

We intend to bury the Time Capsule at the **Late Summer Social on 29th August**, although we have yet to find a suitable box or capsule (any suggestions?).

What should we put in it and when should we dig it up?

What message would you like our future Crawley Mariner community to read and find out about who we are today? Perhaps what it is like as a Crawley Mariner or what we sail and offer to all involved as a Club? Perhaps a record of the wildlife that currently enjoys the lake?

We need you to help identify what we should put in it and when it should be dug up. You can do this by using this easy to complete form:

CMYC Google Form: <https://forms.gle/ivr6g8iSBC9e95pRA>

Thank you.

Recognition Tree

A Hornbeam tree was planted during the Early Summer Social with thanks to the Juniors helping to dig the hole. The name Hornbeam stems from Old English "horn" meaning hard, and "beam" meaning tree. It is native to our woodland and historically has been used in boat building so is ideally suited for this commemorative purpose.



The tree has been planted to recognise the important contribution that our previous Commodores, their supporting committee members and all other contributors including those of the Tuesday Volunteer Group have made over the last 60+ years, making CMYC recognised as the friendliest community centred RYA Sailing Club in the area.

Most of those watching the ceremony also participated by throwing in some compost and soil to wish the tree a long future and can claim being of the planting. It is great to see members wanting to belong to the Club in this way.

You can contribute too as we will be burying a Time Capsule during the Late Summer Social on 29th August, (although we have yet to find a suitable box or capsule - any suggestions?).

The key questions are:

What should we put in it and when should we dig it up?

What message would you like our future Crawley Mariner community to read and find out about who we are today? Perhaps what it is like as a Crawley Mariner or what we sail and offer to all involved as a Club? Perhaps a record of the wildlife that currently enjoys the lake, or a picture of the Recognition Tree when it was planted.

Help us identify what we should put in it and when it should be dug up. You can do this by using this easy to complete form:

CMYC Google Form: <https://forms.gle/ivr6g8iSBC9e95pRA>

In recognition of, when it all started with H Winter as Commodore in 1963 followed by (in date order);

N Robins, R Pearson, E Tapp, R Ferguson, D Reed, S Hubbard, M Thompson, J Thomas, G Hiscocks, M Brown, K Hiscock, D Roche, J Smith, A Fisher, C Fisher and D Campbell.

Today's Grebe Club Juniors will be those most likely to be the archaeologists that dig the CMYC Time Capsule up and they may become Instructors or even a future Commodore!

About the New Teams

We have 22 Members already offering their assistance to help create five new teams, but more the merrier. Here is a quick update about these teams:

Swim Safe

We await feedback from the RYA and our Team Lead is currently completing some exams before taking this further forward.

Natural World

This team's contribution is going to be far more valuable than perhaps first realised. We knew collating and sharing knowledge about wildlife and plants at Hedgecourt with you and local schools would be useful, but this is an understatement. The value this Team can bring to the renewal of our Lake Management Plan next year and consequently any funding we need to raise to manage the lake is going to be phenomenal.

They have also shown an example of what they can do at the Early Summer Social (see Pond Dipping).

Social Friends & Special Projects Teams

Early discussions have encouraged me to look at providing an on-line list of opportunities (*okay in normal speak 'tasks'*) that team members can select from and this is work in progress.



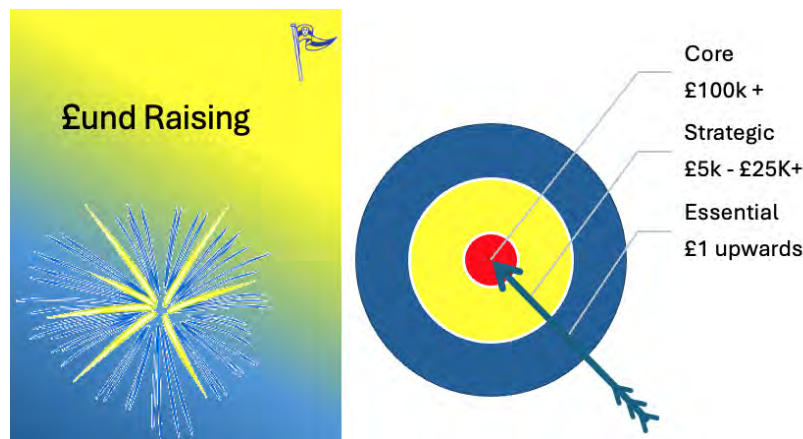
You are cordially invited to visit the lake on **05 July** at the next Sunday Social (same day as the next **Grebe Club**) at 10:30 for an **11am** start with coffee cup in hand.

There is no obligation, it would simply be good to see you.

Fund Raising

This is harder to explain in a one page but is quite easy in principle. The Core Team are already at work addressing actions to progress the Lake Survey completed earlier this year but there are other opportunities (*no they really are opportunities this time not tasks*).

Pictorially it looks like this:



Come and see what it is all about.
It's a social thing to do on Sunday 05th July at 11am.

Early Summer Social

Although a grey day the Early Summer Social was a great day for all. Some new faces and some familiar ones got together to make the most of what we have to offer.

The timetable albeit approximate, shown here and decorated by Lacy, gives a little insight to the variety of activities.

Swimming launched the day promptly followed by the Grebe Club helping our next generation become confident both on and off the water. The Fun theme could not be missed given the smiles generated from paddling Oppies for clues and solving the puzzle.

The tree planting was a team effort with Juniors helping the Commodore dig a hole and collecting compost (see elsewhere in the newsletter about why this is important).

The afternoon events were spirited as the wind picked up for the Social Sail and 'Have a Go' racing. Model yachting was also added to the events for fun.

Pond Dipping

Pond dipping courtesy of Alison and Pierre proved educational and really popular with everyone present. If you want to know more about the New Teams, including the natural World Team please come along on 05th July 10:30 for 11am start.



Inset: Sample trays with segmented tray showing the many and different "bugs" caught and being examined by those in the main picture.



Don't Miss Out!

Next 'Fun Race', 12:30pm at Junior Saturday Club on 11th July

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

FUN Race Results for June:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BOAT</u>
1 st	Teddy Arthur-Crow	Optimist
2 nd	Hugo Arthur-Crow	Topper 5.3
3 rd	Geoge Parker	Laser Radial
4 th	George Fairhurst	Laser Radial



The weather was ideal that day with sufficient breeze for all four sailors with only one capsized. It was a very close race once the PY numbers were taken into account.

It was great to see Teddy, in the club's only real Optimist, do so well. Afterwards he said he did not realise Optimists could go so fast!



Hugo stayed in touch with the two Lasers and just managed to finish in front of them. There was only two minutes between the Lasers at the end. So well done to you all and hope to see you all at the July Fun Race.



One of the AM Oppie sailors wanted to do the race, but we explained it was just too windy for him. Hopefully the next Saturday Club will be less windy as we would really like him, and hopefully other Oppies, to join in the Fun Race over the year.

REMEMBER morning Topper and Oppie sailors that after your AM session, we can keep a boat ready for you to join in Fun Race at 12.30.

REMEMBER PM session sailors, if you can get to the lake before 12.30pm you can also take part in the Fun Race, just let us know and we will hold a Topper or Oppie from the AM session ready for you to use. Afterwards you can go straight to your PM session.

LASER and FEVA sailors are welcome to join in the Fun Race, we only ask that you keep clear of any new Topper and Oppie sailors at the start and when rounding marks (thank you). The Fun Race runs between AM and PM group, and with a support boat with a race coach on the water it is a great chance for some extra help with your sailing or racing.

If you can tack, gybe and sail a triangle then you should find it easy to take part, and the race is only 20 minutes long. There is always someone who can help get your boat on and off the water and get out to the start line, and we do welcome parents help with this.

1. **Sign on:** Outside the clubhouse there will be a form to complete.
2. **Briefing:** The person organising the race will blow a whistle before you race and explain where the race will be and the marks to go around.

We do hope to see you and it is really great to see new sailors having a go. If you want to join in the race, can you indicate this when booking in. – Diana)



Training & Development

Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- Social & The Grebe Club - Fun - 5th July - Crew Development
- Have A Go Racing - 5th July, RSVP [via the programme](https://www.cmyc.co.uk/programme/2026-07-05/) (https://www.cmyc.co.uk/programme/2026-07-05/)
- Junior Saturday Club - 11th July - booking on Webcollect
- Racing Rules & Tactics - 11th July am - details elsewhere in this Newsletter
- Short Races - 11th July pm - details elsewhere in this Newsletter
- NSSA - 19th to 24th July - Contact Sarah F for details
- Adult Saturday Club - 25th July - booking on Webcollect
- RYA Safety Boat - 26 Jul & 1 Aug - Contact Mike S
- Junior Helm Week 17th to 21st August - details elsewhere in this Newsletter
- WSSYSA Regatta - 19 & 20 Sep - Contact Martyn F
- Cobnor 23rd to 25th October - book on WebCollect from 1st May to **30th June**, no payment until July, see separate flyer in this Newsletter.

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.

Training 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.

RYA Annual Inspection

I am pleased to report that we passed our RYA annual inspection with no follow up actions. We did have some useful discussion regarding things we may want to review. Generally the inspector seemed pleased with what he saw, especially the investment in a new RIB and two engines.



Training & Development

SwimSafe With OnBoard

We have made the first steps to becoming recognised to run SwimSafe With OnBoard, an RYA initiative for Onboard recognised clubs. Once we are recognised we will be able to run these one hour sessions teaching children what to do if they fall into water, it is not teaching them to swim. With the number of deaths that have occurred recently due to young people drowning whilst trying to have fun this seems to be a well worthwhile exercise. However, we have more to do before we can start running these sessions, we have operating procedures to write/update and to look at how this fits in with existing club policies and bye-laws and modify where needed. The running of these courses is limited to RYA Instructors, which means although we have had members keen to be involved they are not able to run the courses, thanks to them for offering and we will look to see if there is a way of involving them.

Junior Saturday Club

Another lovely day with ideal wind, or at least as ideal as it gets on Hedgecourt. The weed has become quite challenging for both sailors and powerboats. We were a little tight on instructors, which meant I got to go on the water in the afternoon, a refreshing change from all the admin, emails and fixing things. I enjoyed this, it reminded me why we do what we do.

Thanks to Innes, Hazel and Richard for helping to move a couple of the club's double-handers and clearing the spaces of weeds, rambles and other debris in those spaces.

Thanks to Esther for instructing the Oppies and Martyn for his support with powerboats.

Thanks to Amy & Charlie for instructing both morning and afternoon Toppers.

Feva/Laser PM - report by Jeff

It was great to see four Lasers and two Fevas on the water. We were a little late starting any structured training as I had to help with recovering a boat stuck on the lee shore in thick weed. This was quite a useful reminder to buy some proper throwing lines that I had intended to do a while back. Once back to the intended task we started by sailing a triangle whilst trying to keep out of the weed. It was clear that the upwind sailing skills needed some work. A change of course to try to keep boats clear of the weed also gave a better windward leg. It was good to see the Lasers planing nicely off the wind and all the boats coped well with gybes even in some strong gusts. We finished off with a couple of races, which saw the first capsizes of the day, they had done well to stay upright so far.

Adult Saturday Club & Powerboat Refresher

After a week of unbearable heat it was just hot for this Saturday Club, unfortunately there was little wind, that combined with the weed made sailing quite challenging. There are seven signed up including one for a powerboat refresher. Phil came to have a try in a



Training & Development

Comet and liked it, so we may see another joining the Comet fleet in the future. Lucie sailed the Pico and stayed on to sail the Comet in the beginners race, doing well for her first race in a Comet. Mike took Gabriel and Sven in the Omega whilst Donal took Jane in the Wanderer. Thanks to Donal for offering to be SI while I was tied up with the RYA annual inspection and thanks to Alan, Mike S for instructing.

There were four boats out for the Beginners race, three Comets and a Laser.

