



# C M Y C

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*THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?*



*September 2026*



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# There is a hole in my bucket

Did you see the eclipse through a hole in your bucket, or perhaps something more sensible?

If you missed this it will be another 50 years before we have another one! Don't miss out, check the CMYC Programme of events and join in.

Did you see we had a hole in the programme of events last month?

If you missed it, we'll have another before 50 years has passed. A whole day where you could sail, kayak, SUP, sit and enjoy the view, or remotely control some yachting enjoyment without any 'planned' events getting in the way. This is of course a misconception – you are welcome to use the lake even if we have a Club activity on, depending on what it is, you might like to join in or keep to the edge.

Did you miss the other big event?

Surely not – Junior Helm Week is just a fantastic week of fun activities that encourage our younger members to develop their skills. This is not just about sailing but water awareness and we are proud to have run our first Swim Safe sessions during JHW. My thanks to everyone that contributed to making JHW such a success and especially to Esther for introducing Swim Safe to our training portfolio in a year when the number of serious water-based incidents has increased.

Did you think we've a hole in the lake?

Admittedly it looks that way as the water is lower than any of our senior members can remember. It has given us maintenance opportunities but has also uncovered aging damage that is getting inspected so we can rectify in the best way – thanks to our Tuesday Volunteer Group and Dam Undertaker (an official title).

Did you know we're getting the holes in the Clubhouse fixed?

The Volunteering Opportunities on the Club's Website is attracting your support by completing maintenance, environmental and DIY tasks. Thanks to all those that have volunteered and please take a look if you haven't already done so.

There are still holes in my challenge sheet!

My challenge sheet is nearly full after adding kayaking and social events to it, how's yours getting on? We send regards to Amy & Ed following their wedding and congratulations to Mike, Jeff and Simon who attended the Comet Nationals as Team CMYC (doing better than GBR in SailGP).

Did you think we've holes in the Committee?

Absolutely not. There is barely a stone left unturned that perhaps the agenda doesn't show clearly enough. We are however making some radical changes, and you are encouraged to attend the AGM on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October to learn first-hand what we've done and what we're planning for today and tomorrow. Don't miss it as your contribution is fundamental to our future.

...and if you're wondering how long I may remain in this role, I may have a hole in my bucket but I'm not ready to bail out yet. See you at the AGM.

Richard (Commodore)

# Junior Saturday Club!

September 5<sup>th</sup>



Hope you all had a great time during the Summer School holidays, and I know quite a few of you enjoyed a great week at Junior Helm, although quite a few of the regulars were on their hols there were still a good number of regular and new sailors taking part. It was also great to welcome back some of our Dinghy Instructors from uni' helping once again.

**'FUN RACE' – only two more now in October and November, so make sure you do not miss out on these final ones. We will find out then who has one both the Oppie and Topper awards for the Fun Racing.**

At the August Saturday Club we again had great conditions, not too windy, which was lucky as we had two '1<sup>st</sup> time sailors', who had never sailed before. Esther and Charlie did an amazing job during the Am Oppie session as all those in the group were sailing incredibly well – tacking, gybing and no capsizes either! Esther and Charlie got all of them to stay on for the Fun Race and, leaving the Oppies tied to the jetty encouraged all of those taking part to have something to eat prior to the race. This turned out to be an excellent decision as by the time they went out to race several of the PM groups had arrived and joined in.

It did mean that those who did the fun race and were scheduled to do the Pm session, were all ready to go out very quickly after the Race finished.

FUN Race Results for August are show below:

| <u>POSITION</u> | <u>NAME</u>                   | <u>BOAT</u>  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Hugo Arthur–Crow              | – Topper 5.3 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Teddy Arthur-Crow             | - Optimist   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | George Fairhurst              | - ILCA6      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Mollie (1 <sup>st</sup> time) |              |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Toby (1 <sup>st</sup> time)   |              |



Hopefully we will see you all out again in October and November, and hope that both Ashley and Harry will come again having done so well last month.

**IMPORTANT: The FUN RACE will start at 12.30 promptly. (Do make sure you are ready to sail by 12.15 - (we will help sort out a boat for you)).**

Remember these two important things:

1. Sign on: you will find the Signing on Sheet outside the clubhouse.
1. Briefing: The person organising the race will blow a whistle before you go on the water and explain where the race will be and the marks to go around.

WSSYSA Regatta at Felpham Sailing Club on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> – if the weather is good do come down and cheer the CMYC team sailing Toppers, Lasers and Fevas against 100+ other sailors from about eight different clubs. It is sea sailing so quite exciting to watch – hope to see a few of you there.

Diana



# Round Hayling Island

Or not!

Even with favourable winds and tide, there were too few Mariners willing to undertake this annual event and so it was converted to just a harbour cruise led by Steve Gray with Aude as crew and Kevin in his new Wanderer.

Looking at the conditions there was only one sensible way to go, and that was to head south with both wind and the tide in our favour. We set off with our jibs furled as this afforded us a much better view without much loss in speed. At one point however Kevin zoomed off and so Aude and I set our Spinnaker in order to catch up. Although there was a lot to take in, Aude quickly got the hang of things and we managed to catch up.



The hope was that we could venture up the Emsworth Channel and view the harbour seals however the wind, which was due to change, died completely and after a pleasant drift, I became concerned that when the flood tide arrives, that we may be pushed up the Emsworth Channel with little wind to get us back. We therefore 'drifted' back to a packed East Head and had lunch. This was very pleasant, watching the comings and goings of larger boats, the enterprising ice cream vendor "The Cream Mary" plying its trade and the ever-present Spitfire wizzing overhead against a deep blue sky.

As predicted (although earlier, I wasn't totally convinced) the sea breeze kicked in and we spent a short while reaching over to Hayling Island and back at a very respectable pace. Ending on a high we headed downwind back to Cobnor.

Tide and wind on the way out.  
Tide and wind on the way home!  
Cruising sorted and a good time had by all.

Steve Grey



# Model Yacht Group Update

Always thinking outside the box!

Your scribe regrets the lack of newsletter reports for the last few months. He has been busy with dinghy cruising and various grandchildren related activities. I am happy to report that our MYG continues to thrive. We meet up on a Wednesday afternoon about one thirty for some convivial model yacht sailing. These afternoons also involve cups of tea, general chat and some more serious discussion about the latest models which members have created. Brian Dart has been particularly active, pushing the boundaries of modern technology with not one but now two 3D printed models. He started with a footy to test the concept and finding that it was successful he has now completed an IOM (International One Meter) model which looks absolutely superb. Sea trials are continuing but the acid test will of course be when he races it against other proven IOM designs. I know there are a few of you in the MYG. Are you up for Brian's challenge?

Talking of model yacht ideas and design surely there is no one in the country better at thinking outside the box than our old friend and new MYG member, Roger Stollery. IOM yachts are expensive, sometimes very expensive. What about a less pricey option? Think of two large plastic 2 litre cola bottles for the hull, some reused plastic bag material for the sail and a centre module with the keel and all the electronics. Add a swing rig for efficiency and simplicity and you have one devilishly fast boat. Introducing the Stollery "Bottle Boat" See photos. We were all amazed by its performance!

The aforementioned Footy Class is an open class so you can design any shape you like. However the finished model must fit in a box 12" x 6" x 12" Roger has designed many footys but his most unusual design involved thinking outside the box or more accurately, squishing the boat to fit into the box. May I introduce the asymmetric "Wonky" boat! Other footy experiments include "wing foil" sails.

How many of you have an old pond yacht languishing in your loft? Let me know. If there is enough interest we could organise a special "pond yacht" day for those non RC boats to sail again and celebrate the joy of model yacht sailing.

We will have our Autumn Tea Leaf DF-65 series again this Autumn, water levels permitting. Even the DF-65s have been running aground this dry August.

Do come along and join us. Someone will loan you a transmitter so you can have a go.

Fair Winds

Donal



# Model Yacht Group Update

Always thinking outside the box!



# Training & Development

## Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- Junior Saturday Club - 5th September - booking on Webcollect
- Social & The Grebe Club - Fun - 6th September - Navigation
- Have A Go Racing - 6th September RSVP [via the programme \(https://www.cmyc.co.uk/event/have-a-go-racing-6-2/\)](https://www.cmyc.co.uk/event/have-a-go-racing-6-2/)
- WSSYSA Race Coaching & Boat Prep - 13th September
- Junior Helm Week 17th to 21st August - booking closed, except volunteers and waiting list. There are spaces in Oppies and Toppers for the afternoon sessions.
- Adult Saturday Club - 26th September - booking on Webcollect
- Topper (15:00) & Beginner (13:30) race series - Race 7 - 26th September
- Cobnor 23rd to 25th October - book on WebCollect, 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.

## Training WhatsApp groups

Two 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.

## Cobnor weekend

The booking with Cobnor Activity Centre has now been paid in full - so we will be going. If you have booked a place then please pay the fee to the club if you haven't already. If you are not sure whether you booked or can't remember the fee due then please see the 'Checking your WebCollect bookings' article in last month's Newsletter. There are still a few places available if you have not booked but wish to come, booking is open on WebCollect, but will close soon.

## Congratulations Charlie

Charlie has passed her Dinghy Instructor course - well done.

## Junior Saturday Club



# Training & Development

It was great to have four new members and one member's grandson attending their first Junior Saturday Club.

Four of our regular instructors weren't available, so it was lucky that the bookings were quite low. In the morning we had an Oppie session, with four of the five being first timers, thanks to Esther for running this and to Piers for acting as PB helm. The Oppies did really well sailing right down the lake in a reasonable breeze. Returning to the jetties was a bit more problematic, trying to sail upwind in very shallow water, they all gave it a good try.

Charlie, just back from her DI course, took Jake out for some one to one coaching in a Feva to help with his upwind sailing, this all went well.

Jeff took three Toppers, learning how to rolltack and to practice coming alongside.

The fun race had five entrants including two of our first timers. Teddy in the racing Optimist looked like he was well ahead. The conditions were tricky with the wind switching between southerly to westerly and dropping right off at times. Well done everyone.

In the afternoon there was just one group, run by Jeff & Esther, comprising two Fevas, a Laser and a Topper. We started off sailing a triangular course, followed by 'follow the leader', whistle game, racing to random marks, and finishing with a short race. The wind was very variable, changing significantly in direction and strength. The two Fevas struggled with the low water level.

Thanks to Martyn and all the parents who helped clear away, it was much appreciated on a day when we were short handed.

## Adult Saturday Club & Powerboat Refresher

Thanks to Dan for running this session while I was away.

## Junior Helm Week

The weather was kind to us for JHW, only a very short period of rain and the winds were manageable all week. It was quieter than in the past, with one Oppie Group and one Topper group in both the morning and afternoon. It was great to have some new members take their first steps in sailing.

We had a couple of new features this year, firstly the Tuck Shop, thanks to Corrine and Hazel for stocking and managing this. Secondly Swim Safe With Onboard, thanks to Esther for running it. Hopefully all our attendees will now be safer should they enter the water unexpectedly.

We didn't include raft building in the programme this year as there weren't sufficient numbers in the Toppers. Also the Oppies missed out on their usual paddle up Eden Brook



# Training & Development

due to the very low water level. However, they all seemed to enjoy the 'String of Pearls' and inflatables.



Trophies awarded for the most improved sailors:

Bob Ferguson Plate (Oppies) - Harry

Mr Bump Trophy (Toppers) - Mollie

Art Competition:

First place - Olivia

2nd - Mollie

Egg boat race:

First place - Ashley

2nd - Isabelle

Best boat - Mollie

Best egg - Olivia

It was great to see new members Mollie & Olivia really getting into the spirit of JHW.



# Training & Development



Thanks to all our instructors who volunteered their time and without whom the week would not be possible, also to: Sarah for managing the shore based activities, Will for the treasure hunt, Dan for taking over as SI on Friday, all the parents who helped and finally to all the children who made it such a pleasure.

## Topper Sale

The club is selling a Topper having bought a very good second hand one, contact Jeff Smith if interested.



# Comet National Championships 2026

The 2026 Comet Nationals were held at Chipstead Sailing Club, near Sevenoaks. Their lake is about twice the length of Hedgecourt but with a narrow section in the middle. Its longest axis lies east - west similar to Hedgecourt and it is surrounded by trees. So not an unfamiliar sailing environment for us.

A rule 42 judge was on the water looking for those who were over zealously, pumping, ooching, rocking or tacking.

Racing started at 14:30 on Friday afternoon. The wind was a light northerly. The Race Officer decided that with 50 Comets there would be chaos at the windward mark if he sent the fleet the short distance across the lake. Instead he opted for chaos at the start by setting the line approximately perpendicular to the wind but chose a first mark at the far end of the lake, making for extreme bias on the first leg and far too many people trying to start at the committee boat end of the line. As with a northerly wind at Hedgecourt the wind was shifting and varying in strength significantly, especially through the narrows. The second race followed the same format. On the return leg, which varied between a fetch and run as the wind shifted, my approach was to keep to windward of the other competitors, however this did mean those to leeward had the inside advantage at the next mark and I ended up getting rafted out. After the races there was much muttering and grumbling amongst the competitors about the start. Two boats served two turn penalties for rule 42 infringements.

There were four races on Saturday. Fortunately the wind had become more Easterly, at least most of the time, allowing the Race Officer to set a more traditional start. The wind was particularly tricky in the narrows. On the first race of the day I was trying not to get caught out on the outside of a raft round the leeward mark, but ended up taking a two turn penalty for mark room infringement. I was also aware that my starts were poor. In the lighter winds of the first afternoon race I thought I had cracked it, however a sudden gust took many boats over the line for a general recall. The subsequent start was under the U Flag, disqualification if in the triangle formed by the start line and windward mark. Everyone got away cleanly. No rule 42 infringements were noted.

The forecast for day 3 was for 3mph northerly, the start was postponed and finally abandoned for the day giving everyone a chance to pack their boats and tents before lunch.

Chipstead SC were excellent hosts, providing good food, a quiz on Saturday evening and good facilities. They had more than twenty of their club members racing at all levels. A full results listing can be found at: <https://www.cometsailing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/National-Championship-2026.pdf>

There are various photos on the Comet Class Association Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/293882067333410>

CMYC were represented by Jeff Smith, Simon Thompson, Mike Thompson and John Steward (although he is also a Chipstead member).

Jeff Smith



# Crazy Frog

## Crazy Frog

On reading this some of you may now be humming the crazy frog tune; *Ring ding ding daa baa, Baa aramba baa bom baa barooumba, Wh-wha-what's going on-on? Ding, ding. This is the Crazy Frog!*

## *Wh-wha-what's going on-on?*

The Natural World Team are currently cataloguing all the living things we have within our Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to understand how we can best maintain the environment for all, including the Creepy Crawley's that we are responsible for.



We will then use this information when approaching local schools next year so that we can engage them in environmental science trips via our Community Spaces project and ultimately generate new family memberships.

Perhaps that is not so crazy after all.

# “Have a Go” Racing

Coming up on 6th September - “**Have a Go**” racing sessions, supported by one of our race coaches or instructors

These are not part of a formal race series - the sessions are intended to provide ‘**relaxed and friendly**’ racing so that everyone should feel comfortable and enjoy joining in, Adults & Juniors alike. We encourage parents to have a go if their children are participating.

There will be a race coach/instructor to provide support on the water and to answer your questions before and after the session. There will be a briefing, covering some basic rules, just enough to ensure you know who has right of way, and giving some guidance on the course.

Please RSVP via the simple form on the [website event page](#) to give us an idea of how many people are attending.

## Autumn Leaf Series

Our Autumn racing season kicks off with the Sunday morning “Autumn Leaf” series. There are two 45 minute races, starting at 10.30am, back to back.

- Sunday 13th September - Autumn Leaf 1&2
- Sunday 20th September - Autumn Leaf 3&4

## One Per Month Series

This series continues into September, on the 26th

Take a look at the race results so far on Halsail, we’ve had 14 sailors take part, with **Brian, George & Stuart taking the top 3 positions.**  
<https://archive.halsail.com/Result/Public/3405/4>

See more on our [Programme](#).



# Bart's Bash - September 20th, 2pm

## ONE WEEKEND. ONE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Bart's Bash brings sailing clubs, watersports centres, sailors, families and communities together around the world.

Created in memory of Andrew 'Bart' Simpson, the event celebrates Bart's love of sailing and his belief that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the challenge, freedom and joy of being on the water.

Join Crawley Mariners sailors at the lake on Sunday afternoon for a friendly & fun race and raise money for this great cause. All abilities welcome!

## What do you want in the Programme?

The Sailing Sub-Committee has begun planning for the 2027 Programme and we'd love to hear **your feedback** on what you'd like to see more or less of next year!

We want to make sure we're putting on the events that you want to take part in and if you'd like to **put your ideas forward**, please email

[sailing.subcommittee@cmyp.co.uk](mailto:sailing.subcommittee@cmyp.co.uk)

### Your club needs you!

If you'd like to see what is involved in setting up & running the sailing programme at Crawley Mariners, you're welcome to join a monthly Sailing Sub-committee meeting, to get a flavour and share your ideas.



# Comet Open Saturday 12th September

Our annual competition for club members and visiting helms is going to be taking place on Saturday, 12th September. We encourage all Comet sailors to come and have a go, don't be daunted by the event. It is friendly and a great way to sail with like minded people at many levels. It will help us if you can register in advance using [this form](#).

There are two club Comets available, one centre main and one aft main - contact Jeff if you would like to use one.

The event will follow the same format that we have operated in recent seasons, with four short races, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, and with three races to count. There will be a briefing not before 10:30hrs with the first race starting at 11:00hrs. [Sailing Instructions](#) will be posted in the Clubhouse on the day. For information about how to find us please go to <https://www.cmyc.co.uk/contact-crawley-mariners-yacht-club.htm>

The entry fee for the event will be:

Members £5

Visitors £10

Payment on the day by card (preferred) or cash.

Tea/Coffee etc., biscuits are included in the entry fee.

Please bring your own lunch.

Members please bring a cake, preferably homemade.

We look forward to seeing you in September, meanwhile enjoy your Comet sailing!

On behalf of CMYC Sailing Sub-Committee



# CMYC Programme

| Date                  | Event                                                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept  | Thursday Informal Sailing                                                        |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Junior Saturday Club<br>Solent Cruise<br>Work Party                              |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Social, Social Sailing<br>The Grebe Club<br>Have a Go Racing                     |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Instructed Kayak Session                                                         |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Thursday Informal Sailing                                                        |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Comet Open                                                                       |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept | WSSYSA Coaching & Boat Prep<br>Autumn Leaf Race                                  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Thursday Informal Sailing                                                        |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept | WSSYSA Regatta<br>Itchenor Cruise                                                |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept | WSSYSA Regatta<br>Autumn Leaf<br>Bart's Bash                                     |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Thursday Informal Sailing                                                        |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Itchenor Cruise<br>Adult Saturday Club<br>Beginners Race<br>One Per Month Series |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept | RYA Powerboat Level 1 & 2 - Day 1                                                |



and so much more...

