



C M Y C

THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?



APRIL 2024



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Commodore's News



Missed Opportunities

In February's edition of the newsletter, I missed the opportunity to share some love with reference to Valentine's Day, and last month I missed referring to both International Women's Day and Science Week.

We celebrate these things every time we visit the lake. You just have to love the view across the lake, either with or without boats, and enjoy the company of likeminded members at one of the new monthly Sunday Socials (first Sunday in the Month, next is 7th April). We also have the WoW factor as the Women on Water starts again on Friday 19th April and as for science, don't get me started as this is just a fantastic subject: from environmental and life science to meteorology and physics that propels our dinghies - without fuel.

What I don't want is for you to miss out because of my neglect. Please look at the programme on the website (as the hardcopy is already out-of-date) to see the new events we're adding, like kicking off each month with a Sunday Social and fun events like SailGP at the Lake. Plan to come along to these together with our sailing, racing, kayaking and cruising events and have a gander, take a dip, or settle for a cuppa – there's nothing scientific about it, just don't miss out.

Oh, and before I forget let's take it one step further – we have our Open Day on 5th May so please come along and support this and better still use Webcollect to Volunteer and put 8th June in the diary for the not-to-be-missed Early Summer Social (see the posters in this issue).

Make the most of what we have to offer and enjoy your sport.

Richard
Commodore



Powerboat Refresher



Sunday 19th May

We are running a Powerboat refresher day which will run parallel with the 'Get On the Water Challenge' day.

This is an ideal opportunity to come along, polish up your Powerboat Skills, have a sail and a bit of socialising.

The Powerboat refresher is aimed at those who feel they would like to re-familiarise themselves with the powerboats before they do a duty. Old hands as well as those who have recently done their Powerboat Level 2 are all welcome. I plan on being there all day, and maybe some other instructors as well. I don't plan on doing a Webcollect event, but if you could email to the email address below to say if you plan on coming and, if possible, an approximate time, that would be helpful.

Some of the things you may want to refresh on are:

- Pre-launch and pre-start checks
- Starting the engine
- Coming alongside
- Anchoring
- Moving Marks
- Support of capsized dinghy



We will support you any way we can, whether you just want to go out and have a quick refresher or want any specific practice and help.

Mike S

Power.boat@hotmail.com



Sunday Socials

Following a **recommendation** that came from a group of members last month we are proud to launch these regular monthly Sunday Social event at the Clubhouse.

First Sunday every Month from 10:30

This is a social, that is all about enjoying a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit, taking an opportunity to ask about the Club, learn about its events and plans, meet other members, and watch some of the on-water events at the same time.



Some of these events will have themes...

Sunday	07 th April	10:30	Kicking off the month together <i>Coupled with the Spring Sunday races</i>
Sunday	05 th May	from 08:30	to support the Open Day
Sunday	02 nd June	10:30	Challenge the Commodore <i>Coupled with Social Sail and Have a Go!</i>
Sunday	07 th July	10:30	Club insights and more
Sunday	04 th Aug	10:30	Come 4 coffee stay 2 Sail <i>Coupled with Social Sail and Have a Go!</i>
Sunday	08 th Sept	10:30	Come 4 coffee stay 2 Sail <i>Coupled with Social Sail and Have a Go!</i>
Sunday*	20 th Oct	10:30	Spectate in good company <i>Coupled with Autumn Leaf</i>
Sunday	03 rd Nov	10:30	Club insights and more <i>Coupled with Autumn Leaf</i>
Sunday	01 st Dec	10:30	Pre-Christmas Laughter <i>Coupled with Autumn Leaf</i>

**Not the first Sunday this month*

...and they all include the friendly CMYC atmosphere that we are so well known for.

You are always welcome to come to any event, if only to say hello and watch the activities, and attending these Sunday Socials will ensure there is someone else on shore.

Join us and let us know what you'd recommend.

See you soon,
Andy, Celina, Richard and Sarah-Jo





JOIN US FOR A
61ST BIRTHDAY
CARNIVAL

PARTY

8
JUNE

Burger Van
Ice-Cream
Boat Procession
Fun for All

FROM
8:00
AM

FREE ENTRY



Membership Notices



Membership Renewal

As the membership renewal period for 2024 comes to an end (1st April), we have 169 membership subscriptions which cover 308 members. This is broadly in line with previous years and with the open day coming up soon we would expect the total to rise to around the 200 subscriptions level.

The 2024 handbooks were mailed out in mid-March. This included the new gate code which will be changing on Tuesday the 9th April. If you haven't received your new handbook or code, please contact Duncan via the contact page on the website.



Boat Park

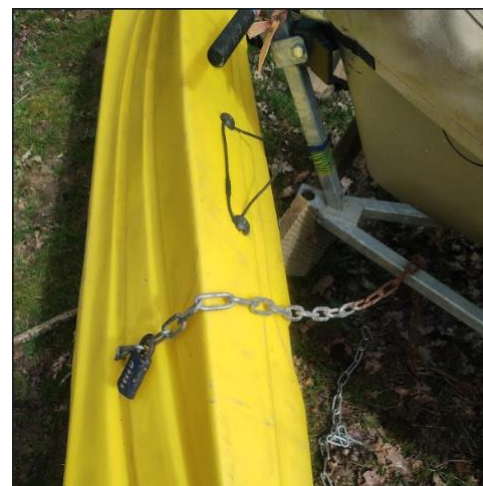
For members with boat park spaces, new boat park stickers have been issued with your handbooks. Please attach these to your craft as soon as you can, as these are an essential tool for the efficient management of the boat park. If you have any questions about boat park spaces, please mail Duncan via the contacts page on the website.



MYSTERY KAYAK

There is a yellow kayak chained to one of the club trolleys (near the containers). Can the owner please move this to a more appropriate area.

Contact Duncan if you need a space allocated. If it is not moved by April Junior Saturday Club, we will need to cut this chain



SailGP at Hedgecourt Lake



Warning: The excitement of watching the SailGP races that were staged in New Zealand from the comfort of the Clubhouse *is infectious*.

The close passes between boats achieving between 50 and 80 kph, the quick turns and edge of your seat moments as boats look like they are going to capsize, the disaster of a boat hitting a mark, the place changes and tactics, the close starts and the finishes were breath-taking.

You don't have to be a race enthusiast or know the rules. It is easy to watch with digital overlays clearly identifying the boats, their speed, and the course

It was educational too, with some of our racers commenting on the starts and the drama that unfolded.

Those attending have requested **more!**, but don't let them fool you in to coming along because it is infectious, and you just might get the bug.

If you fancy taking the risk the next SailGP at Hedgecourt event will follow the Spring Sunday Races on...

Sunday 12th May

SailGP starts at 2pm in the Clubhouse

Spring Sunday races start at 10:30 on the lake

Powered by Nature™

SailGP are racing for a better future and believe sport has the power to change the world.

Find out more at <https://sailgp.com/#/>



Open Day



Help us to show case the full range of what we have to offer from Training, Sailing, Racing, Cruising, on and off water Social events, Swimming, Kayaking, Paddle Boarding, our Facilities, and our People as one group renowned for being friendly and helpful to our friends and visitors at Open Day on...

Sunday 05th May 2024 from 08:30

→ Help by advertising this event with your friends, colleagues, and everyone you know, and put-up copies of the poster included in this newsletter or request a pdf from the Editor.

→ Help by coming along on the day to support and promote your favourite activity, or better still why not let Andy T., know by joining our growing group of volunteers at Crawley Mariners by visiting webcollect and click...



Volunteering

@ Crawley Mariners Yacht Club

Time well spent

Please log on to webcollect and put your name down to help

What you choose to help with and how much help you offer is entirely down to you

Join now via [Webcollect Volunteering at CMYC](#)





Good news!
Try sailing for free

**CRAWLEY MARINERS
YACHT CLUB**

OPEN DAY

Sunday 5th May 2024

10am - 4pm

- Not to be missed
- Bring friends & family
- More than a sailing club!



Where we sail
Hedgecourt Lake,
RH19 2QG



The friendliest?
We'd like to think so

Martlets and other news...

Thanks go to Mike S., who wrote in to explain the bird icons in the Club pennant shown in a previous newsletter...



“I’ve always assumed the birds were Martlets”

The internet suggests that a Martlet is a mythical heraldic bird which is thought to represent the swift or house martin. Martlets have been traditionally associated with Sussex for centuries and appear on the Sussex county crest. They are typically shown in perpetual flight with open wings and no feet, never stopping to sleep.

It was also noted that Burgess Hill has a part of their shopping area called the Martlets. Can you add to this? Answers to the Editor please.

One of our newer members remarked that it was not easy to see ‘who was who’ when at social events, or when at the Club, even identifying the Instructors.

Ducks, Tapes & Pins = Sticky subject?

At the Instructors Day pin badges were handed out as a small thank you and this will help but are not suitable for putting through your buoyancy aid! There is always an opportunity to use a bit of duck tape (other brands also work) with your name on and wearing that...



Instructors – if you didn’t get your badge, please ask Richard for one.

PS It is understood that the tape is for pipework ‘duct’ing but got misheard many times to the point that ‘duck’ tape became a brand – they must have been quackers.



Junior & Youth Sailors – Upcoming Events

- 6th April CMYC Topper Open Meeting
- 13th April Junior Saturday Club
- 26th April Weir Wood Topper Open
- 4th May - TOPPER Coaching Day
- 5th May – CMYC Open Day

CLUB RACING:

(junior & youth sailors very welcome)

7th April – 5 & 6 Spring Sunday (AM)

14th April – 7 & 8 Spring Sunday (AM)

12th May – 9 & 10 Spring Sunday (AM)

26th May – 11 & 12 FINAL Spring Sunday (AM)
(need to sail 6 races to qualify)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

22nd & 23rd June RYA Regional Champ's at Datchet Water
(Oppies; Toppers & Fevas)

21st – 26th July NSSA Regatta Bassenthwaite

19th 23rd August - Junior Helm Week

21st - 22nd Sept. – WSSYSA Regatta Shoreham by Sea
(most dinghy classes)

A special note to all parents of junior sailors':

Although at Junior Saturday Clubs I do see quite a lot of parents, unfortunately with fitting in the Fun Race at lunch time I am unable to spend much time speaking to parents or answering any queries they may have.

However, on **Saturday 4th May – Topper Coaching Day** I will be 'shoreside' at the lake all day whilst the coaching is taking place. So, if you are able to pop along during the day and want to know anything about these events, or sailing activities at the club and beyond, I will be more than happy to answer any queries you may have.

Bye for now and look forward to meeting you – Diana

We are an **RYA OnBoard Club** and also a **RYA British Youth Sailing Recognised Club**. I can let you know what these mean when I see you.



Topper Coaching Day

Saturday 4th MAY 2024 – 09.00 to 15.30



COST: £15 (using own boat) – **Bookings open on 15th April**

Following last year's very successful coaching day, we are really pleased to welcome back Thomas Chapman and Dan Gibson for another great day. It is an ideal opportunity for our Topper sailors to get some coaching from two RYA race coaches who once sailed Toppers.

Thomas was one of our first sailors to qualify for the Topper Squads, he has since gained a lot of experience racing, teaching, and coaching in several countries in different boats. He enjoys helping at his old club when he can and we like having him back at Hedgecourt.

Dan came from Oppies through to RS Aeros, achieving top results at NSSA and WSSYSA Regattas. Some of you will know Dan from Junior Saturday Clubs and our RYA Stage 2 courses. Between them they have lots of experience and knowledge to help you improve and enjoy your sailing even more.



For those intending to join the CMYC Team at the National Schools Sailing Regatta and/or the West Sussex Youth Regatta, it is an ideal time to get some practice in for either of these events. Both Thomas and Dan sailed in the CMYC team at these events from Topper level up to much faster boats in their final years.



This day should help newer sailors find out more about racing, and it will help those already racing to gain additional practice and sharpen up their sailing skills. Good practice for those wanting to become RYA Assistant Instructors, and those preparing to become RYA Dinghy Instructors.

Ability Level: *RYA Stage 2 (or equivalent level), Saturday club Toppers, and for those already taking part in club racing. An opportunity for Feva sailors to enhance their helming skills with a day back in Toppers.*

Any queries contact Diana via the contacts page on the website.

N.B. if you do not have your own boat it should be possible to hire a club boat for the day. Numbers will be limited so book early to ensure a place.

Booking **OPEN 15nd April** on Webcollect, with payment as usual via bank transfer.

REFRESHMENTS: *Please bring a packed lunch and we will provide drinks and biscuits.*





Women On Water

Come and join us on Friday, 19th April at 18.00hrs for a social sail. This is an opportunity to get out on the water in a boat, or use your own kayak/canoe or paddleboard.

You can sail your own boat and we will team you up if you need a crew. Club boats will be available which you can either helm or crew.

It is a great opportunity to meet other sailors and enjoy the space our beautiful lake has to offer. There is no formal training but we are all happy to share our experience and knowledge with you.

We have a Women on Water WhatsApp group, which helps to give us an idea of numbers and boat/crew requirements for the evening. If you wish to be included or have any queries, then please do get in touch. Send me a message or call me in the evenings on 07765544007 or email me on cwhittle2017@outlook.com.

I look forward to seeing you at the lake soon.
Caroline





Need a Topper?



A few years ago, the Fishers generously donated two Toppers to the club for the use of young sailors. This year we are changing the way these are loaned. Rather than the loanee arranging for insurance and boat space directly the Toppers will be available to an individual for £100 for the year. The £100 is purely to cover the boat park space (£75) and insurance (£25). Each boat has its own trolley. The loanee will be expected to look after the boat and equipment during the loan period, taking the sail, rudder, daggerboard and ropes home with them. This keeps them safe and allows freedom of use. We ask that the boats are made available for any Junior Helm Week sessions that they are not being used.

These loans would be best suited to those who intend to use the boats for more than just Saturday Clubs, perhaps to join in some races or just family sailing.

If you are interested, please contact Jeff (via the contacts page on the website) for some indication of what use you expect to make of a Topper and the child's age and ability. It is expected that the child is at least 10 years old and is reasonably competent at sailing.



RYA Young Sailors Stages 1 & 2 Course

Course Fee: £110 - for those using their own Topper

Course Fee: £135 - for those using a club Topper
(includes £25 admin fee)

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

Day 1 – Saturday 15th June; 9:00 – 17:00

Day 2 – Sunday 16th June; 9:00 – 17:00

Day 3 – Sunday 23rd June; 9:00 – 17:00

Day 4 – Saturday 29th June; 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 1st April 2024

(This may all seem a bit early but Open Day is on 7th May this year, so to avoid disappointment book before then.)

Payment is required by the 7th June and should be made by bank transfer if possible.

Any queries? Contact Jeff (via the contacts page on the website) - **Bookings close on the 1st 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 Dinghy Sailing Course For Adults



Course Fee per person using a club boat: £175
(includes £25 admin fee)

Course Fee per person using own boat: £150
(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 15th June; 9:00 – 17:00
Day 2 – Sunday 16th June; 9:00 – 17:00
Day 3 – Sunday 23rd June; 9:00 – 17:00
Day 4 – Saturday 29th June; 9:00 – 17:00



Booking via Web Collect from 1st April 2024

(This may all seem a bit early but Open Day is on 5th May this year, so to avoid disappointment book before then.)

Payment is required by the 7th June and should be made by bank transfer if possible.

Any queries? Contact Jeff (via the contacts page on the website) - Bookings close on the 1st 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.



And the Winners are...

The Awards evening, (15 March), was a tale in two halves, and what a story it tells...



The awards given demonstrate the breadth of achievement and recognition across the Club's activities from improving, racing, cruising and volunteering with acknowledgement of events both at the lake and away.

They also included recognition of best in Class, All Dinghies Champions to the prestigious Lifetime Achievement.

This was quite a social event with the prize giving split in two sessions with food served from the start and a fun quiz in between.



Congratulations to all, and thanks to Martyn, Sarah, Ian and Stuart for an enjoyable evening.



Training – Adults & Juniors

Upcoming Training

- Junior Saturday Club – 13th April – Booking open on WebCollect
- Adult Saturday Club – 27th April – Booking open on WebCollect
- RYA Powerboat Level 2 – 21st & 28th April – Full, waiting list open
- RYA Levels 1 & 2 – 15, 16, 23 & 29 June – see separate article
- RYA Stages 1 & 2 – 15, 16, 23 & 29 June – see separate article

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.

RYA Start Racing course

The first day of the Start Racing course was held on a chilly but bright and light wind day. By the time we went on the water there was sufficient wind to make it possible to do some useful training. This focussed on being near the start line when the start was signalled. There was significant improvement during the course of the morning. In the afternoon, exercises included sailing in circles using the five essentials, trigger pull starts and man overboard.



The second day of the course was somewhat windier and duller. Unfortunately, that left us with just four participants. All used either smaller sails or reefed, which paid off, allowing them to concentrate on the skills rather than being distracted trying not to capsize. Exercises included more starting practice, mark rounding, follow the leader.

Congratulations to Paul, Maciej, Phil and James on successfully completing the course. Thanks to Race Coaches Amy and Dan for helping with instructing.



Training – Adults & Juniors

Comments from participants:

“learnt a lot about getting the most from my boat in very light wind as well as breezy conditions, has encouraged me to join club races and to develop my sailing abilities”

“I found the sailing exercises very good to practice finer boat control. I will now try to incorporate them into my general sailing. I can now see how the skills of racing can be used to help me with my dinghy cruising. It was nice way to start sailing at Hedgecourt and to meet and sail with other Crawley Mariner Sailors.”

[Junior Saturday Club \(please contact Alison with any booking changes\)](#)

Due to WebCollect being offline for four days we had a bit of a bumpy end to the booking period, fortunately most attendees had booked early, thanks to Alison for dealing with this difficult situation.

We were lucky with the weather, a relatively warm start to the day with a light breeze in the morning turning fresher in the afternoon. It was good to welcome some potential new members and first-time sailors as well as welcoming back those who sailed last year.

Kevin, on leaving the club, has generously donated his pico to the club. We were able to use this to give one young sailor his first sail, ably assisted by Vanessa.

Thanks to instructors: Alison, Amy, Annabel, Dan, Esther, Maria, Matt, Thomas & Vanessa, and to: Martyn on powerboat.

[Adult Saturday Club](#)

We were greeted by a cold but bright morning. It was great to see some members who hadn't sailed for a while, some who were perhaps thinking they would have preferred to stay at home given the strength of wind forecast, and new members Lucy & Maksim. Brian decided that it was not a day for a first sail in his Comet, which was a wise move. Thanks to him and Alan for spending their time clearing branches cut down by the tree surgeons. Maksim sailed a Laser Radial and got a little more familiar with the lake than he might have planned, however he did well considering the gusty conditions. Everyone



Training – Adults & Juniors

else sailed with an instructor aboard in two Wanderers and a Gull, all of which were reefed. Although the conditions were quite challenging at times everyone coped well, and perhaps pushed their limits a little.

Thanks to instructors: Ian, Jeff, Maria and Mike S.

Thanks to Brian for the following photos:





Become a Race Officer



Sailing a boat around a set course, and sailing with other people, watching how they handle a tack or a gybe and learning the “highway code” of sailing, is the best way to improve skills. This all comes together in racing.

If you can share in co-ordinating the races, you’ll be helping the club to thrive.

Being a Race Officer may seem daunting, but it really needn’t be. CMYC is a friendly and informal club. The racing is generally good natured, and experienced racers will always help a new race officer – after all, they couldn’t sail at all if you were not there! The biggest worries for many new race officers include setting the course and getting the flags right at the start. The racers will always help you set a course as you gain experience. The principles are simple and reasonably easy to grasp, but help is always at hand. And when it comes to the flags, it boils down to two ropes which you pull up in order when the countdown starts and let down in order as the countdown comes to an end. When a flag goes up or down, you also blow a whistle. If you can count down in minutes from 5, using a timer that has been set up for our racing, you’ll be fine. After that you note the times as boats cross the line, have a chat with the rest of the duty crew, and pull up a flag and blow a whistle at the end.

If you feel you could help, please talk to anyone on the committee, or come to the training event on May 18th.

And a big thank you from all racers.



Beginners & Once Per Month

23rd March

There were no takers for the Beginners Race, which was probably just as well because we would have had to cancel it due to the extra strong wind during the time it would have run. We had one taker for the Once per Month, unfortunately not enough to race. Let's hope for a more encouraging forecast and better turnout in April.

Thanks to the duty crew, Emma, Stephen, Bob and Pierre who all helped clear branches cut down by the tree surgeons and return dinghies to their spaces.

Jeff, RO

CMYC Programme - APRIL

Sat	6	Topper Open	Hedgecourt	11:00	4 races, open to visitors.
Sun	7	Spring Sundays 5&6	Hedgecourt	10:30	2 x 45 min. races back to back
Sun	7	Sunday Social - Kicking off the month together	CMYC Clubhouse	10:30	
Mon	8	Instructed Kayak Session	Hedgecourt	18:30	Register via WebCollect
Sat	13	Junior Saturday Club	Hedgecourt		Register by preceding Wednesday
Sat	13	Itchenor Cruise (spr tide HW 15:42)	Chichester Harbour		
Sun	14	Spring Sundays 7&8	Hedgecourt	10:30	2 x 45 min. races back to back
Mon	15	Instructed Kayak Session	Hedgecourt	18:30	Register via WebCollect
Thu	18	Thursday Informal Sailing	Hedgecourt	10:30	Support boat not guaranteed
Fri	19	Women on Water	Hedgecourt	18:00	Social evening sailing for women
Sun	21	RYA Powerboat Level 2 Course 1 day 1	Hedgecourt		
Mon	22	Instructed Kayak Session	Hedgecourt	18:30	Register via WebCollect
Thu	25	Thursday Informal Sailing	Hedgecourt	10:30	Support boat not guaranteed
Sat	27	Adult Saturday Club	Hedgecourt	09:30	Register by preceding Wednesday
Sat	27	Beginners Race Series 2	Hedgecourt	13:30	30 min race
Sat	27	One per Month Series 2	Hedgecourt	15:00	1 x 60 min race
Sun	28	RYA Powerboat Level 2 Course 1 day 2	Hedgecourt		
Mon	29	Instructed Kayak Session	Hedgecourt	18:30	Register via WebCollect

