



C M Y C

THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?



FEBRUARY 2025



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EARLY SUCCESS in 2025

We have some successes to celebrate already, and it is only February!

These include (*without mentioning either SailGP or the Vendée Globe*):

A number of Crawley Mariners became heroes in helping to restore and maintain the beautiful environment that we own – Hedgecourt. They repaired the dam wall, the road, and started clearing the grounds. More of these social events are planned (see related news article in this issue)** and I hope to see you there.

The Grebe Club had its Launch Party with fun challenges and plenty of ‘healthy’ party biscuits. This is a new initiative to help our Junior Crew members develop and adds a new social dimension to the Club. You are all welcome to explore this.** Join us at the next one (23 March) and learn Jeff’s Top Ten Tips for being Safe & Sure.

The committees have also had successes in finalising the programme that is already available on the Club’s website, preparing for the training and getting the 2025 Handbook ready. This will be posted to you from end of February onwards, just don’t forget to renew your membership (before the discount ends if you’re quick).

Celebrating your successes from last year will take place at the Awards Evening** on Friday 14th March from 7.30pm (booking closes 02 March so don’t delay book today).

At previous social events we have been asked to run a Quiz Night**, and the Big Question is – shall we? Let us know if you are interested using Webcollect (without obligation).

“Imagine” is a competition** that Members can enter. It is based on how you see the Club in the future using your imagination and there is a prize for the best ideas. The winner will be presented a prize at the Awards Evening so book your seat at this social event to see if you’re imagination has won you a prize.

On the Committee we continue to explore options and are working on a revised set of articles and preparing an entry for a grant from the Gatwick Airport Community Trust. Fingers crossed that we are successful with this. Hopefully our new strategic categories (Crew Development, Active Adventure, Green Blue, Community Together) will pay dividends when coupled with implementing related initiatives to support Crew Development (Grebe Club) and Community (Community Spaces). More about the latter in the March edition of the Newsletter.

Don’t forget when you are renewing or updating your membership details you can add email addresses for other family members so that they get the newsletter too. Updating your details also gives you an opportunity to let us know your ambitions so we can try to plan the training accordingly.

A Competition, Awards, Quiz opportunities, Race Coaching, First Aid Training, a Dinghy Show and Socials, what a great Club to belong to, and that is just this month.

Richard
Commodore

** See related newsletter item later in this edition



Pursuit Race

5th January

The weather forecast was pretty awful for the first Sunday of the year. Heavy rain, possible flooding and strong and gusty winds. Would anyone want to sail in such conditions?

I drove to the lake in heavy rain avoiding the worst of the floods. The wind was clearly as forecast, nineteen knots gusting thirty nine! Maybe just right for a cup of tea in the warmth of the clubhouse. It was not to be. I had clearly underestimated the Mariners. Nine boats signed up, eager and ready to race. I got out my spreadsheet with the start times for a sixty minute pursuit race, using the agreed CMYC handicaps. I set a simple ovoid course trying to avoid too many gybes and dead running. The line up was as follows Liam, starting from scratch in a Topper. Then two RS Fevas +2 minutes crewed by Dan and Amy, Charlotte and Esther. Next +3 minutes was the Comet Mino helmed by Liam. On +7 minutes two Comets with Duncan and Jeff. On the same handicap were Ian and Martyn in a Miracle and finally +9 minutes two ILCA 6 Radials helmed by Miles and Neil. The boats set off without incident and fairly flew downwind to join the course at Mark 9. Most of the boats were planing fast on the off-wind legs Around the halfway stage Dan and Amy were in the lead having been flying the kite throughout followed by Luke in the Comet Mino. There were many capsizes, Jeff went for a swim, then Luke though he kept his boat upright. Soon afterwards Dan and Amy went for a swim then Neil with evidence clearly visible in a very muddy main sail. Neil decided to retire. Meanwhile Miles was sailing a flawless race in the ILCA 6. He was flat out in a cloud of spray on the downwind legs and soon overtook the entire fleet to gain the lead a position which he held to the finish. Dan and Amy were in a close tussle with Jeff at the sixty minute signal and just managed to beat him by a boat length at the next windward mark. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed what was a challenging race. I understand that there was so much water in the Miracle that Martin resorted to bailing out with his boot! Never underestimate the resourcefulness of the Mariners!

May I say a big thank you to the race team, Alex, Simon and John who got very wet and windblown in the service of the club.

Results:

1st Miles, ILCA 6

2nd Dan and Amy, RS Feva

3rd Jeff, Comet

4th Luke, Comet Mino.

Donal Roche R.O.



Training & Development

Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- First Aid Course - 1st February - booking closed
- Race Coaching (junior/youth) - 16th February - notification emailed. These is a concurrent with work party, so parents can be busy helping maintain the club estate while their youngsters learn or improve their racing skills.
- RYA Sailing with Spinnakers - 2nd & 8th March - book on WebCollect, see separate flyer for details.
- Topper Coaching - 9th March - book on WebCollect. see separate flyer for details
- Double Handed Team Racing Coaching - 9th March - book on WebCollect, see separate flyer for details

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.

Junior Saturday Club

We are making a number of changes to Juniors Saturday Club, there is a separate article giving details of these changes.

Navigation Theory

The programme now includes a Navigation Theory Refresher on 15th February and an Essential Navigation course on 5th & 19th April, contact Richard if you are interested.

Race Coaching

Unfortunately there was only one keen young sailor signed up for our first race coaching session, so it had to be cancelled.

We have enough Toppers signed up for the session on 16th Feb, but need more Feva Sailors.

There are spaces available for the Topper Coaching day on 9th March.



Junior Saturday Clubs - Changes

Important changes to Junior Saturday Clubs

Start Times: Morning 9:00; Fun race 12:30, Afternoon 13:30

The morning and afternoon sessions will start **promptly** with a general briefing for children and parents. Children should be signed in, dressed ready to sail and those using their own boats should have the boats off the racks and equipment ready to rig. Immediately following the general briefing children will split into their groups and have a briefing with their instructor. The general briefing may continue for parents, this will allow us to pass on information on upcoming events and for parents to ask questions.

Finish Times: Morning 11:45; Fun race 13:15, Afternoon 16:30

These are times that children should be free to leave their groups, so they will be coming ashore earlier and will have a debrief with their Instructor. The morning group will be expected to stow any boats in excess of those required for the afternoon session. The afternoon groups will stow all the remaining club boats.

Fun Race: The Fun Race will no longer be part of the afternoon session, but we encourage both morning and afternoon sailors to join in, this is a great way for the children to sail more independently but knowing there is always help and advice at hand. There will be an additional box on the WebCollect form for you to indicate that a child will take part in the fun race, this is to help us with the race management. The Fun Race actually starts at 12:30, so sailors need to be on the water by 12:15 at the latest. There will be a briefing at 12:00, so there is time for a quick refreshment break for those attending the morning sessions.

Groups

The allocation of children to groups is at the discretion of the Instructor coordinating the event, so you may find that a child is not in the group that you booked, this may be due to the availability of instructors or the child's ability. We will always try to put them in the most suitable group.

Toppers - The booking for Toppers will no longer be split into two groups, the Instructor coordinating the event will allocate children to the group that they feel is most appropriate. However, we would encourage more advanced topper sailors to come in the afternoon and less experienced sailors in the morning.

Sailors moving up from Oppies - In June, July and August we will run a Topper beginners session in the morning. This is to try and achieve a more consistent level within the groups. Children joining at Open Day may also be included in this group.

Race Coaching - In March, April and May we will run a race coaching group in the mornings, this will be open to those who have achieved at least Stage 2 or have equivalent experience, i.e. they must be able to sail a triangular course reasonably proficiently. This group may (TBC) also run in September, October and November.



Dinghy Sailing with Spinnakers

Master the art of spinnaker sailing – join our course!



Ready to take your sailing to the next level? Our Spinnaker Course is designed for sailors of all ages and abilities who want to learn the essential skills of rigging, hoisting, gybing, and dropping/recovering a spinnaker—whether conventional or asymmetric.

Did you know? Once you have got the hang of it, it can often be easier and safer to sail downwind with the spinnaker **up**, as well as faster and more efficient.

Whether you're an adult or youth member, this course will give you the knowledge and confidence to sail your best course downwind, maximising speed and control. The course is friendly, relaxed, and perfect for those who want to learn at their own pace in a supportive environment.



What's Included:

- Rigging and handling a spinnaker
- Hoisting, gybing, and dropping/recovering
- Sailing the best possible downwind course
- An *Advanced Sailing Handbook*

Cost:

- £80 if using a club boat
- £55 if using your own boat
- £10 discount if you already have the *Advanced Sailing Handbook*

To join, you'll need to have sailing skills equivalent to Level 3 Better Sailing or Stage 4. This course is also a great step for those looking to become Assistant Instructors, as completing one of the Advanced courses from the National or Youth Sailing Schemes is a prerequisite.

Course Dates:

- 2nd March
- 8th March

Booking will be available shortly on WebCollect, so keep an eye out for updates! Spaces are limited, so don't miss out on this opportunity to improve your sailing skills in a welcoming, non-competitive environment. Sign up today and take your downwind sailing to the next level!



Become a Race Coach Level 2

The club has four active Level 2 Race Coaches, they are all also Senior Instructors, so their availability is limited due to the need for them to be present during dinghy training. It would be great to have more Race Coaches so that we could increase our Race Coaching offering. You do not need to be a Dinghy Instructor to become a Race Coach Level 2.

To become a Race Coach Level 2 you must satisfy the following criteria:

- hold an RYA Level 2 powerboat handling certificate
- have an approved and valid first aid certificate
- be an RYA member
- be a UK based sailor
- be a competent club racer
- be a minimum age of 16. Level 2 coaches aged under 18 should be appropriately supervised.

(There is a six-month grace period following the course for sailors to achieve any outstanding elements of the above qualifications if required).

The course is run over two full days. In years gone by we have run the course at Hedgecourt, but we would need a reasonable number of members interested to do this.



Future & Lapsed Instructors

Thinking of becoming a Powerboat Instructor

The club has five Powerboat Instructors, all male. This may sound sufficient to run two Powerboat Level 2 and one Safety Boat course each year, but all five are heavily involved in other club activities, so they would welcome others wishing to become Powerboat Instructors.

The RYA have the following entry requirements:

“Five seasons experience of powerboating logged (preferably in range of boat types and sizes) OR one season for those who use powerboats as an integral part of their normal full-time occupation.”

“Candidates must attend a skills assessment prior to their instructor training course. Details can be found in the RYA Power Schemes Instructor Handbook (G19)”

So, if you are interested, even slightly, please keep a log of your powerboat activities. Taking the Safety Boat course and assisting on cruises is all going to help.

Follow this link for more details:

<https://www.rya.org.uk/club-centre-support/training/qualifications/powerboat>

Contact Mike, our Chief Powerboat Instructor, if you are interested.

Lapsed Dinghy Instructor

If your Dinghy Instructor certificate has expired it may not be too difficult to revalidate it:

Within 1 year of expiry - provided you have completed the required 30 hours training in the previous 5 years you should be able to revalidate as normal.

From 1 year after expiry to 3 years after expiry - you need to be observed assisting on a relevant RYA course by the Principal (Jeff) or Chief Instructor (Amy).

From 3 years after expiry to 10 years after expiry - you need to be observed assisting on a relevant RYA course by a Trainer nominated by the RYA.

From 5 years after expiry to 10 years after expiry - you need to take a two day course.

Ten years or more from expiry - you need to retake the DI Course.

Any queries talk to Jeff or Amy

Thinking of becoming a Dinghy Instructor

Please talk to Amy or Jeff for more details.



IMAGINE

COMPETITION

We own Hedgecourt Lake, the Clubhouse and surrounding grounds.

Imagine that is all we have – consider the lake and grounds as a blank canvas.



All ideas and suggestions welcome.

They may be futuristic and do not have to be budgeted as there is a place for originality.

They may be small changes to the current set-up to make big improvements.

They may be based on common sense and there is naturally a place for those.

All ideas should be centred on use of the lake for recreational water-based sports.

All entries should be submitted via email to the Commodore before 01st March 2025. Only Members of Crawley Mariners Yacht Club, in any membership category, can enter. There are no restrictions on Committee Members from entering, unless involved in judging the entries. Entries will only be considered if they relate to CMYC. A prize will be presented at the Awards Evening, so be sure to attend, food can also be ordered via Webcollect. The Commodore's decision will be final.

Imagine being the winner.

Good luck,
Richard



WORK PARTIES

For Hedgecourt Heroes

^{still}
We need your help
^

We had some success in January in repairing the dam wall, the entrance road and some grounds maintenance, but we still need your help (we've a large estate).

Plans are we shall meet again on:

- 13 February 2025
- 16 February 2025

All help gratefully is received, and you only need to do what you wish to, including clearing your space if you have a boat in the park.

Other tasks are likely to include more leaf clearance, cutting or moving reeds to the compost area and rest assured that on both these days we will provide a 'souper' lunch and piece of something sweet to finish with.

We shall also be supporting the Surrey Wildlife Trust working on our behalf on:

- Friday 07 February, and
- Wednesday 19 February.

You can quickly and easily register your support, add your name using:

<https://app.rally.co/invite/IHByZmhNBxYg>

Thanks to all involved, including those registered via the above link; Steve, Donal, Ted, Jeff, Ian, John, Richard, Simon, Stephen, Phil, Peter, Don, Tom, Pierre, Maciej, Martyn, Doug and Ian (apologies to anyone we missed). This is an example of what they achieved:

Before:
Crumbling wall,
with sandbags
falling in the
water



After:
A new wall,
neatly laid with
debris removed
from the water

A work-party is a social gathering for members that wish to help restore and maintain the beautiful environment that we own. Join us and become a hero in maintaining Hedgecourt that is vital if we are to provide a legacy.

Thank you,
the CMYC Committee.



Become an Assistant Instructor at CMYC



What is an RYA Assistant Instructor

The Assistant Instructor is a person who assists and works under the supervision of a RYA Instructor to support RYA and club training events.

This is a club specific qualification to allow you to teach at CMYC. It is not valid at any other training centre.

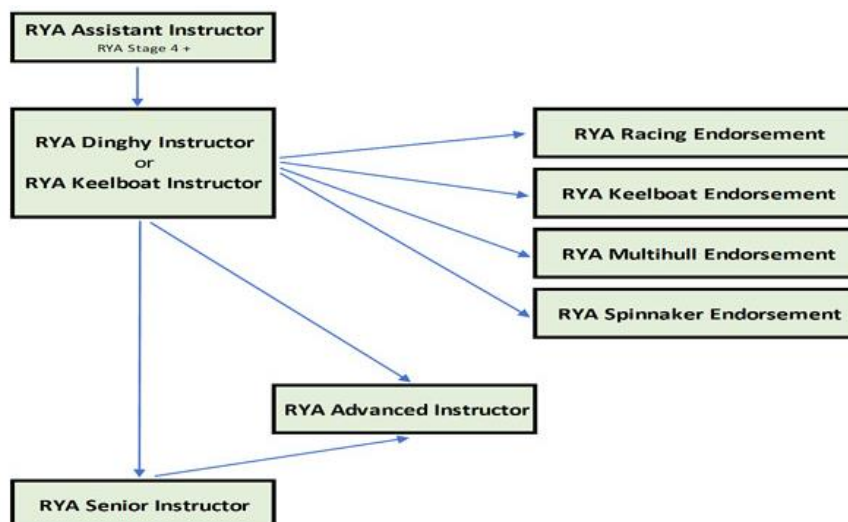
To become an RYA Assistant Instructor, you need to meet certain criteria, including:

- **Age:** although there is no minimum age at CMYC we recommend being 16+
- **Sailing experience:** Be an experienced sailor with 1 advanced sailing modules (eg sailing with spinnakers or start racing)
- **First aid:** Hold a valid first aid certificate
- **Training centre recommendation:** please contact the clubs chief instructor to discuss suitability.
- **Sailing assessment:** You will be required to volunteer for 20 hours across Junior and Adult Saturday Clubs. Whilst volunteering you will be supported by experienced instructors to learn teaching principles, centre procedures, and training in unfamiliar equipment. After a period of volunteering, you'll be assessed on your ability to teach beginners before receiving the AI award.

If you are interested in becoming an AI please reach out to [Amy](#)

Dinghy Instructor Opportunities

The strength of CMYC training is dependent on the quality of its instructors and trainers, so if you want the chance to shape and inspire future boaters, please contact Amy (Chief Instructor) to find out about the RYA Instructor pathways and opportunities for developing your skills at CMYC.



TOPPER OPEN – 29TH MARCH

Crawley Mariners is excited to announce the return of the CMYC Topper Open on [Saturday 29th March](#). This was a 'sold out' event last year attracting our own sailors and those from further afield to compete on our beautiful water.

Whether you are a seasoned racer or just starting out on your racing journey, all abilities are welcome.

Key Details:

- **Timing:** Gates open 8.15am. Briefing @ 10am. First Race @ 11am
- **Entry fee:** £10 for CMYC sailors, £15 for non-CMYC sailors
- **Registration:** Bookings (opening soon) are via the Topper Class Association (ITCA GB) website – see London and South East Region.
- **Refreshments:** Bacon & sausage butties on arrival. Pasta bolognese (veggie option available) for lunch. Post racing cakes. Coffee, tea and squash during the day are included in the entry fee.
- **Prizes:** Prizes for the overall top places, plus additional prizes for those just starting out and/or endeavour.
- **Dogs:** Dogs on leads welcome!

Due to the limited size of our water, entries will be limited to 35, with 10 spaces held for CMYC sailors. So, book early to avoid disappointment.

Please help:

Donations of home-made cakes to feed hungry sailors as they come off the water would be appreciated. And if you are able to help in the galley over lunch please email [Matt](#).

We can't wait to see the sails will our lake once again. So, mark your calendars, polish your hulls, and get ready for a fun filled day on the water.



CRUISING DATES 2025

All tides are in local time BST

Chichester Spring (Sp) Range 4.0 Neap (Np) 2.1
 Portsmouth Spring (Sp) Range 3.9 Neap (Np) 1.9

Chichester cruises start from Itchenor hard

Date	Location	HW	Height	Range
Sat 05th April	Chichester	05.20	4.0	2.4 Np
Sat 12th April	Chichester	12.24	4.5	3.6 Sp
Sun 27th April	Chichester	11.46	4.9	4.3 Sp
Sat 17th May	Chichester	15.24	4.2	2.9 Mid *

Novice Cruisers and Slower Boats especially Welcome.

Sun 1st June Social sail, Grebe Club and Have a Go at Hedgecourt
 Sun 8th June Summer Social and sail at Hedgecourt

Sat 14 th June	Portsmouth	14.31	4.4	3.3 Sp
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No support boat

Sat 05 th July	Round HI	07.41	3.8	1.9 Np *
Sat 19 th July	Solent 1	06.32	4.1	2.8 Mid *

Launch HW +4 East Going Tide

Thu 07th to Sun 10th August Family Cruise Camp Weekend, Cobnor, Cobnor Estate.

Fri 08 th August	Chichester	11.53	4.3	2.9 Mid
Sat 09 th August	Chichester	12.30	4.5	3.5 Sp *
Sun 10 th August	Chichester	13:07	4.7	3.9 Sp

Sat 30 th August	Solent 2	04.11	4.1	2.5 Mid *
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East Going Tide till 15.00 HW +6

Sat 20 th Sept	Chichester	11.56	4.7	3.6 Sp
Sat 27 th Sept	Chichester	15.11	4.3	3.0 Mid
Sat 11 th Oct	Chichester	14.59	4.8	3.9 Sp

*Support boat planned.

Portsmouth cruise subject to host Clubs being open.

We will need a nominated cruise leader for each cruise taking place.

Supported cruises are dependent on availability of volunteers to tow and operate a support boat.

Donal



Awards Evening (Presentation of 2024 Awards)

Friday 14th March 2023 - 7.30pm to 10.00pm

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



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

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

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

(All dietary needs catered for – enter on booking)

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



Booking, via Webcollect, opening on the 7th February and closing on the 2nd March



New WhatsApp Community

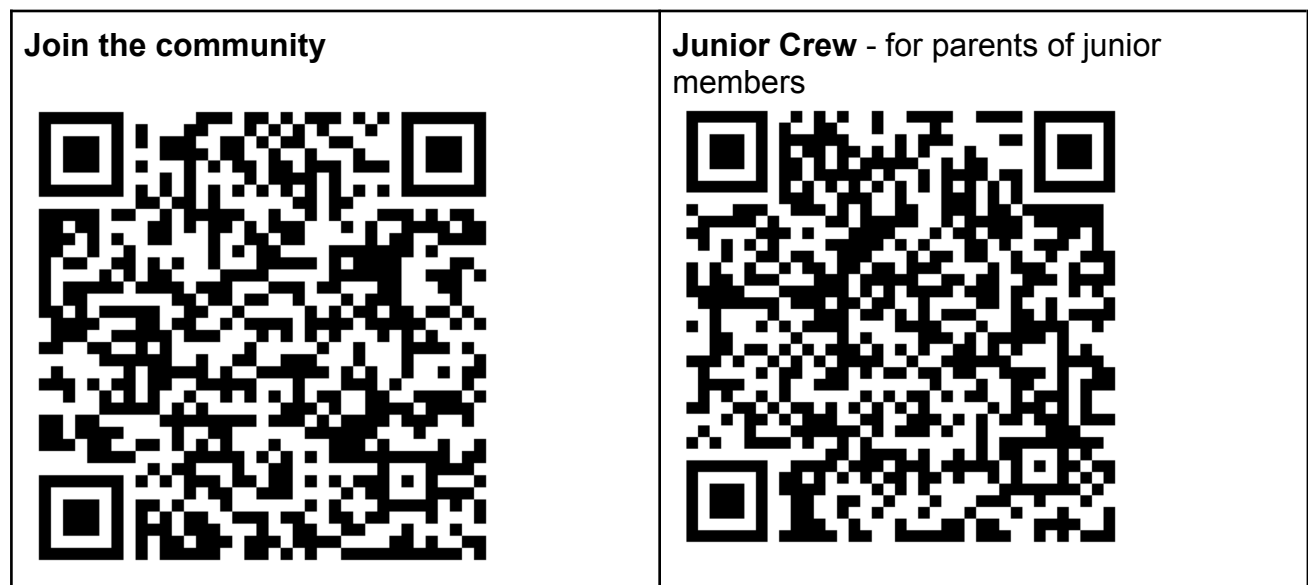
Over the years a number of WhatsApp groups have been created by members to help coordinate events and we have launched a new WhatsApp community to make these groups more accessible to all.

The groups that can be found on our WhatsApp include (but not limited to);

- **Junior Crew** (for parents of juniors)
- **Racing Chat** (for anyone interested in dinghy racing)
- **Model Yacht Enthusiasts**
- **Open Water Swimming**
- **Thursday Social Sailing**
- **Women on Water**
- **Kayaking**
- **Instructors** 🛡️ (only instructors can join)

How do I join?

Scan the QR code below, or email admin@cmyc.co.uk to request access to the group.



Who can join?

At this time we're only allowing adult CMYC members to join the CMYC WhatsApp Community for safe-guarding reasons.

If you have any questions, contact Martyn - admin@cmyc.co.uk



SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH



Feedback from the Grebe Club Launch Party



*"I enjoyed playing the games and had so much fun."
Victoria*

"Amazing fun for everyone! The games were great. A recommended social event." William

"Loved Dobble and the biscuits."

"What a fun and useful initiative and brilliant games."

"It was great to see both children and adults having fun together and everyone joining in."

"Looking forward to the next one."



Three Unique Launch Party Recognition medals were presented to:

- 1st Oppie – Victoria
- 1st Topper – Ila, and
- 1st Adult – Will

Grebe Club Member Badges were also presented to participants that included some of the adults. Be sure to look out for these at our future events on:

- 13 March** – Junior Saturday sessions
- 23 March** – Grebe Club "Safe & Sure"

Thanks go to everyone that attended, to Stephen for the medals and to Liam, a Youth Member and the Grebe Club Ambassador for his contribution to the success of this event.



? THE BIG QUESTION ?

Only a month in and several members have suggested we have a **quiz evening**.

The **BIG QUESTION** is, **Shall We?**

We don't want to **Chase** you,

That would be **Pointless**,

And we wouldn't want it to be a **University Challenge**,

As that might take some of you to the **Tipping Point**,

We might include **Questions of Sport**,

But there is only a **Fifteen to One** chance of that,

As for a prize, **who wants to be a millionaire** anyway?

First we need to know numbers.

Please use this **Webcollect** link to show your interest.

<https://webcollect.org.uk/cmhc/event/the-big-question-quiz>

The **Countdown** starts now, you have three weeks to register your interest and we will update you in the March Newsletter.



WHAT DO YOU SEE?



- I see my child gaining confidence and being sure of themselves
- I see my grandchild learning new skills
- I see the next Team Leader
- I see a future Managing Director
- I see someone comfortable with public speaking
- I see future Instructors
- I see children enjoying life outdoors
- I see my child learning to be part of a post-Covid Team
- I see great opportunities and happy to take on today's Challenges.

Make the Most of Crawley Mariners

Join the Grebe Club



Learn about being **“Safe and Sure”**

23 March 2025

10am for a 10:30 start in the Clubhouse



Topper Training



**ARE YOU PLANNING TO SAILING AT THE CMYC TOPPER OPEN?
COME ALONG TO A TOPPER TRAINING ON 9TH MARCH 2025**

THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND PRACTICE EXISTING ONES BEFORE THE TOPPER OPEN. THE TRAINING IS DELIVERED BY QUALIFIED RYA COACHES. THE FORMAT CONSISTS OF LAND DRILLS, WATER TRAINING AND RACES TO ALLOW YOU TO PRACTICE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT.



SIGN UP ON WEB COLLECT

