



C M Y C

THE FRIENDLIEST NEWSLETTER IN SUSSEX?



SEPTEMBER 2025



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IT STARTS HERE

Last month's newsletter carried the story about two Crawley Mariners that became Olympic Medal winners.

They started in Oppies.

This month the latest edition of the Ocean Race (Europe) started. As boats left Portsmouth for the second leg, the young British Skipper, Will Harris, remarked how he started sailing at the age of 10.

He started in Oppies.

The latest series of SailGP races held in Germany were edge of the seat viewing as the British boat did so well. These multi-skilled racers started in clubs just like ours, in boats that we sail at Hedgecourt.

They started in Oppies.

Events such as our Junior Saturdays, Grebe Club sessions and Junior Helm Week not only give our youngsters time on the water but also introduce fun based challenges to help develop problem solving and confidence building skills to name just two.

They start in Oppies.

My thanks to everyone that provides support across all our events and activities and to you all for participating, performing duties and going the extra mile in simply helping. We are truly a Club run by its members for its members.

We start in Oppies and can help you develop to be a racer, a cruiser, a flotilla sailor, a National Champion and beyond. Oppie to Yachtie plus some in-between.

While the children will be our next generation, we are not prepared to sacrifice our support for all our members including those less able. We have an extensive programme of events that doesn't end with the Summer but continues throughout the year. Check out the programme, pick something and 'Have-a-Go'.

What do you want to achieve? Have a chat with our Instructor Team.

What do you want the Club to help you with? Talk to us or put ideas in the Suggestion box.

What do you want to help the Club with? Volunteer via Webcollect because you are the Club and be proud of what we can achieve together.

Richard
Commodore



TWO FIRSTS

Making History in August...

For the first time ever, we ran an electric outboard at the lake and hosted our first Community Spaces guests:

A First for CMYC: Electric Powerboat

John P., very kindly allowed us a trial of his electric outboard.

Of those of us present we were like kids with a new toy, eager to try it out and test it, and test it we did. It is just a small outboard equivalent to a 3hp petrol engine, so we put it on a heavy powerboat and loaded it with four 'blokes'.

Quite frankly there were several of us that thought it wouldn't move but it did. Obviously, we're not talking planing speeds, but it was very quiet and nimble.

This is a first for us; and an important start to understanding the options we have to support our desire to be in tune with the natural environment that we are custodians of.

We have an additional demo offered by a company with an electric RIB that can escort one of our Chichester Harbour Cruises to gain further insight into this important topic.



We know there are lots of other questions to be answered before we can make any significant decisions.

If you have experience in this area (electric or environment) you could help shape our future, please let us know by using the Volunteering at CMYC on Webcollect – thanks.

Volunteering
© Crawley Mariners Yacht Club



TWO FIRSTS

Another First for CMYC: Community Spaces

What a fantastic view.

We hosted residents from a local care home who enjoyed watching the swans and cygnets and the breeze dancing on the water in the sunshine. This is the first such visit since launching the Community Spaces initiative earlier this year.

What a fantastic visit.

The feedback was very positive. One comment was that a resident doesn't often smile or chat but today they did both while sitting at the lake - it really does have healing powers.



We have been able to confidently offer this with thanks to: David M., (Co-ordinator), Dave & Beth, Brian & Hilary, Donal, Gavin CM, Ted & Denise and Richard & Jane acting as Hosts

I personally found it heart-warming that such a simple offer, that doesn't take much to resource, has such value for those that attend.

The value doesn't end there, this could be a real asset to the Club, helping us better understand how we can progress our Sailability programme for our own less able members and assist in future grant applications as we actively support the local community.

Want to help support this important initiative? Simply tell us via Volunteering at CMYC on Webcollect or write to Richard.



This really is a Win Win situation.
Richard
Commodore



THE GREBE CLUB



The theme for September is **Navigation**.

13 September 10am for a 10:30 start at the Clubhouse

All members are welcome to attend, not just the Juniors.

This is also a social and is coupled with Barts Bash – it should be a lively day.

The themes vary each month, but the aim remains the same: to help our Juniors & their Crew learn new skills in a fun and entertaining way.

The sessions give everyone a chance to get to know each other, something that is not so easily achieved when in a boat out on the water.

You can expect a navigational challenge to see if you can end up at the right place from the right direction to answer a very specific question.

Please note that the October Grebe event is being run largely at the Cobnor Weekend as all our supporters are there or are on the Club's Flotilla in Greece.

To avoid disappointment and for those of you that like a little challenge we will still be giving you something to get your teeth in – keep an eye out for the October Newsletter and take a look at the Grebe page on the Club's website: Activities / Junior / Grebe = <https://www.cmyc.co.uk/sailing-activities/juniors-section/grebe-club.htm>

If you feel you may have missed out and your card looks blank like the one pictured, this is not the case.

You can complete challenges listed on our website.

Bring the results along to a Club event and get them acknowledged by a fellow member. Complete every category for a chance of a CMYC Annual Award!

See you at the 'navigation' event (if you can find your way 😊) 13th September, 10am for 10:30 start.

Richard, Steve, Will and the Grebe Team.

The Grebe Club Categories and Completion Chart			
Name:	What I did	Sticker	Sign off
 Safe and Sure Confidently looking after each other			March
 Together Support for our own and wider community			April
 Green Blue Protect our lake and our environment			May
 Fun Entertaining others and enjoying all that we do			June
 Crew Development Develop skills and knowledge			July
 Active Adventure Opportunities to play active and explore			August
 Navigation Solving problems and finding a way			September
 Oceanwide Understanding the bigger picture			October

Complete every category for a chance of a CMYC annual award.
See the website for the events and challenges to choose from.



Crawley Mariners Comet Open Meeting

Sunday 14th September 2025

Our annual competition for club members and visiting helms is going to be taking place on Sunday, 14th September.

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 at around 10:30hrs with the first race starting at 11:00hrs

Sailing Instructions will be posted on our website <https://www.cmyc.co.uk/> and 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 or £16 including lunch. Lunch £8 (advanced booking required).

Refreshments:

We are this year able to offer a hot lunch for those who would like it. This will be Jacket Potato with Bolognaise (inc vegetarian option) and pudding for £8. All proceeds from the catering will be donated to the Ellen Macarthur Cancer Trust [Believe in a brighter future \(ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org\)](https://www.ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org/)

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

Bookings for lunch must be received by

Monday, 9th September. Please advise of any specific dietary requirements.
ianburroughs@tiscali.co.uk

Payment for fees/lunch can be made in advance by bank transfer or paid in cash on the day. Contact Ian below.

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

[Ian Burroughs](#)

on behalf of CMYC Sailing Sub-Committee



Family Cruise-Camp Weekend

Cobnor Estate, Thursday 7th – Sunday 10th August 2025

Wow! What a weekend! The sun shone and the sea breeze provided what was needed to keep the sailors happy. Twenty two persons attended, ten camping units and six fully laden dinghies sailed to Prinstead Scout hut for Ice creams on the Saturday.

Some eager campers pitched tents on the Thursday to allow time to prepare for sailing the next day. On Friday morning we were greeted with glorious sunshine and three boats launched. I was in my Victoria with John Sharples and Kevin Egan. Kathy and Ian sailed their Comet Versa and Patrick Hamilton and Liz sailed a Wanderer. We sailed up to Bosham first then down to East Head where we had a picnic and then made our way back up the channel to Cobnor. The slipway was busy with young sailors as Bosham SC were hosting an open meeting.

More tents and campers had arrived while we were out sailing. We chatted and made plans for sailing on the Saturday. Campers chose from various options on offer for dinner on Saturday, take away Indian, Chinese or Fish & Chips. A trip to the pub suited some though the majority cooked and ate on site.

The Saturday was fine with a sea breeze. We had five boats in our Cobnor flotilla and Dave Monk and Brian arrived from across the channel in Itchenor. Dave suggested a trip to Thorney Channel and in particular the Sea-scout hut at Prinstead for tea, home made cake and ice cream. I was easily persuaded.

I sailed my Victoria with Aude and her two girls. Ian and Kathy sailed in their Comet Versa. Patrick Hamilton had Mike Smith and Zoe aboard his Wanderer. John Sharples sailed with Alex and Shirley Williams. Kevin East had Richard Seagroats and Peter Quinney aboard. Peter and Zoe are both new to sailing.

It was moderately breezy and I had 2 reefs in the Victoria. We made slow but steady progress down to Camber beacon admiring the many lovely craft out on the water. The two girls decided that the International 14s were "crazy boats". They may well be correct! Prinstead did not disappoint but we could not delay as the tide was now ebbing. Having initially decided on one reef I found that the sea breeze had increased and I stopped to put the second reef back in. A few boats went on to East Head but we sailed directly back to Cobnor.

In the evening we lit a raised bonfire and we sat around with our own picnic tables, food and drink. It was a very pleasant and convivial evening.

Just one boat sailed on the Sunday, most of us struck camp and prepared for the trip home.

It was a wonderful weekend and I think it is the highlight of our Cruising calendar.

See you there next year.

Fair winds

Donal

Here is a report from Aude Roulois who visited Cobnor for the first time with her two daughters



Family Cruise-Camp Weekend

Cobnor Estate, Thursday 7th – Sunday 10th August 2025

It was with a mix of excitement and worry that my daughters and I turned off the A259, looking for the duck pond and activity centre to reach “Sea Field” as per the email directions.

The worry soon vanished as we discovered the camping site, met fellow Crawley Mariners and set foot on the Cobnor estate for the first time.

We pitched our tent under a grand oak tree, warmly greeted by those who’d arrived earlier and quickly learned how meaningful Cobnor is to dinghy sailors and the club’s early days. Around us, people were sailing, SUPing, swimming, canoeing, or just enjoying the water — the sounds of halyards clinking made it all feel picture perfect. From Bosham to Itchnor, the harbour revealed its charms, tricky channels, cardinals and mooring buoys sliding with the tide. The day ended with the extras of a balmy sunset, beer and chips at the Anchor Bleu, and a moonrise over the Itchnor harbour’s water—a taste of sailing I had thought only my beloved Brittany could offer.

It was equally welcoming to hear others’ stories—new members like ourselves, or families who’d first come years ago and kept returning, even after children grew up. Adorable pooches of all sizes joined in too. Campingwise, my setup was basic, but many had caravans, camper vans, fairy lights, bunting and of course, boats.

After a cosy if chilly night, we joined Donal in his Victoria 16 and the 5 boats flotilla. There was plenty more to discover for whoever chose not to sail: walk, cycle, swim or simply relax. We reefed early for my young sailors’ comfort, then sailed close-hauled past the Camber south cardinal and along Thorney Island towards Prinsted. For my part, I was glad I had opted out of taking my own boat for this first experience, as I observed the skills needed to make headway against the tide on this first part of our journey.

A gem of a picnic spot with anchored boats by the beach and even ice creams from the scout hut awaited. But the tide reminded us who was in charge, as we hurried back before getting stranded. The afternoon sea breeze picked up, we paused, beached on Thorney Island and reefed further (no matter how appealing the idea of refreshing sprays on another close hauled was, the reality was far too wet!) and though some reached East Head, we wisely tacked back towards Cobnor, leaving us eager with an unfulfilled destination to aim for another time.

That evening, after a peaceful walk exploring on shore along Cobnor head the scenery we had discovered earlier from the water and reminiscing the best moments of the day, we returned to the most civilised campfire (camping BBQ by candelabra !), good food and even distant fireworks. None of us three wanted to leave on Sunday, joking about camping in Cobnor from now on, assuming summer too, would last forever. With perfect weather, warm company and the organisers’ efforts, it will be an unforgettable weekend for us — we could only wish more children and juniors had shared the fun. So fingers crossed for next year, but we’ll definitely return!





Family Cruise Weekend Cobnor 2025



Next Fun Race

6th September

Are you a regular Junior Saturday Club sailor then it is easy to fit in this short race either after your AM session, or before your PM session.



Start time is 12.40 and it lasts for approximately 20 mins.

Ideal for Oppie and Topper sailors to improve their skills.

Fevas; Laser; Pico etc. are welcome to join in.

Open to all Junior/Youth sailors, so do come and join us.

AUGUST 'FUN RACE' RESULTS below

All Toppers: 1st Szymon(5.3) 2nd Hugo(5.3) 3rd Theo(5.3) 4th Teddy (4.2)

The weather was ideal for the last Fun Race and the racing was very close. Teddy was doing extremely well until a strong gust just capsized him and separated him from his boat. Although the support boat was there to help, he was having none of that and proceeded to swim to catch his boat, right it, climb in and continue racing – well done.



Sadly only two more 'Fun Races' this year on October 11th and November 8th, so make sure you book the dates, so as not to miss them

Thank you to those on the coach boat and to Szymon's Dad for helping me with the recording.

How to take part in the Fun Race:

AM sailors can use the same boat they used in their morning session.

PM sailors – if you want to race, indicate this when booking and a boat can be saved for you.

Be ready to go on the water by 12.35 so we can finish on time for the PM sailing session.

Sign on – Outside the clubhouse there will be someone there to help you sign on.

Briefing: the Race Officer will explain where the race will be and the marks to go around.

12.35 - Head out to the starting area by the Maid of Kent. Looking forward to seeing you there.
(Diana)



Junior & Youth Upcoming Events

Want to carry on sailing during the Autumn, here are some dates and ideas of what you can take part in:

- 13th September 'Bart's Bash' – Pursuit race
- 13th September The Grebe Club - Navigation
- 6th September – Saturday Club & Fun Race
- Sunday 21st September – races 1 & 2 in the 'Autumn Leaf'. There are 20 of these races (they are 2 back-to-back races each morning).
- 20th & 21st September - West Sussex Youth Regatta at Itchenor SC. We currently have a team of 12 entered.
- Sunday 27th September – races 3 & 4 Sunday morning races
- Saturday 4th October – 1 afternoon race
- 11th October – Junior Saturday Club and Fun Race
- Sunday 12th October – 2 afternoon races (back to back)
- 17th to 19th October – Resident sailing weekend at Cobnor Activity Centre
- 19th October The Grebe Club – Oceanwide
- 2nd November The Grebe Club – Annual Round-up
- 8th November – Final Junior Saturday Club of 2025.
- 7th December – The Grebe Club – Pre-Christmas Laughter

Check your Programme booklet for all the other Saturday and Sunday races and activities running until December.

Under 13 or Under 16 sailors:

There are awards for these two junior and youth racing categories, and the club encourages our young racers to join in any club racing.

N.B. Do remember to wear adequate sailing gear as it can be pretty cold at this time of year.



HOBBIES

Do you have an interest that you'd like some help with? or

Do you have an interest that you'd like to help someone with?

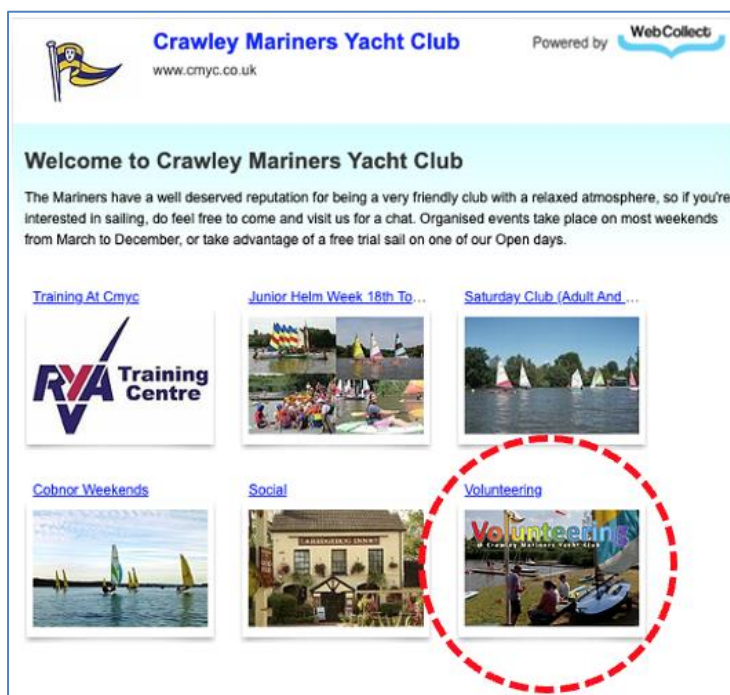
...and it doesn't have to be about Sailing!

We thought we'd extend the idea of members being able to help members professionally at a business level to more of a social level.

For example, I know some of you are star gazers and others like the navigation board game because we've had social sessions discussing these topics including how to use a sextant and playing the game a couple of times with a warm drink in the Clubhouse.

Of late I have taken to understanding how to use and program a Texas Instrument (TI-84 Plus CE-T Python Edition). It is an amazing device and leaves your typical scientific calculator in its wake.

Whatever your interest we'd like to hear from you whether you are seeking to explore the subject or able to help others progress.



The best platform we have for this at present is the Volunteering at CMYC on Webcollect.

There is space to explain what you are interested to know or help with, be that a hobby, a business offering or how what you'd like to do to support the Club.

<https://webcollect.org.uk/cmhc>



PS Richard has said he is happy to help with any of the topics on this page, and we'll feature your requests and offers in next month's newsletter.

CMYC - Sharing our interests and knowledge for the benefit of others.



Powerboat Level 2

The next Power Boat Level 2 course is on **Saturday 27th September** and **Sunday 5th October**.

There are people on the waiting list but we have at least one spare place. If you are interested in doing the RYA Power Boat Level 2 course, either this one or later this year, please register in WebCollect on the Power Boat 2 waiting list.

Here is the RYA description of the course:

RYA Powerboat Course Level 2, National Powerboat Certificate.

This two-day course provides the skills and background knowledge needed to drive a powerboat and is the basis of the International Certificate of Competence. It includes close-quarters handling, high speed manoeuvres, man overboard recovery and collision regulations.

Assumed knowledge – None



[Mike Smith](#)
01403 262102



Training & Development

Upcoming Training & Development Opportunities

- Junior Saturday Club - 6th September - [book on WebCollect](#).
- Have a Go Racing - 7th September, no booking needed
- Grebe Club - Navigation - 13th September
- Adult Saturday Club - 20th September- [book on WebCollect](#).
- RYA Powerboat Level 2 - 27th Sept & 5th Oct - contact Mike Smith

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 Annual Inspection - report by Jeff

I am pleased to say that we passed our annual inspection, although, as usual, we have an action plan to complete, but only one item on it, which is updating our Emergency Action Plan - instructions included in the yellow boxes on the powerboats and in the clubhouse giving guidance on what to do in an emergency.

Junior Saturday Club - August

Thanks to our instructors, and helpers. This day coincided with our RYA Inspection. Afternoon bookings were low.

Adult Saturday Club - report by Jeff

The forecast for the day was very disappointing with 3 to 5mph NE wind, on arrival this seemed optimistic. However, most of those who had signed up were happy to stay in the hope that the mirror-like lake might become a bit rippled by the wind. MikeS did some onshore tacking drills with Sophie, having a taster session & Daniella. Meanwhile Caroline helped Simon rig a Comet and Clementine rigged the Pico. A couple of other sailors had come for a gentle cruise around the lake in the very light and shifty wind that occasionally passed through. The session was enjoyed by the participants, Simon stayed on for the Beginners race and was joined by a few others for one of those races where there was hardly a ripple but the boats managed to complete the course, well done to all for their perseverance.

Thanks to instructors MikeT, MikeS & Caroline.

Junior Helm Week - report by Jeff



Training & Development

Although numbers were lower than usual we had a great week, the weather was almost perfect and the children were enthusiastic, well behaved and polite. This along with the quieter afternoons made life a little easier for our instructors, getting packed away much earlier than normal. With only five Oppies there were less parents and grandparents around, but that helped those who were at the to get to know each other and the instructors, they were a great support asking what they could do and getting on with various tasks.



Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were normal sailing days with good winds. The Oppies paddled up Eden brook on Wednesday when the winds were stronger.

Thursday was raft building for the Toppers, thanks to Piers for running this. The rafts were more robust than last year and both survived, although one shed a couple of barrels before being invaded and further destruction occurred.



Training & Development



On Friday Will organised a session that involved some onshore and on the water games, which were well received, thank you Will. Also on Friday Esther and Charlotte organised the Great Egg Boat Race, this provided a lot of excitement, and maybe some disappointment as the wind changed taking some of the leading boats away from the finish line.



Training & Development



This was followed by awards. George won the Bob Fergusson Plate for his sailing in Oppies, and Alex won the Mr Bump Trophy for his improvement in Toppers.



Finally thanks to Alison, who instructed Oppies every morning and Toppers in the afternoons, Esther, Zoe and Erin for supporting Alison with the Oppies, Donal, Vanessa & Thomas who instructed Toppers, Liam and Charlotte who helped all week alternating between supporting Toppers and Oppies and Sarah who coordinated the onshore helpers all week and also offered some powerboat support.



Training & Development

This year we had the lowest numbers booked into JHW that I can remember, just five Oppies all in the morning and just one Topper group in the afternoon. If you have any thoughts on why this may have occurred please let me know.

One reason was that a number of Topper sailors were away with their families at the 2000 National Championships at Hayling Island SC. Well done to Matt, William & Oliver who came a very respectable 14th overall and 4th family entry, also taking part were instructors Jo, Annabel and Rebecca.



NAVIGATING the PENSIONS MAZE

Linked to Richard's note regarding volunteering, Jerry has offered an informal session to members to talk all things pension.

This would be more an education session and a sort of "drop-in surgery" to help explore the mysteries of how pensions work in the UK and what to look out for as you build up your pension and or start to plan to take the benefits you may have.



Jerry Gandhi, is one of our more recent members, and our VC Finance and Admin, has extensive experience dealing with private pension provisions and is offering, if there is interest, to run a session or 2 on this subject.

This would not be about being given individual advice or seeking personal details but would be an opportunity to ask questions around the many options that exist around UK private pensions.

Jerry is offering this as a member and in the spirit of sharing his experience and knowledge from working for close to 50 years in the pensions industry.

If you are interested let Jerry know and he can plan and set up a session to attend.

Let him know:
vcadminfinance@cmyp.co.uk



If you would like to offer the membership or the Club some of your knowledge, skills or time please let us know via Webcollect:



<https://webcollect.org.uk/cmyp/category/volunteering>



NSSA Regatta

Updates

Due to a delay in results from the NSSA Szymon is the highest placed sailor at this year's NSSA and receives the West Sussex award. Congratulations to him and all the sailors who took part.

CMYC Programme

		September				
Mon	1	Instructed Kayak Session	Hedgecourt	18:30	Register via WebCollect	19:30
Thu	4	Thursday Informal Sailing	Hedgecourt	10:30	Support boat not guaranteed	16:00
Sat	6	Junior Saturday Club	Hedgecourt		Register by preceding Wednesday	
Sun	7	Social Sailing 6	Hedgecourt	14:00	Support boat cover	16:30
Sun	7	Have a Go Racing 6	Hedgecourt	14:30	3 or 2 races of 20 or 30 mins	16:00
Mon	8	Instructed Kayak Session	Hedgecourt	18:30	Register via WebCollect	19:30
Thu	11	Thursday Informal Sailing	Hedgecourt	10:30	Support boat not guaranteed	16:00
Sat	13	Bart's Bash	Hedgecourt		World Sailing Event	
Sat	13	Social & The Grebe Club - Navigation	CMYC Clubhouse	10:30		12:30
Sun	14	Comet Open	Hedgecourt	11:00	4 races, open to visitors.	17:00
Thu	18	Thursday Informal Sailing	Hedgecourt	10:30	Support boat not guaranteed	16:00
Sat	20	Itchenor Cruise (spr tide HW 11:56)	Chichester Harbour			
Sat	20	Adult Saturday Club	Hedgecourt	9:30	Register by preceding Wednesday	12:30
Sat	20	Beginners Race Series 7	Hedgecourt	13:30	30 min race	14:00
Sat	20	One per Month Series 7	Hedgecourt	15:00	1 x 60 min race	16:00
Sat	20	WSSYSA Regatta	Itchenor SC			
Sun	21	WSSYSA Regatta	Itchenor SC			
Sun	21	Autumn Leaf 1&2	Hedgecourt	10:30	2 x 45 min. races back to back	12:30
Thu	25	Thursday Informal Sailing	Hedgecourt	10:30	Support boat not guaranteed	16:00
Sat	27	Itchenor Cruise (mid tide HW 15:11)	Chichester Harbour			
Sat	27	RYA Powerboat Level 2 Course 2 day 1	Hedgecourt			
Sun	28	Autumn Leaf 3&4	Hedgecourt	10:30	2 x 45 min. races back to back	12:30

