

Comments made by Davi Patuck, SW Area Secretary, on September 23, 2025, regarding ACM agenda item 6:

Regarding item 6: The new wording of Rule 5 seems little better? As SW secretary, I sometime need to refer to a member database. While Gold is useful, it would be simpler if more detail, such as a member's home town and port (if different), as well as their boat name, at least, would be useful to all members, as well as officers. A direct link to the Boat register, would be nice but, I believe technically not possible, still. Obviously, actual address, telephone numbers etc. remain only available to officers on Gold. However, I feel that emails could be on the "members only list" on the website, as well, and I wonder how many of us use the cumbersome "contact by email" button, on the members Area or the Boat register?

I may have mentioned before, it seems daft that we encourage people to join the Association and then, effectively, encourage them to remain anonymous, by default. Communication with like-minded people is one of the main reasons to join, the OGA, or any other organisation for that matter, and could be the default option, and an automatic consequence of membership, but with a clear route to ensure anonymity for those few wishing it (perhaps particularly for email). I am not particularly au fait with Data Protection, but such an approach, for future members at least to start with, would seem, both pragmatic and make membership more useful and inclusive?

Could consideration for a more inclusive approach be discussed, before it goes to the membership at the AGM? For example for Rule 5:

"All members are (add: , automatically,) listed in the online members Area, which is only accessible to logged in members (add: , in the Members area of the OGA website). A member's entry will include their name, name of their boat(s) if they have one, their home town, their home port if applicable, and their email address. Any member who wishes any of these details, apart from their name, and boat's name, to be excluded from access by other members, they must inform the Membership Secretary."

(also add or separate rule: Any change to boat or home port (and other details such as address, telephone, or email) should also be communicated to the Membership Secretary.)

"..... If members wish their contact details, (email, telephone number and/ or postal address), to be excluded, from signed in Members, and /or the printed Yearbook, they must inform the Membership Secretary.

David Patuck SW Secretary