

# **East Coast Area Season 2025 “Roundup” for 2026 AGM**

## **Review of events 2025:**

The major event of 2025 was the amalgamation of the NE area with the EC area which now means we have an area that extends from Ramsgate Kent to Berwick on Tweed Northumberland.

Francis Mogg(Previously NE Area President) has joined the EC committee and accepted the role of Vice President to ensure good continuity between the NE and EC.

Francis has also been actively involved with Mike Dixon in organising the 2026 Gaffling 4.1 Championship which will be held at Derwent Reservoir near Consett, the EC committee were keen for there to be an event in the NE in 2026.

- The year started with a wonderful talk in The Unitarian meeting house in Ipswich by **Cathy Shelbourne** on local boy Admiral Sir Phillip Broke and how he took on (and defeated) the USS Chesapeake. We have planned another meeting in this most incredible building again in 2026. Thanks to Jodi and John Warren.
- Then in February there was the “**Grand Day out in London**” at Trinity Buoy Wharf where the Trinity House Lighthouse crews were trained. This tour was led by Eric Reynolds who owns the two boatyards on the Deben which been great supporters of the EC Gaffers for our Deben Rally which, incidentally, will be run again in 2026.
- 32 Gaffer members attended and then went on to a tour of the Cutty Sark run by one of our younger members Maddie Phillips OGA Born and bred. She is one of the ship-keeping technicians. Thanks to Paul & Jo Masters for organising the Grand Day Out. Mrs M has a plan for a Grand Day Out in 2027.....
- **ECOGA Annual Dinner** This was held in West Mersea at the WMYC, with a presentation being made to Trev for long service to the EC committee (Trev had been of the committee for so long that nobody knows just how long – even Trev is unsure!) upon his retirement. A great venue and some great stories told by Trev and others!! The 6 nations England v Wales was on that day in the club too. 68/14 to England!!
- **Easter Rally:** Originally intended to be based at Royal Harwich YC, it sadly had to be cancelled as it seemed too early in the season to fill the numbers. 2026, Easter is even earlier so there no plan to organise an OGA event.
- **Stour Rally: End of May Bank holiday.** 10 boats ranging from a Drascombe Coaster to a pair of 100 year old plus, Essex Smacks attended this “breakfast raid

on Mistletoe Quay” where bacon rolls and coffees were passed through a hole in the fence making a water borne protest. Amazingly this time the Police were not called by the owners of the quay.

- The write up and report is in the Eastcoaster’ and on the website as are all our events, but this one was written by a brand-new member Peter Smith from Manningtree and is a particularly good account how we do things and how we welcome people.
- **St Malo: June. This was the 10 yr celebration of the last event** Around 60 boats attended this from France, Belgium, England, Wales and the Netherlands. The EC trailer section took a pair of double stackers with 4 boats and made a show with a Gaffling, Dirty Girty and Sculling Smack boat! One boat “Rely” made it to the event having started out on the early May BH weekend from Walton 12 hours after the sails had been bent on, 1 day after she was launched! That just had to be the longest shakedown trip of many boats!! The festival was rained on for what seemed the whole time, but we did get a sail in on the Saturday. We were presented with a new St Malo flag (the last one after 10 years has worn out) to fly at our events when at the Wrabness beach Hut 31 on the Stour so look out for it!
- **Swallows and Amazons: End of June.** I think this was the 26<sup>th</sup> year in a row and again we had it as a 3 day event but, this time, from an idea dreamed up by Pete Thomas, when we were going to the AGM in Gloucester, we had deep water moorings at Titchmarsh, thus transforming the event by increasing on the water time significantly.
- We had 29 boats turn out with 51 people 2 of which were under the age of 9 and they wrote the report! If you haven’t read it, please do, it is wonderful. One boat had just done the Golfe du Morbihan then St Malo and after a few days break joined us. Another came from the Lake district for a second year, and we had 6 new adult members join, plus the two under 9, as a result, and what a result! The future of the OGA is looking good around here.  
Events are the best recruitment method on the EC.
- **EC Race: Early July.** Once again, we were hosted by the Stone Sailing Club with the enthusiastic volunteer boat crews and galley crews at our disposal. 21 boats entered and 6 DNS due to the weather. The course chosen by Ed Roberts was excellent, and all the boats were easily seen from the race control tower. The new team in the Galley did an excellent job and the boat crews couldn’t do enough for us.  
In 2026 we are planning to have the ECR at/from W Mersea.
- **So, to the Summer Cruise in August: 31 boats entered.** A mega cruise it was, helped by the glorious weather and the locations we visited. All the clubs on the

Ore and Alde along with the café at Snape were raided by small boats and one paddle board.

It was amazing, and all masterminded by our Younger member subcommittee. We saw torrential rain momentarily when picking up moorings or anchoring near Aldeburgh, the internals of Pagodas, hot sun, great clubs and so many of those attending had never been “up the Alde”. Well done to all the organisers and those attending a really great event.

- **Mersea Regatta mid August;** Unfortunately, only two OGA boats of our fleet attended which was a shame as they were racing for the regatta prizes and our Presidents Cup so this event was included in the point series. Well done to the two boats that attended.
- **Gaffling 4.1** championships at Ullswater. This event was organised by Alasdair Simpson and his team from the NW area, so many thanks to them.  
All 6 boats attended with one tow car from the EC team being “sent home on a breakdown lorry”. The weather was fantastic and worked in harmony with the stunning surroundings to make a spectacular event. Cruising the length of the lake in company was a great lead up to the Gaffling Championship heats and then the Gaffling Championship race, both of which were expertly run and overseen by Mike Dixon with Sarah Adie as the official timekeeper and recorder. Many thanks to you both. The EC were first and second and if one boat had not transmogrified into being ‘lake turtle’ we would have been placed 1,2,3 .
- **Wherries, Windmills and Waterways event Sept:**  
Shona, Martin and Julie with the team from the Norfolk Wherry Trust (NWT) who certainly know how to WOW and I bet the locals are still talking about us all moored up to The Albion on a Broad for lunchtime that day. This event was created almost with a “by the way let’s go to the Broads”. A truly historical event. Many thanks NWT. This event just shows what can be achieved by members NOT actually on the committee!
- **“And Finally” Reeuwijk Raid: October 2025**  
Although run by the Dutch sailors near Gouda, this event was originally going to be attended by several EC trailer sailors but, due to the inclement weather the only ones attending were Sarah Adie and the EC Sec/VP as they had been in Friesland the week before sailing a Crabber. We took advantage of being there to carry out a recce for another trailer event based in Friesland more of that on our website.

To summarise:

**New members:** 34 people joined from 19<sup>th</sup> Feb to our November Area AGM which took the count to 420 head. This includes the 17 of the NE who have joined us as after all they are also on the East Coast!

Plus 10 more from that AGM to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 when writing this report.

Interestingly, most our new members recently seem to join “as a result of an event”.

We have had some more event organisers come forwards from the membership without being on the main committee which is something we have been striving towards for years. We find people just need to be asked in person!

And on the Youth front: We had a successful applicant in Thomasina Mallett to do her Day Skippers course which will enable her to get a paid job on the Excelsior Lowestoft Sailing Trawler paid from our Youth Fund Grant. You may have read her report by now in the Log.

**EC Area Secretary & VP Pete PTK Eliston January 2026**