

Solent Gaffers Report to the ACM – January 2026

Looking back at the main events in 2025

Winter

We ran events over the winter/spring that were well attended and we'll be doing the same for our 2025/6 winter/spring programme starting with a hands-on sail repair course in Bucklers Hard in mid-January. A lunch and Christchurch Sailing Club and a tour of the RNLI's facility at Poole are programmed for February

On the Water

Newtown Creek

The 2025 season started with a very informal gathering in Newtown Creek that we hope to repeat in 2026.

Yarmouth Regatta

Our regular Yarmouth Regatta took place in late May over the weekend of 22-26 May 2025. We have some plans already in place for Yarmouth 2026 over 22-25 May that will mark the 30th anniversary of gaffers visiting this charming harbour. Being an anniversary weekend will be hoping to attract a healthy turnout and we are also hopeful of having a few boats join us from our fellow gaffers in St Malo.

Folly Inn

Another informal rally was held in mid-July at this ever-popular venue on the Medina and we plan to repeat the formula in early July 2026.

Summer Cruise

Tentative plans are in place for an extended cruise in company to the Channel Islands and N France over the second half of August 2026

Annual Race and Rally

Our 2025 event was greeted by some very windy weather but we still managed to get a few boats to take part in the race organised by the Royal Southampton YC at Gin's Farm on the Beaulieu. Our plan for our AR&R for 2026 will be based on the Hamble.

BRNC Dartmouth

In October some 50+ members enjoyed a splendid black-tie dinner at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth preceded by a private tour of the College

AGM

Our AGM was held in Winchester to coincide with the Christmas Markets. Richard Jacobs was re-elected as our President along with the current committee.

2026

Beyond our core sailing activities, we are prioritising improvements to our communications, both with members and the wider sailing community, and exploring new ways to encourage more people to participate in the wide range of Solent events, whether run by us or others. A special focus in 2026 will be on our annual regatta to Yarmouth that will also mark the 30th anniversary of gaffers being welcomed by the town.

Grant Morris

Solent Secretary

January 2026