

Younger Members Report for ACM 2026

January 2025 to December 2025

Gloucester AGM - On the Friday before the AGM, some of the Younger Members gathered together to grab a pub dinner before heading into the freezing cold weather to watch a Gloucester v Scarletts Rugby match. They then explored Gloucester during the day on the Saturday before coming along to the AGM and the AGM dinner which was filled with laughter, sharing of sailing plans and dancing reels.

Fitting Out Dinner & Darts - There was a great turn out from the Younger Members at our inaugural Fitting Out Dinner which was held at BrewDog Seven Dials. We sampled many of their beers and enjoyed the burgers on offer (with some reliving their childhood with a Hoppy Meal). Plans for the upcoming season were shared and discussed with a lot of excitement for the St Malo Rally in June later this year! On the way to darts we paused at The Crossed Keys for a quick pint before continuing on to FlightClub Bloomsbury. We played many rounds of darts in the carnival themed bar - some it turned out were darts naturals, and others were perhaps not quite so natural....

St. Malo - A number of Younger Members travelled over to St. Malo as crew on larger boats such as 'Rely' and 'Cygnet of London' and others travelled over by ferry either as foot passengers or bringing along small boats like 'Dirty Girty'. The days were spent messing around in the smaller boats exploring the nearby coastal waters of St. Malo or exploring the historic town and learning its history. The French OGA had put on a large event with lots of sea shanties and sea food.

Swallows & Amazons - The East Coast Gaffers annual Swallows & Amazons event is very well attended by Younger Members as many who have grown up in that area have found memories of messing about in boats around the Walton Backwater. Younger Members raced in a variety of small boats including 'Essling' a Gaffling 4.1.

Solent Annual Race & Rally - A number of Younger Members joined the Solent Gaffer's Annual Race & Rally in the very scenic Beaulieu River as crew. The opportunities had been advertised through the Younger Members group and had provided an opportunity for some end of season racing. Although it was very wet and windy, boats still ventured out for a race. The evening featured a very delicious BBQ buffet at the Royal Southampton YC followed by prizes. Marie-Louise and Sam (normally EC Gaffers) were awarded the 'Golden Baguette' by the Solent Gaffers for bringing 'pazazz' to the event!

Laying Up Lunch & Prize Giving - An intimate meal in a historic pub alongside the Thames and under the shadow of the less historic Shard. Two new members attended as their first OGA event and left feeling enthused and saying how much they were looking forward to the upcoming events on the EC and the Solent (they are EC based). Prizes had been commissioned for the Younger Members' inaugural prize giving featuring a silver salver, silver tankard and a wooden cleat, plus additional prize items such as Force4 vouchers, notebooks for the Cunliffe Plate to record adventures, and chocolate for the Creaky Cleat and Bingo prizes.

The following were awarded:

Award	Description	Winner
The Reliance Cup	Awarded to the younger member who has competed in and won the most races through the season	Ed Roberts
The Cunliffe Plate	Awarded to the most adventurous younger member(s) relative to their boat and experience	Marie-Louise and Sam Francis who have purchased a little gaffer and are sailing their way around the UK
The Creaky Cleat	Awarded to a younger member for a mishap or event that is deserving of recognition due to the ability to have come out of it (relatively) unscathed, or a comical error	Maddie Phillips for the hacking incident at the start of her younger members lecture and the professionalism she showed
Bingo	Awarded to the younger member who has completed / completed the most bingo squares for the seasons card (see below)	Will Thomas

Someone trips over that anchor thing/ cleat	Hat gets blown away	See a seal/ dolphin	Enter a race
Pulled the wrong bit of 'string'	FREE	Red Rover is sung at an OGA event (can't prompt it)	Sweat a halyard
Crew on a new boat	Someone brings out a guitar for a sing along (can't prompt it)	Skipper a boat	A boat pot plant
A sea dog	Learn a new skill	Attend an OGA Event	Sail a Gaffling

(suggestions are welcome for the 2026 card)

Younger Members Lecture Series

Work... with Historic Ships & Conservation – Maddie Phillips (Younger Member) and Hannah Cunliffe (Solent OGA Member) gave a joint presentation on their work and experience with historic ships. The talk was attended by 14 people (including 3 prospective Younger Members and 2 Non-OGA members) and brought in £57.14 for the Youth Fund. Following a brief incident (x-rated hacking due to a breach through Eventbrite), the rest of the talk went smoothly.

Learn... to do Winter rigging checks – Sue Pennison (Solent Sailing Secretary) gave a lecture on the qualities and elements in rigging (modern and traditional) and what we should all look for when doing our Winter rigging checks. It was attended by 19 people (including 2 Younger Members and 2 from Woodbridge Boatyard) and brought in £79.08 for the Youth Fund. [It has been agreed that shipbuilding apprentices at Woodbridge Boatyard will be given free access to the lecture series in the hopes of encouraging joining the OGA in the future.]

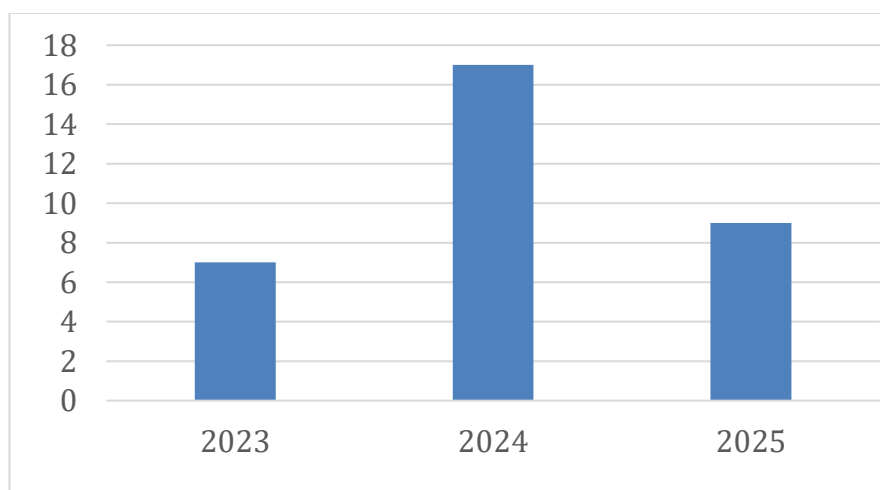
Both lectures are available online to those who purchased a ticket and to all Younger Members as a standard position.

Next:

It is hoped to have a lecture once a month, and although initially planned to be just a Winter series, there are enough topics to continue it throughout the year. The GMC have very kindly provided me with a Zoom account for use during this series. Since the initial advertisement, I have been contacted by a number of different people who want to share their knowledge and experience. Currently any funds from the talks are going into the Youth Fund but if there is enough interest, it could be an option that the funds go into the Younger Member Interest Area budget for use towards Younger Member exclusive events.

Membership

9 members joined the Younger Member interest group in 2025, with at least 5 members being completely new to the OGA. The interest group started in October 2023, so the majority of Younger Members joined the interest group in 2024.



Communications

I have created a leaflet that can be printed (double sided) on an A4 sheet which can advertise the Younger Member interest group across the OGA. I have also created an A5 insert that each area can amend to advertise their activities.

Leaflet:



Area specific insert:



Coming up for 2026

- Continue planning and facilitating lectures for the Lecture Series
- Exploring a collaboration with Sea Change Sailing Trust who have reached out with the Colne Match weekend as a possible crewing opportunity
- Reviewing emails received requesting advertisement of grants and/or opportunities for Younger Members i.e., Pellew have advertised for crew,
- Exploring crewing opportunities with non-OGA members i.e., Priscilla (recently restored smack on the EC)
- Explore whether there is interest in an LGBTQ+ WhatsApp group/ peer support group with an appropriate chair following mention that some other areas related to traditional sailing and working in historic boats can be narrow-minded/ 'traditional' in their views. No reports of negative experiences in the OGA but an opportunity to

show that the sector can be welcoming and open with an opportunity for members to share questions and experiences and potentially attract new members.

Next event:

Fitting Out Lunch in Bristol on Saturday 21st March 2026 – potential location: The Pumphouse Pub. The SW Area had offered contacts for a tour of the historic harbour for the 2025 Bristol meet up which had to be cancelled due to the date not being suitable for many.

Georgina Tall

Younger Member Secretary

26 January 2026