

**Minutes/Summary of the Annual General Meeting of the OGA
held on Saturday January 31, 2026, in Harwich.**

AGM Attendees in Harwich (82) :-

Ad van de Griend, Adrean Spence, Alastair Simpson, Amanda Morris, Amy Craske, Andrew Balfe, Andrew Hind, Andrew Kelland, Ann Ingham, Barbara Goodrich, Barbara Runnalls, Barry Edwards, Ben Collins, Beverley Daley-Yates, Carey Stephenson, Charles Erb, Chris Englefield, Chris Hardman, Clare Thomas, Colin Stroud, Daniel Stoker, David Bewick, David Patuck, David Pennison, Deirdre Beckett, Des Trollip, Don Garman, Ed Roberts, Edward Hillier, Elaine Rawlinson, Francis Mogg, Georgina Tall, Graeme Malone, Grant Morris, Helen Englefield, Howard Alcock, Ian Young, Jimmy Murphy, Jo Masters, Joan Kelland, Joanna Tall, John Elston, John Ferguson, Jules Sala, Julie Patuck, Keith McIlwain, Ken Crudginton, Kitty Meggison-Cheal, Koren Williams, Louise Jacobs, Lucy Balfe, Martin Bell, Martin Goodrich, Mary Gibbs, Marie Louise Francis, Michael Leahy, Michael Weed, Mike Beckett, Mike Dixon, Negley Groom, Nicola Erb, Paul Keogh, Paul Masters, Pauline Garman, Pete Elliston, Pete Thomas, Richard Jacobs, Rob Williams, Rob Williamson, Roger Hardman, Rory Howlett, Rosanna Hiller, Sam Francis, Shirley Bell, Shona Fairchild, Steve Daley-Yates, Sue Lewis, Sue Pennison, Susanne Newbold, Trevor Rawlinson, Tuula Mogg, Yvonne Mitchell.

AGM Attendees on Zoom (13):

Alasdair Mackenzie, Bill Upchurch, Christopher Danby, Jeremy Cresswell, Jon Reid, Julian Cable, Matthew Bradfield, Maxine Lomas, Peter Smith, Richard Bailey, Steve, Thomasina Mallett, Tony Kiddle.

AGM Apologies (13):

Chris Stanger, David Dostall, David Skinner, Dick Dawson, Elizabeth Reynolds, Keith Band, Lorna Hill, Martin Elliott, Matt Power, Pat Dawson, Robert Hill, Tom Cunliffe, Toni Hodgkins.

- Clare Thomas, Membership Secretary, presented a membership report showing stable numbers with 1,211 members (1,046 memberships) at the end of 2025, noting that OGA events remain the primary reason for new memberships.
- Tony Kiddle, Association Treasurer, reported on the association's finances, highlighting a slight increase in income to £41,615, a profit of £10,160 contributing to a healthy events fund of nearly £20,000 for the OGA65 national event in 2028. He confirmed there was no necessity to increase membership fees for 2027.
- Matt Bradfield introduced himself as the new Social-Media and Website Editor, replacing Elly Rule, and discussed his plans to expand the OGA's online presence, potential collaborations with the UK Boat Building Academy and opportunities with the MyClassicBoat YouTube channel.
- Mike Beckett was unanimously re-elected as Association President for another three-year term.
- The proposed changes to the Association Rules, as published in the Winter 2025 issue of the Gaffers Log, were approved.

- Ben Collins gave an entertaining and well-illustrated presentation on the French OGA's 2025 event in St Malo. He described the challenging conditions while navigating through the Swinge and Les Minquiers passage and highlighted the camaraderie and cultural exchange between French and English sailors during the event, which included a race, a blessing of the fleet, and a duck race.
- David Thurston, Senior Pilot with the Harwich Haven Authority, gave a fascinating presentation of the evolution of container ships, highlighting changes in size, capacity, and design over the years. He explained how ships have become more efficient at carrying containers, with some reaching a capacity of 24,346 container-units, known as a TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) and gave an insight into the challenges of piloting and handling these large vessels, including considerations for wind, tide, and ship stability. He emphasized the importance of following strict rules and procedures due to the size and complexity of modern container ships.
- Pete Elliston, East Coast Area Secretary, presented a video showcasing various Gaffling 4.1 events and activities, emphasizing their popularity and potential for further development. He also highlighted the future plans, including a new storage base at Walton, Essex, and potential locations for future competitions. The "build book" to assist anyone considering building a Gaffling from a kit is nearly ready to be put on the OGA website.
- Alison & Julian Cable, Boat Register Editors, stated that the Boat Register is the most visited area on the OGA Website, a great promotional tool for the Association, especially when cross promoted on Facebook and Instagram. Many of our new members join from the social media posts which use pictures and text from the Boat Register and it's good for helping people to find their next boat, or to pass a boat on. They demonstrated the latest features, including the ability to create fleets, compare boats, view member-owned boats and find sailing opportunities. She also appealed for more people to learn how to run the boat register and keeping ownership information up to date.
- Grant Morris, Solent Area Secretary, briefed the meeting on the role and progress of the Risk Reduction Sub-group – Grant, Georgina Tall & Pete Elliston – in reviewing and tightening procedures, including risk assessment templates and a model supplier contract for event organisers, which have been endorsed by the RYA's solicitor. The group plans to roll out these new procedures and documentation to OGA Areas, with the offer of Zoom sessions to explain the processes, by March 2026, in time to help with organising their events for the coming season.
- There followed the announcements of the winners of the 2025 Photographic Competition by judge Charles Erb and the presentation of the trophies to those recognized for their hard work, dedication and contribution to the success of the OGA during 2025.
- The 2027 Association AGM and social weekend is planned to be at Bowness, Lake Windermere.

Colin Stroud
 Association Secretary
 February 05, 2026