

OGA photo library

Background

Collections of OGA photos are stored in various places, both digital and gathering dust in photo albums. Members have often discussed an online photo library for these images to be stored securely, catalogued, searchable and available for future generations of Gaffers as well as the wider public to contribute to and enjoy. **It's time to review where we are and make a plan!**

Boat Register

Over 4,000 images are stored securely online for use in the Boat Register. The OGA pays \$90 per annum for a Basic Plan with SmugMug, a well-established, reputable commercial photo archive/management service. The licence is managed by Julian & Alison Cable, Boat Register Editors.

Annual Photo Competition

Since 2014 the Annual Photo Competition images have been submitted online. They are not available for browsing or use in publications apart from the list of winners on the OGA website. This represents a lost opportunity for sharing some excellent photos.

News & Events reporting

Individual Areas publish galleries and images on their own websites and Social Media channels. There is no mechanism to share these more widely, search or re-use the images.

Printed Media

Images are supplied to the Editors of Gaffers Log, Watercraft Magazine, Classic Boat Magazine etc. These are not stored online for re-use or sharing more widely. Images used in Gaffers Log are not available for re-use or sharing after publication, apart from within the printed Log.

Proposal

Led by Beverley and Steve Yates, a sub-Committee of interested OGA Officers and Members including Julian & Alison Cable will manage and expand the OGA SmugMug photo library beyond the Boat Register collection with an upgrade to the Pro Plan: \$460 per annum.

Principles and considerations

- An engaging SmugMug homepage for selected OGA image galleries, regularly updated and open for public browsing at a dedicated website address/URL could promote the Association.
- OGA photos past, present & future represent a great way to 'pull' visitors in to what the Association stands for and to share what we do/have done/are doing more widely.
- An online library could be exploited to support recruitment and promote Area activity.
- The cost of upgrading is small compared with potential benefits across the Association.
- Images used by the OGA should always be assigned photographer/copyright credits. Developing the photo library should include careful review of existing online and offline photos in the curation of new collections.
- Images not previously published online could be made available for the Gaffers Log Editor to use in the magazine before being made available more widely.
- National and Area online Editors could have access to a wide range of photos for re-use in Social Media, print press articles, MailChimp campaigns, websites and local Area Newsletters.
- Members attending OGA events could upload photos to SmugMug for re-use/sharing.
- Past and future Photo Competition entries could be uploaded to the SmugMug library for the Judge's to review, storage, sharing and future use.

Beverley Yates

17 April 2026