

Gaffers Log

The Old Gaffers Association

Issue 117: Spring 2025



NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR GAFF RIG SAILING



Younger Gaffers at the AGM at Gloucester in January

Ditty Bag – Younger Gaffers' Spot

Whilst the weather hasn't been overly favourable for winter sailing, younger members have been keeping active. From doing sanding and varnishing to attending Christmas drinks in London, sometimes in the same day!

At the end of November, we had the inaugural younger member Christmas drinks at the White Hart in Waterloo, London. This was very well attended with members travelling from the East Coast and Solent areas.

We had a very festive time sharing stories from the past sailing season and plans for the upcoming year. The collective feedback from the event emphasised the pleasure of meeting up with peers who you normally only ever see in passing a few times a year during other OGA events where you don't necessarily get a chance to catch up peer to peer.

In January, thanks to the Youth Fund, seven younger members attended the National AGM in Gloucester. Happenstance, it was very well timed to coincide with a Gloucester v Scarlets rugby match at Kingsholm stadium in Gloucester itself.

So in a proper, spontaneous OGA manner, we went for a warming pub dinner and then on to the stadium to watch the match in minus five-deg weather.

It was a good match to watch with Gloucester winning 31-7. After that we ventured over to the High Orchard pub to meet up with the main OGA crowd to say our hellos.

Before the AGM on the Saturday, the Younger Members explored Gloucester and visited the cathedral, which happily has Harry Potter connections. *(It happens to be where, in 1910, the first public performance of the astonishing Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis was staged - Ed)*

We all attended the AGM which included the presentation about St. Malo, kindly translated by Maddy Masters.

At the prize giving, two awards went to younger members, The Alan Hidden Trophy and the Janty Cup. The Alan Hidden Trophy citation reads:

"Presented to Georgina Tall for the work she's done to bring the Younger OGA group together over the course of a year, we all get on really well but I'm certain without Georgina we wouldn't have done half as much as we have done this year, and we wouldn't be such a cohesive group without her efforts. She's put in so much of her own time and attention behind the scenes and gone out of her way to do really thoughtful things for the group which make everyone feel like they're part of something bigger."

I blush!

The Janty Cup was presented to Maddy Masters for her piece about Swallows & Amazons in the summer issue of the Gaffers Log.

In writing her report, Maddy notes that the event is actually older than she is!

Her lively report looks back on her memories of a 'serene little bubble' weekend and takes the reader from her earliest memories of an exciting drive to the event, mud, creeks, fun and paper boats to this year's event when she had the chance to race in one of the East Coast Gafflings.

The AGM dinner offered a great chance to discuss the upcoming St. Malo rally (with many of the Younger Members planning to attend) and also dance the night away at the ceilidh.

The weekend was nicely rounded off with a fascinating tour of the T. Nielsen & Company shipyard by Tommi Nielsen himself, which included a visit to the heritage vessels *Kathleen & May* and *Bessie Ellen*.

Our next event will be a 'Pre-Season Social' in London in March where it is a 'Bring Your Own Future Gaffer' (BYOFG) to raise a glass to. This will hopefully help grow the Younger Members interest section and the upcoming sailing season. (Dates will be announced on the Facebook page).

PRIZES AVAILABLE TO YOUNGER MEMBERS

As well as the prizes available to all members, there are a couple of national prizes available just to Younger Members:

- **The Alan Hidden Trophy** – Best outstanding performance by a Younger Member as nominated by a Younger Member or other member of the OGA.
- **Janty Cup** – best contribution to the Gaffers Log by a Younger Member; or best contribution to the Gaffers log by an OGA member writing about a youth event.

Georgina Tall is Younger Members Secretary