



Gaffers Log

Issue 120; Spring 2026



JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR GAFF RIG SAILING



Marie-Louise and Sam Francis aboard Acorn in Whitby in 2025. Winners of the Tom Cunliffe Plate for their slow-mo, in-progress circumnavigation of the UK



Maddie Phillips, winner of the Creaky Cleat



Ed Roberts, winner of the Reliance Cup

Ditty Bag

Younger Members' Spot by Georgina Tall

It was a cosy December Festive meal for OGA Younger Gaffers in an historic pub alongside the Thames and under the shadow of the less historic Shard.

And we were joined by two new members who attended as their first OGA event and left feeling enthused and saying how much they were looking forward to the upcoming musters on the East Coast and the Solent, as well as two prospective members who were keen to join.

Aside from the meal, successes of 2025 and looking ahead were celebrated with four prize awards specifically for Younger Gaffers.

The Reliance Cup went to Ed Roberts. This is awarded to the Younger Gaffer who has competed in and won the most OGA races through the season.

The Tom Cunliffe Plate was awarded to Marie-Louise and Sam Francis (*see photo above*). This is awarded to the most adventurous younger member(s) relative to their boat and experience.

The Creaky Cleat was earned by Maddie Phillips for the hacking incident at the start of her Younger Members lecture and the professionalism she showed. It is 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.

Bingo! That was won by Ed Thomas. This goes to the Younger Member who has completed the most bingo squares for the season's card.

On the OGA National front, mention should be given to Thomasina Mallett of Yell, Shetland, who secured the Gaffers Log award for her RYA training cruise log last summer. It was a lovely way to end the sailing year and share stories with new and old friends.

Following an exciting 2025, there is lots to look forward to for 2026 from reading about the adventures of Younger Members who are sailing across the Atlantic to the tales of Marie-Louise and Sam who have purchased a little gaffer and are sailing their way around the UK

COMING UP FOR 2026:

- **Fitting Out Lunch - March 21 (Bristol Channel)** – Come and join us for a bite to eat at The Pumphouse in Bristol with the option of exploring the historic harbour afterwards.
- **Yarmouth Gaffers Regatta – May 22-25 (Solent)** – This event is organised by myself as Younger Gaffer secretary working with other Solent committees). This will be a great opportunity for any Younger Members wanting to meet Gaffers on the Solent. You can expect racing, lots of shanties and pontoon parties.
- **Falmouth Classics Informal Gathering – June 12-14 (South West)** – A number of Younger Members will be crewing on boats taking part in this brilliant regatta so it is a great opportunity to catch up on the sailing season. Keep an eye on the SW Younger Members WhatsApp group for more information closer to the date.
- **Swallows & Amazons – June 26-28 (East Coast)** – A popular small boat rally on the Walton Backwaters which is very popular with Younger Members. Come along for a weekend of camping, BBQs and dinghy racing – and the occasional seal!
- **Round the Island Race – July 11 (Solent)** – It is rumoured that some Younger Members are hoping to take part this year. There could be an opportunity to grab a celebratory drink after the race.
- **East Coast Summer Cruise – July 18-26** – A popular summer cruise that starts in West Mersea and may present opportunities for crewing.
- **Gaffling Championships – August 28-31 (East Coast)** – This year's championships will be up in County Durham on the Derwent Reservoir. We will be exploring with the new small boat secretary Mike Dixon, how we can facilitate Younger Members taking part, whether that is car-sharing to travel north or other solutions.

Georgina Tall – Younger Members Secretary