



Gaffers Log and online report, 2019

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all Area Presidents, Secretaries and Members for their continuing support in supplying material and, in some cases, helping with maintaining the website contents to ensure the website reflects the range of activity around the Areas.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to receive contributions and feedback both for Gaffers Log and online over the past six years. By far the most enjoyable part of the OGA Editor role has been having regular contact with many Members around the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, France and Australia.

It's a varied role, with 'peaks' around deadlines for Gaffers Log and compilation of the annual Events calendar. I try to ensure regular changes to the website, to keep it 'refreshed' and up-to-date.

The OGA Communications Handbook, maintained over the past six years, has been updated and placed in the OGA Document Store. I have also collated 20GB of digital archives relating to Gaffers Log and Online.

In an attempt to ensure that future holders of these two roles are actively involved in decision-making relating to the essential work they're undertaking for the Association, I have appended a proposal regarding the re-structure of GMC.

I trust the Association Committee will consider supporting my proposal in order to establish a more collaborative and open environment in which elected Officers may work together.

Handover for Gaffers Log

In March this year, I secured costed proposals against a detailed brief for pre-press, print and fulfilment from two agencies. As Members know, pre-press is currently done by Steve Yates and myself under a contract with our company, while print and fulfilment is done by Northend Creative, Sheffield. The next Editor does not wish to undertake pre-press, so this was all included in the brief to enable a competitive tendering process. The proposals were presented to GMC, who suggested securing a third bid for comparison.

As far as I am aware, this has not been done. Two agencies have bid to work for us in good faith, and not heard back from anyone.

I had hoped to be able to report on a clear, costed plan to the Association Committee, paving the way for the newly elected Editor to start on his first issue. The copy deadline is in just six weeks: 28, February 2020.

Handover for online

When elected in 2014, I made a commitment to the OGA at the AGM that developing and maintaining 'OGA online' as a collection of integrated services would be sustainable and extensible without being a burden on OGA budgets or 'tied' to any individual.

The success of the project to date has been dependent on many Members, past and present, working together, often 'in the background', just 'getting things done'.

Successful handover requires a planned, collaborative approach in order to enable continued provision of online services and website content into the 2020s . . .

Proposal to restructure GMC: ideally from January 2020

Despite being responsible for perhaps the greatest financial commitment the OGA makes, the Editors of the Boat Register, Log and Online are excluded from GMC meetings, where all decisions about Gaffers Log and online are discussed.

'IT' is rather too broad a term to be useful in 2020, when most of our 'IT' is actually 'Communications', requiring a differing sets of specific skills and expertise, not all of which is technical in the 'IT' sense.

In preparing this proposal, I have reviewed the GMC Constitution, last updated in December 2014, and published at item 1.4 on p.3-4 of the Area Handbook, 2019 (in the OGA Document Store).

I hope these proposed changes will address the points raised above.

1. Disband the Systems and Administration sub-committee

As an Association without any IT hardware to maintain, software to write or networks to manage, do we need a 'Systems and Administration' sub-committee?

If 'IT' services are needed, these may be purchased, or undertaken by a suitably qualified volunteer member, with service-level agreements drawn up, to ensure everyone is clear about what is being done, by whom, when and for what price (if any fees are charged).

The responsibility for managing services would then rest with the commissioning Officer, elected by the Membership and accountable to the Association Committee via GMC eg Membership Secretary, Boat Register Editor, Gaffers Log Editor, Online Editor, Treasurer etc.

2. Communications sub-committee

i. Reinstate an Officer with responsibility for Communications to sit on GMC.

ii. Include the OGA Boat Register and OGA Editor (Log and Online) as full members of GMC, bringing the membership of the GMC to eight: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Sailing Secretary, Communications Secretary, Boat Register Editor, Editor (Log and Online).

If this proposal is agreed, the first task of a Communications sub-committee should be to undertake a full review of our current Communications activity including any aspirations noted at the ACM in January 2020. This review should be defined in terms of purpose (NOT technology).

All key stakeholders should have the opportunity to work together/have some input if they want to.

The 'statement of requirement', as presented to the ACM in January 2020, may be revised by late Spring to reflect a full discussion amongst all interested members. This would allow for costed proposals to be developed in order to ensure that the 'IT services' continue to support the membership's needs in future.

Key stakeholders are Boat Register Editors, Gaffers Log Editor, Online Editor, Membership Secretary, Area Secretaries (in particular, SW, Solent & EC who have their own 'subsites'), Area Editors and any other interested Member(s).

Beverley Daley-Yates: 3 January, 2020

Editor (Log and Online): 2014 - 2019

‘Sailing by’

Undertaking the Editor role for ‘Sailing by’ is entirely unrelated to my elected role as OGA Editor. It was a project linked with the OGA50 celebrations, before I was elected as Editor (Log and Online).

‘Sailing by’, an online ‘travelogue’, was proposed in 2012 by Frank Zomerdijs (Netherlands OGA), as a means for ‘following the fleet’ during the Round Britain Challenge planned for 2013. Frank's idea was to get to know sailors, yachts and yachtsmen/women who went before us and to present their material online for all to see. Material was planned to be released in phases to coincide with the progress of the RBC fleet.

Frank, Sue Lewis and I developed proposals for the website launch in April 2013. I agreed to be the Editor and several people agreed to contribute. The site was hosted on my company servers for a small fee which included technical updates/maintenance, support and renewal of the domain name: www.sailing-by.org.uk

Following the RBC, Dutch members contributed content so that it followed the Dutch 10th Anniversary ‘Tour’. Historic ‘tales of sail’ reflecting activities undertaken by OGA members have continued to be uploaded since then.

In 2016 the site was fully overhauled in terms of design, software and structure to make it more sustainable. It was also made ‘secure’ ie the URL is <https://www.sailing-by.org.uk>

Whilst standing down from the Editor (Log and Online) roles, I would like to continue acting as Editor for the ‘Sailing By’ website, at no cost to the OGA.

The site currently highlights some ‘historic tales’ from the Bristol Channel, since that’s where the AGM will be held in 2020.

Beverley Daley-Yates: 3 January, 2020