

## **Trailer Section/Small Boats – A Proposal for the Future to the January 2021 ACM**

The OGA defines Small Boats as boats that can be towed by a car and easily launched from a slipway. In 2020, 22 events for Small Boats were planned, five by the Trailer Section and the remainder by the Areas. We hope to increase this in 2021.

We have discussed the future of the Trailer Section at the last two ACMs, and a proposal submitted by me to the AC at the January 2019 meeting received no feedback. I would like us to finally agree a way forward at our meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

The outgoing Secretary of the Trailer Section, Keith Mosley, has reported his concern for the future of the Trailer Section in his recent Reports to the ACM and he hasn't thought it appropriate to attend the meetings as he, in his own words, would at best only be representing about 15 members.

The GMC sees small boats as the most likely area of expansion for the OGA in terms of activities, events and membership, also with the advent of the OGA Dinghy we are keen to promote the dinghy at Small Boat events throughout the Country but this was not going to be achieved by the Trailer Section.

Although the Trailer Section consisted of a small band of dedicated sailors attending 3 or 4 events a year, it didn't have the leadership, scope, support and numbers that are necessary for it to grow and succeed, meeting the expectations and aspirations of OGA members with small boats. These resources are available in an Area, and most Areas are committed to running events that are suitable for trailer sailors if practicable and achievable.

It's encouraging that the Bristol Channel Area is active in Cardiff Bay and are planning to hold more Small Boat events. East Coast, South West and also Solent, with their new Beaulieu River event, are also all doing their bit to hold events suitable for trailer sailors. North Wales and North West areas have been asked to oversee the Clywedog and Ullswater events respectively.

We have used the restructuring of the website as an opportunity to remove all references to the Trailer Section on the website and on the membership Application Forms. In its stead we have created a Small Boat page on the main menu that includes details of the OGA Dinghy and the RYA Dinghy Show, where we hope to have a presence again this year. We have also updated Mailchimp to enable Areas organising an event suitable for small boats, to invite all members from all areas who have indicated they are interested in small boat events. I felt that we needed to clarify the message to potential and existing members as to exactly what we were offering small boat owners. I am confident that Small Boats will be an area of growth for the OGA, and the growing popularity and profile of the OGA Dinghy will help achieve that.

The GMC proposes that the OGA disbands the Trailer Section and incorporate the previous TS activities into Area Events and for Area Committees to take a lead, or at the very least, do what they can to advertise Small Boat events to their members and offer support where possible.

I will be asking Association Members to endorse this decision at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Patrick Vyvyan-Robinson

OGA President

January 4, 2021