

Minutes of the Association Committee Meeting held online on Saturday 16th January 2021

Present:

Alison Cable (Boat Register Editor), Colin Stroud (Association Secretary), Darryl Hughes (Dublin Bay Secretary), David Botterill (Bristol Channel Secretary), Dick Dawson (Elder Gaffer), Elly Howlett (Online Editor), Gerry Brennan (Northern Ireland Secretary), Gordon Garman (Scotland President), Jeremy Retford (Solent Secretary), Jim Bell (North East President), Johnny Wedick (Dublin Bay President), Julian Cable (Boat Register Editor), Katie Jackson (North East Secretary), Keith McIlwain (Bristol Channel President), Lorna Hill (East Coast Secretary), Mary Gibbs (Membership Secretary), Pat Conway (Northern Ireland President), Pat Dawson (Elder Gaffer), Patrick Vyvyan-Robinson (Association President), Pete Thomas (Elder Gaffer), Robert Hill (East Coast President), Robert Holden (Elder Gaffer), Sally Holgate (North Wales Secretary), Tim Price (South West Secretary), Tom Middlebrook (North West Secretary), Tony Kiddle (Association Treasurer)

Apologies:

Jon Reid (Scotland Secretary), Kevin Goulding (North West President), Michael Forwood (South West President), Scott Metcalfe (North Wales President), Sue Pennison (Solent President)

Meeting started at 10:10.

1. President's welcome:

Patrick welcomed the six new Officers (Darryl, Jim, Katie, Mike, Tim, Elly) and highlighted the long list of 2020 assignments from the AC to the GMC, the updates to the Officers Handbook and OGA Rules, progress on the Website and Boat Register, membership increase in four Areas, the increase in interest in Small Boats and the significant progress in all Areas on communication (mostly virtual). Patrick recommended more communication between the AC and GMC, particularly on future direction and strategy.

2. Secretary's report:

There was a significant increase in progress by the GMC due to the use of Zoom for 12 meetings in 2020 to supplement the one face-to-face meeting. In previous years there were usually just three face-to-face meetings. We need two new volunteers, one to administer the OGA Merchandise, taking over the new system introduced by Paul Jolley, and one to actively seek new advertisers in the Gaffers Log. Please forward anyone interested to Colin.

3. Treasurer's report:

New Website and Boat Register cost is significantly reduced from 2020 to £410 although the 2021 accounts do show some rollover costs from the old systems. AC and AG Meeting costs were up reflecting the additional Officers' travel expenses to Bristol. There was a cost to produce a Yearbook in 2020 which was not produced in 2019. Overall profit for 2020 was £1039 and a subscription increase was approved for 2021.

4. Membership Secretary's report:

No significant difference in membership numbers from last year. The "Not Paid" indicator in GOLD does not mean a member is in arrears, just that they have not yet paid for the current year.

All

5.	Boat Register Editors' report: New boat register went live in April 2020, and is now integrated into the new Website. The three major problems (relating to boats for sale, URL links to boats and the occasional "white screen" issue) have now been resolved. Updates from boat owners are now sent to the editors for checking before going live. A copy of the Lloyds Register of boats has been purchased so members can contact the Editors for information. There are 3593 boats and 2140 pictures in the Boat Register. The 2021 Yearbook will have better boat ownership information. The Boat Register does not currently have a Member Login facility in order to see names of boat owners but this is on the to-do list. The Boat register Editors will investigate if the Lloyds Register could be put online for logged-in members.	GMC
6.	Online Editor's report: Many changes have been made to improve and streamline the Website, although this did create some problems along the way but now, based on user feedback, is now much improved. Everyone is asked to keep the Online Editor up to date with news and events. There has been a significant increase in followers on Facebook and Instagram. The future plan for the Website is for more user interaction e.g. Forums.	GMC
7.	Review of Assignments from the 2020 ACM: The following assignments were given to the GMC and have all been completed or are part of ongoing work:- • A yearbook will be published in 2020. - Completed • OGA content in the Sailing By website will be moved to the main OGA website and all OGA branding to be removed from the Sailing By website which Beverley will continue to manage, edit and host on a non-OGA website all at no cost to the OGA. - Completed • Find a more cost effective solution for the Website for the coming years and ensure the 5000 photographs in the database be retained within the solution. Maintain the security of the current Website in the short term now our contract with Xited has come to an end. - Completed • MailChimp will be updated. - Completed • Total balance of Areas' accounts to be shown on Association account rather than on a separate document. - Completed • Boat register and image library be joined up. - Completed • Help Scotland Area with coordination of events, both sailing and social, with adjoining Areas. – Completed but more help will be provided when needed • Implement the Document and Photograph Retention Policy/Archive. – Completed but adding historical content is ongoing • Photo competition to continue in 2020 and volunteers should be found to organise and to judge it. - Completed	
8.	Final review of updated OGA Rules: The three further recommended changes to the rules were discussed:- • In section 7. FINANCE:- Replace the word "audited", in two places above, with "independently examined" (reason:- "Audit" has a legal definition and can result in high fees for suitably qualified persons to conduct. Proposed by:- James Woolgrove, Clare Thomas and Richard Giles.)	

	- In section 9. RACES:- Replace:- “Boats shall be handicapped by the OGA T(H)CF Racing Handicap system and Area Committees shall retain detailed race results which may be included in their Annual Report.” With “Boats shall be handicapped by the OGA T(H)CF Racing Handicap system or such system as prescribed by the Association or Area Committee and Area Committees shall retain detailed race results which may be included in their Annual Report.” [Reason:- The EC Area have requested the revision which reinstates the wording in the existing 2017 rules.] - In section 12. SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION:- Replace the word “should” , with the word “must”. It was agreed that the updated Rules would not be presented at the AGM but would be printed in the Spring 2021 edition of the Gaffers Log and members be given the opportunity to vote for approval online or at a Zoom meeting. It was proposed the Officers’ Handbook be updated with advice regarding virtual meetings. It was proposed that a future update of the Rules should include an explanation of the legal status of the OGA	GMC
9.	OGA Class Dinghy: The Name That Dinghy competition produced over 50 entries and, after eliminating names already in use elsewhere, with the help of two independent judges, the winning name is “Gaffling 4.1”. East Coast members are working on compiling a Gaffling 4.1 build manual to be put on the Website.	EC
10.	Plans for the OGA60, RBC60 events: Alison Cable, the RBC (Round Britain Challenge) Coordinator, announced the decision to sail clockwise around GB. She will be coordinating and preparing a skippers’ briefing document but it will be up to the Areas to organise the events at the “Party Ports”. The timetable will be on the Website. The “grand finale” on August 4 to 7 will be at Suffolk Yacht Harbour and Robert Hill asked if any Area, particularly those who may have a good number of participants, wanted to help on the organising committee or wanted to organise a specific sub-event, to contact him. All Areas are encouraged to write articles for the Log about their area to encourage those doing the RBC60 to visit their ports.	ALL ALL ALL
11.	Area presentations: Although the Area Reports were made available before the meeting, the following comments were added:- Bristol Channel: Membership has grown and 2021 events have been published in the hope they can go ahead. There has been improved communications across the region in 2020. BC has a lot of historical information and now has a “heritage” page on the Website for everything to be uploaded over time. Dublin Bay: In an effort to improve communication and keep and increase membership numbers the DB Area now has four WhatsApp channels and has been using Zoom for meetings and talks with the Zoom talks being published online. East Coast: Two good small boat events were held in 2020. Two Gaffling 4.1s are being built, with one almost completed, and a launch party is planned at the annual Swallows and Amazons event. There are high hopes for more small boat events and the planned annual summer cruise will	

this year be arranged without a fixed plan or timetable so enabling flexibility on direction and not having to pre-book anything.

North East:

The NE Area is in a state of recovery and optimisation and hope to have an event organised before the end of 2021. They are committed to hosting the ACM and AGM on January 15, 2022 and the RBC60. They believe their difficulties are behind them and thank everyone for their help and support in ensuring the NE Area still exists. Two OGA Dinghies are still in build, although on hold at present.

North Wales:

The NWales Area are regrouping and redefining themselves as a result of significant change of Officers. A survey will go out to members to help determine direction. They now have a vice-president in place to help.

North West: Tom Middlebrook said they were looking to link events with others such as the Liverpool City Council Festival and the Conway Festival, if they go ahead. He also said they would look to organising a "cruise" event and a small boat event at the Liverpool Watersports Centre.

Northern Ireland:

This Area is going through a process of re-building. They have been approached by a Local Council to join a planned event and are exploring the building one or two OGA Dinghies involving local schools. Have in general held on their membership with a loss of only six.

Scotland:

Optimistic and great plans for 2021. A shore based event is planned at the Anstruther Fishing Museum and hopefully three sailing events, one on the Isle of Arran and another at the Peel Traditional Boats event.

Solent:

The Solent Area have made much use of Zoom, email and Regfox to improve communications with members during 2020 with the intention of continuing to use Zoom for committee meeting. Membership numbers reasonably stable but notable that new members have mostly had smaller boats. The Yarmouth Regatta is planned for June. Basic planning for events is in place with details to be worked out later, pandemic allowing.

South West:

The SW Area have had five new members recently and have had many Zoom meetings but will look into putting future Zoom recordings online.

12. **Any other business:**

It was agreed that the AC should provide additional input to the GMC on future direction and there should be two ACMs per year with the additional one approximately mid-year to September. They should be virtual meetings where appropriate.

GMC

Tom Middlebrook asked whether the OGA Dinghies/Gaffling 4.1s built by the Areas should be insured for damage as part of the OGA's insurance or just public liability. The GMC to review at renewal date.

GMC

It was agreed that the "Trailer Section" be disbanded and a new GMC co-opted position of Small Boat Secretary be formed with the objective to encourage more small boat owners into the OGA and to encourage all Areas to, where possible, organise events suitable for small boats. The position will be filled by David Bewick.

GMC

It was announced that the OGA would have a stand at the virtual RYA Dinghy Show on February 27 and 28, 2021 to promote the Gaffling 4.1.

GMC

	The OGA will aim to exhibit a gaffer and a Gaffling 4.1 at the Southampton Boat Show if it goes ahead.	GMC
	Patrick and Colin, on behalf of the GMC, will aim to recruit a new Gaffers Log Editor in time for the publication of the Spring edition.	GMC
13	Date and location of the 2022 ACM and AGM: It was confirmed by the NE Area that they would organise and host the ACM and AGM in Newcastle on January 15, 2022.	NE
14.	President's closing comments: Patrick thanked everyone for attending and complimented the amount of interaction in the meeting despite the limitations of Zoom. He repeated the commitment to continue work on promoting Small Boat activity and events and encouraged everyone to keep up the momentum of the improved communications with members. He concluded by saying the OGA had come of a particularly difficult 2020 in very good shape. Meeting closed at 13:30 Colin Stroud, Association Secretary, February 2, 2021	