

Minutes of the Association Committee Meeting held online on September 9th 2021

Present:

Alison Cable (Boat Register), Colin Stroud (Association Secretary), Darryl Hughes (Dublin Bay), David Bewick (Small boats Secretary), David Botterill (Bristol Channel), Des O'Meara (North East), Johnny Wedick (Dublin Bay), Jon Reid (Scotland), Julian Cable (Boat Register), Keith McIlwain (Bristol Channel), Kevin Goulding (North West), Liz Dodwell (representing Solent), Lorna Hill (East Coast), Mary Gibbs (Membership Secretary), Michael Forwood (South West), Pat Conway (Northern Ireland), Patrick Vyvyan Robinson (Association President), Pete Thomas (Elder Gaffer), Rob Jarman (Gaffers Log Editor), Robert Hill (East Coast), Sally Holgate (North Wales), Tim Price (South West), Timothy Dodwell (representing Solent), Tony Kiddle (Association Treasurer)

All meeting papers are in the Officers' Area here:-

https://www.oga.org.uk/officers__area/acm_sept_9_2021.html

Meeting started at 18:05.

Patrick introduced Liz and Tim Dodwell standing in to represent the Solent Area. He paid tribute to, and asked that everyone take a moment to remember, the late Tom Middlebrook.

Patrick stated the intention is that this meeting will focus on Association matters looking at the future rather than the January meeting which has traditionally been about sharing various reports recording activities during the previous year. He shared his three personal goals, as follows:-

- a) Improve the OGA's systems, processes and protocols. (e.g., New officers on the GMC, Updated Rules and Officers' Handbook, new Website, Social Media activity, Boat Register)
- b) Improve the corporate side, not at the expense of Area identity and autonomy, but to capitalise on our strengths as an Association with 1284 members, activity and coverage in the Netherlands and all around our UK and Irish coasts, and a high profile in the boating community. We can do this by having a common and consistent branding, by improving marketing and communications, and by ensuring our events are inclusive to all members, regardless of area. (e.g., Articles in Watercraft and PBO, SBS and Dinghy Show, the big push with Small Boat events and Gaffling 4.1).
- c) To encourage the OGA's leadership team (the AC) to have more of a say in the OGA's future and providing the GMC with its priorities for achieving the OGA Objectives.

Agenda item 1 - Status of assignments from the January 16, 2021 ACM (Colin)

Of the 12 assignments, nine are complete, two are in progress and one on hold, as follows:-

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| a) Introduce a Website Member Login facility in order to see names of boat owners in the Boat Register. In progress , target completion end of 2001. | JC |
| b) Investigate if the Lloyds Register could be put online for logged-in members. In progress but will be reliant on completion of item 1 above. | AC |
| c) Provide more user interaction, e.g. Forums, in the Website. Completed : Action: - Significant | |

expansion of social media involvement plus Zoom Technical Sessions introduced. Forums not being pursued due to the proliferation of existing online forums and the expense and time involved in setting up and administering. E-mail dated May 22, 2021 sent to Areas by Elly Howlett with feedback from Kevin Goulding and Keith McIlwain.	
d) The updated Rules should 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. Completed.	
e) The Handbook for OGA Officers should be updated with advice regarding virtual meetings. Completed:- E-mail sent to AC March 23, 2021 to confirm.	
f) A future update of the OGA Rules should include an explanation of the legal status of the OGA. On hold due to other priorities.	GMC
g) There should be two ACMS per year with the additional one, approximately mid-year to September, to provide additional input to the GMC on future direction. They should be virtual meetings where appropriate. Completed on September 9, 2021.	
h) Review 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. Completed , see email to AC dated March 5, 2021.	
i) The "Trailer Section" should be disbanded and a new GMC co-opted position of Small Boats 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. Completed January 2021.	
j) Organise a stand at the virtual RYA Dinghy Show on February 27 and 28, 2021 to promote the Gaffling 4.1. Completed: feedback: - two new members joined, cost for virtual show was only 1/10 th of the 2020 show.	
k) Exhibit a gaffer and a Gaffling 4.1 at the 2021 Southampton Boat Show if it goes ahead. Will be completed , show starts September 10, 2021	
l) Recruit a new Gaffers Log Editor in time for the publication of the Spring 2021 edition. Completed.	
Agenda Item 2 - Future Direction of the OGA including recruiting new members. (Patrick)	
Membership numbers down but less than other organisations: - October 2018 = 1161. October 2019 = 1092. October 2020 = 1049. September 2021 = 1031(expected to rise before the end of October)	
The GMC will consider all suggestions made and propose an action plan to the AC.	GMC
The GMC will investigate an OGA crewing offer/wanted app.	GMC
Rob to send selected articles from Gaffers Logs to marine publications for potential publication to a wider audience.	RJ
The GMC to investigate the cost of having an OGA leaflet inserted in the Watercraft and Classic Boat magazines.	GMC
David Bewick to submit regular reports to Watercraft following on from those submitted by Mike Stephens.	DB
All Areas are encouraged to nominate a person to be their WhatsApp admin person and put contact details on their Area website page and Rob to publish a short text in the spring Log containing the contact details and explaining how to use.	All Areas

GMC to review best practice and issue guidance to Areas on how Zoom can be used to communicate and engage with a wider Membership/public audience.	GMC
Agenda Item 3 - Format of the January 15, 2022, AGM in Newcastle. (Patrick & Des) Des presented his Programme for the Newcastle AGM/ACM/Social Event January 15 and 16, 2022 (see: https://www.oga.org.uk/officers_area/acm_sept_9_2021.html) Patrick proposed the AGM should have a greater focus on member participation rather than the formal proceedings and include discussions on more Areas organising Zoom talks and on the use of WhatsApp during events. He also proposed the AC should be facing the members, not the GMC. Kevin to investigate how many of the Nobby Owners Association would be interested in attending the Social events and let Des know who will decide if practical. Des to ask Martyn Haigh if he would give a talk at the AGM on the building of the Gaffling 4.1 with particular focus on the process and success of the community involvement.	GMC
Agenda Item 4 - Round Britain Challenge 2023 event planning and funding. (Alison & Tony) It was emphasised that the GMC would provide guidance and the outline itinerary but it was up to the Areas to plan/organise their Party Ports Areas to submit funding requests to the Association Treasurer and a proposal will be made to the AC on how funds may be allocated. The GMC will initiate an RBC2023 WhatsApp group.	KG DO DO GMC
Agenda item 5 - David Grainger Elder Gaffer nomination. (Patrick) It was agreed that David Grainger be made an Elder Gaffer. Keith McIlwain to organise presentation of Elder Gaffer flag. The GMC will review the criteria for Elder Gaffer versus Honorary Member and prepare a recommendation to the AC.	KM GMC
The video recording of the meeting can be found here:- https://www.oga.org.uk/officers__area/acm_sept_9__2021.html Meeting closed at 20:09 Colin Stroud, Association Secretary, September 20, 2021	