

SOUTHWEST GAFFERS COMMENTS ON DRAFT OGA60 PLAN

Item 5.Registration

Whilst totally supporting the principle of a registration fee in order to have commitment and ideas of numbers for planning purposes, we need absolute clarification on which boats/entrants will be required to pay the fee.

There are a variety of possibilities in terms of entrants:-

1. Those in the RBC fleet intending to do the full circumnavigation;
2. Boats doing a number of leg/sections;
3. Local boats who may sail in company but are not completing a leg/section, taken as between party ports;
4. Local boats who may do very short parts but act mainly as B&B for hosts/helpers;
5. Local boats for whom the host harbour/marina is their home port;
6. Members who sail all or part of the event as crew only.

In the South West Area, we have a policy of inclusiveness to encourage members to take part in events. We know that in the past some members have shunned events due to relatively high costs.

The payment of a fee should simply be to show commitment to OGA60 and cover the cost of an OGA60 event flag for all entrants.

Proposal:-

To encourage members to participate in all or any part of the sailing activities associated with OGA60 the registration fee should be £15 for all participating boats.

Item 10 Attachment areas of concern

1. Party ports events should be designed to in no way impact on the East Coast event arrangements and are unlikely to do so. For the South West Area at Plymouth the party is at present intended to be at a venue close to the host marina with a buffet and entertainment by a sea shanty set. For OGA50 the local receptions/parties had no impact on the main event hosted by the Solent Area. The intention is purely to be sociable and welcome visiting boats.

The fear that not many will travel/sail to the East Coast may be unfounded. For OGA50 some boats did sail from the SW and from personal experience Penny and I went by road, as at that time we had a smaller boat, stayed in a B&B. We registered on arrival as available crew and within 30mins had been contacted by skippers and took part in all the sailing and of course the social side.

2. It is likely that any funding to areas will be minimal as the intention would normally be to use Yacht/Sailing Club facilities who are unlikely to impose a venue charge as they will be more than happy with bar and food takings. In

the SW we have located a pub near the host marina who will not charge for the venue and is happy to provide drinks and food. We may ask for a small donation from the OGA simply to sponsor the sea shanty set who have a minimal charge towards the RNLI. We will also want to provide a suitable memento at about £15 per registered boat putting into Plymouth.

3. Looking forward from the past season it is likely that we will all have to live with Covid in its various forms, which do seem to be getting milder in terms of illness. During the last season in the SW events were reasonably attended as it was felt that the general outdoor setting of sailing and pontoon parties was fairly safe. At indoor areas named seating and table service did not detract from the enjoyment of meeting other gaffers.
4. There is obviously a financial risk in planning for any event in 2023 as there always would be. There is a need to minimise this risk and for it to be taken on by OGA as a central issue.
5. I am not sure that the berthing facilities at Cowes are unique. However, I do agree that due to many boats not cruising to the Channel Isles and the Continent berthing for those cruising was at a premium. For organised events in the SW (both OGA and others) this was not a problem with suitable discussions with Harbour Masters and Marinas. The OGA ability to raft up and fit in always prevails.
6. I am not sure that politics etc. will deter sailors from EU countries joining in. My neighbour has recently returned from sailing to France, went to get the ferry home. Was asked for his passport which he had forgotten to take, no problem, just go home and try to remember next time!
7. It does seem a good idea to plan the event in the EC to coincide with the annual Summer Cruise and other small boat and sailing/social activities. This in no way would downgrade the OGA60 and associated RBC and would be a great way for us all to have the opportunity to visit and take part in an EC event and perhaps the Gaffling Worlds (without the President capsizing!)

I hope the above comments are positive and contribute to the EC holding an event that will be memorable in 2023.

Paul Jolley,

President, Southwest Gaffers.

December 29, 2021