

OGA Trophies and Awards 2020 – Winners and Citations

David Cade Memorial Trophy

A most outstanding contribution to the Association during the Year over and above the call of duty.
Charlie Harris (BC)

In October 2019 Charlie Harris stood down from his role as President of the Bristol Channel area of the OGA after a very successful five-year period. During his tenure Charlie led the group with great distinction and inspired a commitment from BC area members to promote traditional rig cruising on the Bristol Channel. His beautiful Sou'wester 18, Chloe OGA2995, built by Charlie in 2008, continues to grace the waters out from Cardiff on many days during the sailing season, and is an inspiration to all who catch a glimpse of her.

During his tenure Charlie instituted an innovative annual programme of day cruises on the Channel. He generously shared his extensive knowledge of the local waters, and the seamanship skills needed to enjoy the often-challenging waters of the Bristol Channel encountered by traditionally rigged, small boats. Over his tenure as President he coaxed, cajoled, and coached the sometimes reluctant and 'young to sailing' old gaffers to leave the protected waters of Cardiff Bay to embrace the pleasure of sailing on the Channel. By the end of his tenure, a fleet of 7 or 8 gaffers, and one or two classic yachts, were regularly locking out of Cardiff Bay to cruise Up or Down Channel on the tide or, depending on the wind direction perhaps circumnavigating the islands of Flatholm and Steephholm. Since stepping down as President, Charlie continues to support the area officers working on sailing events, and still leads the Bristol Channel day cruise series.

In addition to his inspirational leadership afloat, Charlie also represented the OGA with distinction on land, demonstrating his organisational and public relations abilities. He led the BC area when it collaborated with several maritime organisations based at Cardiff Bay in hosting the very successful small boat celebration of the 55th birthday of the OGA in Cardiff. In 2018 he negotiated the establishment of a Gaffer sailing section at Cardiff Bay Yacht Club and ensured non-resident OGA boats were accommodated in the activities of the club. He was also an enthusiastic advocate, with Paul Jolley of South West Gaffers, in the early stages of bringing the national AGM of the OGA to Bristol in January 2020.

We commend him as a worthy nominee for the award of the David Cade Memorial Trophy based upon his selfless, positive influence, and the largely unheralded commitment that lies beneath Charlie's many, many contributions to the OGA community over several years.

ODTAA Cup

To acknowledge a contribution to the OGA not covered by any other trophy. **Paul Jolley (SW)**

Paul Jolley is nominated in recognition of him being the main architect of the first, very successful, out-of-London OGAAGM that was held in Bristol in January. We think Paul was the person who first suggested the framework for an out-of-London event (maritime heritage, good transport links, etc.) and who proposed Bristol as the first such venue. Once this was agreed, in principle, he worked hard with the Officers from the Bristol Channel Area (who also deserve our gratitude) to

sort out the details and make it all happen. The record-breaking attendance was probably proof enough that the concept was sound but we should add to that the varied and lasting memories that the attendees will have taken away with them. I hesitate to pick out any highlights from the event, but few who were there will ever forget Vic Love's Ambling band.

Gaffers Globe Award

A major voyage relative to their boat and experience during the year. **Alasdair Mackenzie (EC)**

Alasdair MacKenzie is nominated for his cruise in "Faith", down the Thames from Oxford & then onward to Brightlingsea in 2019. Faith is an 18' traditional inshore East Coast working boat, or winkle-brig. With his sister Elspeth as crew, Alasdair successfully navigated their way through locks, under bridges, around other craft in all weathers, sleeping under a boom tent in, on more than one occasion, a very damp sleeping bag. They sailed and motored over 200 miles in 8 days.

Gaffers Tales Award

For the best contribution to Gaffers Log during the current year. **Ben Collins (Sol)**

There was a clear winner out of many engaging pieces. A simple Solent journey in an open boat was illuminated by a tightly written, constantly engaging style so that the reader shared the sense of relief and achievement of the author in unexpected, twists, turns and challenges overcome. Published as "A small boat adventure" in the Autumn edition of the Log.

Tales of Sail Award

The best contribution to the Gaffers Log and associated media content **Mark Sweetnam (DB)**

Mark, as Honorary Secretary of DBOGA, revolutionized the way in which DBOGA communicates with its members and the rest of the OGA. Mark set up four *What's App* channels. *DBOGA Announcements* is dedicated to events. *DBOGA Committee* is used by committee members for general correspondence. *DBOGA Chat* is dedicated to the discussion of DBOGA-related matters and items of general interest and relevance to all members. *DBOGA Flotsam & Jetsam* focuses on the discussion of poetry, art, literature, history and culture involving and led by DBOGA members. This group can include non-DBOGA members. Mark pioneered the use of Zoom within DBOGA with their first Zoom talk taking place in April 2020. We have now commenced our second series of Zoom talks.

Mark has also ensured that DBOGA has contributed to the OGA website in terms of posting details of our events including recordings of all talks on the *Dublin Bay OGA YouTube Channel*. Mark has contributed directly to the Gaffers Log through his area reports and badgered DBOGA members to contribute articles! Largely due to Mark's efforts DBOGA will emerge into the post-Covid world as a more close-knit and cohesive seafaring fraternity. As many of DB member's boats are moored well beyond Dublin Bay, on Ireland's south and west coasts, Mark's innovative use of social media has largely eliminated the "tyranny of distance" and created a community of "virtual old gaffers! ".

Janty Cup

A member under the age of 25 years for the best contribution to the Gaffers Log or to an older member writing about a youth event. **Alasdair Simpson (NW)**

Not under the age of 25 but his account, featured in 'From the Boat Yards' section of the Summer edition of GaffersLog, took us through the history of 'Deva' from her building in 1912 to her restoration by 19 yr old Tom Curtis.

Jolie Brise Trophy

A significant contribution to Gaff Rig. **Martin Haigh (NE)**

Martin's contribution to gaff rig includes the rebuilding of his 1930 vintage Northumberland OD 'Wagtail' – including renewing the mast; spars; rig & sails. 'Wagtail' won the 2018 OGA(NE) race & currently holds the 'Harris' Trophy. In his 'day job' as shipwright at the Blyth Tall Ship project he has had close involvement with all aspects of building; repair; maintenance and operation of a variety of gaff & other traditional rig craft ranging in size from the galleass ketch Baltic trader 'Williams II' down to the 12' lug rig dinghy 'Little Willy'. At present he is engaged in the building of a 'Zulu' replica and the restoration / repair of a number of fishing cobles. Additionally his support, fundraising & promotion activities (photos, fridge magnets, half hull & full models etc) continues. Martin supported and promoted gaff rig and OGA gaff dinghy on the national stage by attending the RYA Dinghy show 2019 as part of the team manning the OGA stand. He leads (at the moment alone) the OGA(NE) Dinghy Project & has given his unqualified support and commitment to its continuation and development. I believe this guarantees the Project's future & see it as a major factor in securing the existence of the North East Area.

The Alan Hidden Trophy, the Cape Horn Trophy and Grumpy Cups II were not awarded this year.