

Results of the OGA 2022 Photographic Competition

There were 80 entries judged by Sandy Miller who presented the results at the January 14, 2023, AGM in Portsmouth. Sandy's comments are below each photograph.

In the Category "Sailing Gaffers":-

First Place - Loic Le Marchand – "Crossing the Channel (Onward of Ito)" - Onward of Ito heading for Brittany, Classic Channel Regatta



Judge Sandy Miller's comments: - "This just leapt out at me when I first scrolled through the entries. The overall effect is stunning and it must have been a wonderful moment crossing the channel. I also thought that you couldn't imagine a better way of showing off a gaff rig than with this perfect silhouette of the lovely Onward of Ito. I can't imagine anyone seeing this and not wanting to be out on the water."

Second Place - Tony Pickering – “Alberta CK318 & fleet” - OGA East coast race 2022.



Judge Sandy Miller's comments: - "The scenes just past Bradwell on the Blackwater at this year's East Coast Race were so exciting to watch and this picture took me straight back there. Alberta is caught beautifully but the compression caused by a longish lens also gives a good impression of a close up scuffle with the other smack, ADC, the bawley Gladys, Bluebell and Kelpie 2 in the background. Fantastic action shot."

Third Place - Mary Gibbs - “Hard work, skipper!” - Rik quanting Pagan round a tight corner on the Reeuwijk Raid.



Judge Sandy Miller's comments: - “This is such a great image. It is one of those caught moments that brilliantly encapsulates a gaffer gathering. Obviously, the expression of the chap with the quant is the focus and highlight of the image but the setting and the lovely mixture of other boats entering the dyke play their part too. Love the light and colours, as well as the slightly dishevelled appearance of the boats as sails are lowered and the wind shielded.”

Highly Commended - Michaela Parker – “Gaffer Wonderings” - There's nothing quite like the wonder of an 'Old Gaffer'.



Judge Sandy Miller's comments: - “This is a particularly interesting and unusual angle. I am no expert at all on portrait photography, but I suspect not everyone would think this was their most flattering angle. It works beautifully, however, and the composition harmoniously brings together all the elements of what is a very clever design, i.e. the straw hat, tan sails, blue sky and sunshine. Very well done indeed. “

In the Category “Life a Sea”: -

First Place - Charles Erb – “Yarmouth Gaffers” - Gaffers dressed over all for the regatta.



Judge Sandy Miller's comments: - "This was a clear winner for me. There is a real contrast in this picture between a sense of calm, with the still water and perfect reflections, and the sense of excitement and occasion evident with the boats all dressed up. The colours of the flags combined with the natural contrast between the lovely warm evening light on the wood and the cool blues of the sky and water create a wonderful effect. Both exciting and calm, warm and cool, and the promise of the evening's festivities with all these wonderful boats in one place."

Second Place - Mark Turner – “Readying to race...” - ‘Cynthia’ stalks Yealm ‘Flirt’ to the Dartmouth start line.



Judge Sandy Miller's comments: - “There are so many things I love about this picture. Not least the beautiful Cynthia in the background. What a beautiful sight she is and perfectly integrated into the composition. It is very cleverly done. There is a lovely contrast of colours between the warm wood and the blue sky. The Devon setting is stunning, the helm is perfectly placed in the picture and the overall effect is very engaging. I hope the race was as good as the picture is of getting ready for it.”

Third Place - Julian Cable – “Robinetta off Jura” - A restful day sail from Puilladobhrain to Lussa Bay.



Judge Sandy Miller's comments: - "What a great capture. If ever there was a good advertisement for the benefits of being on the water in lovely surroundings, then this must it. The light, setting and colours are wonderful but it is really that happy and relaxed smile that makes the picture such a success. If ever those on Robinetta that day were a bit stressed during the dark days of winter, this must be the perfect antidote."

Highly Commended - Charles Erb – “Taking the helm” - My father-in-law's first trip.



Judge Sandy Miller’s comments: - “This is a very strong image and one I kept coming back to. The idea of it being a 1st trip is important context I think but there is a certain intimacy about this picture that I felt was very well captured. Again, a very strong memory of a trip and an experience. Very well done.

In addition to the eight selected photographs above, judge Sandy Miller mentioned some other noteworthy photographs: -

“There were many very strong images this year, which made the competition a real pleasure to judge, if not a little difficult. There were a couple in both categories that didn't win awards but nevertheless deserved a mention.”

Mentions in the Sailing Gaffers category: -

“Firstly, in the Sailing Gaffers category, 'Back in Time' (Varuna) by **Josh Masters**. This is very atmospheric: great light and it captures her traditional look after her rebuild.”



“Secondly, ‘White Sails Grey Sky’ by **Paul Masters**. I would love to have taken this picture! The elegant Cachalot looks such a picture against that beautiful sky.”



“And in the Life at Sea category, ‘Concentrate’ by **Paul Masters**: I loved the idea of the sisterly rivalry that brought about this picture of concentration. Very well captured with the Memory looming behind Clytie.”



'T Time (Barbarossa)' by **Robert Hart**: The grin says it all. It is so well captured. I think this picture makes a great memory of a trip and sums up why we take pictures."

