

The OGA at 50 Newsletter December 2011



An information update to Members on progress so far in working towards our 50th Birthday celebrations in the summer of 2013.

Compiled by Robert Holden (Hon Sec.) from whom additional electronic copies of this Newsletter are available.

Our OGA President Mike Shaw's Foreword

2013 Celebrations take shape!

We have met with many members this Summer and they have given their views and offered to help in a variety of ways in the build up to 2013.

2013 plans are now taking shape with more flesh on the bones. Some have been modified and adapted to circumstances, but we can be assured that the practical efforts and initiatives we are exploring, will do us all credit for many years to come.

With a year and half to go, we know this much: We shall be enjoying plenty of sailing, lots of 'foreign' waters for many of us, making many new friends, and it goes without saying, a fair amount of partying!

We have especially enjoyed working up an EU bid with several partners here and in France. This feature is spe-

cial as it fulfils most members' aspirations to do something for the Young and encourage them to share our

passion, our maritime history, and understand a bit about our traditional boating. And, if we are lucky, they may have the chance of new skills, experiences, even qualifications and hopes for employment. I am delighted to say that we are going ahead with this bid. And it won't cost the OGA an arm and a leg.

Now's the time for our members to rally behind the OGA 50 committees. We would like everyone to be ambassadors for our

plans, to help in ways they can, to help us spread the word – please remember, we are looking at the next 50 years and how we can shape them, as well as our own grand parties in 2013.



Dutch Tall Ships in Ramsgate during the course of their Race of the Classics - 15th April 2009. Photo Robert Holden.

Chaloner's Summary

After a year's steady development on all aspects, we are pleased to report that all the approved OGA 50th celebratory projects are on track, with a few tweaks here and there. We have continually appraised What we seek to do, How it befits our celebrations and How to do it.

We have several most promising partners here in the UK and more recently France in order to have a go at EU funds. If we are lucky with the bid, this will provide the core funds for us and our partners to involve the Young, and help ensure we pass on a lasting Legacy, passion and enjoyment of traditional rigs and boats.

At our recent GMC October meeting, all 2013 planned activities were once again approved, with a sensible downsizing at Cowes. The Next Tidal gate will be at our March GMC session.



How tall is 'Tall'? Photo Robert Holden

The Principal activities & projects

Following the successful Steering groups which shaped our plans, new committees have been formed and tasked to oversee the RBC, Cowes, Sponsorship and the EU bid.

They will be producing written reports in time for the Association and AGM.

1. **Round Britain Sailing Challenge (RBC)** – opportunity for all boats large & small to have an adventure of a life time, starting & joining wherever they wish, but with the main finish & fanfare at Cowes

A Plan of proposed Routes, principal ports of call and dates is being prepared.

We know too our French & Dutch friends are keen to join.

- ☐ Impressive number of boats signed up
- ☐ Most going clock-wise, but firm route, principal ports and dates to come
- ☐ Principal Charity partner presently is the RNLI
- ☐ OGA Area Events – organised to time in with the RBC if possible
- ☐ Youth Sail Training programme in association with our EU partners
- ☐ Charter Boats in company
- ☐ Do check the OGA 50th Website as things develop

2. **Young Boatbuilding Apprenticeships & Traditional sailing courses – EU project**

- ☐ EU bid progressing to provide a viable bid by June 2012. Meetings to develop & share best practice & ideas with all EU partners
- ☐ Lead Partner will be the IBTC(International Boatbuilding Training College) with the NHS (National Historic Ships) & RYA, Trinity Sailing Trust, the OGA
- ☐ French partners expected to be Les Vieux Greements (Normandy & Brittany) and in a sailing capacity the French OGA. Another French organisation is hopeful.
- ☐ IBTC to provide the administration, finance officer, a bursary and education officer – all partners to share and support
- ☐ OGA contributions will be largely mentoring, advisory and monitoring; In-kind for the match-funding; we will consider a modest contribution for a bursary once the bones are in place.
- ☐ We depend on sponsorship monies for this and Cowes
- ☐ A key element in the EU programme is the potential for cultural exchanges of the Young sailors/boatbuilders – an aspect that excites us.
- ☐ We envisage a small team of OGA members to help administer, monitor & mentor the scheme
- ☐ We remain convinced that this activity complements OGA 50 Aims, the Young & Legacy, and will add new blood to the organisation

Our overall Aim, shared by all partners is to nourish the skills, knowledge and practice for the Young in the fine arts of Traditional Boatbuilding & repair, and the sailing of traditional rigs and boats. The courses will be accredited leading to qualifications – and based on land and water. Clearly, if successful, the RBC and coded larger boats will offer a marvellous opportunity for the Young to do their practical sail training on board. And that will bring many benefits, experiences, adventures, stories, learning and new found friends.

3. Cowes Traditional Festival of Sail – August 15th – August 18th 2013

A new committee is being formed from mainly OGA members to oversee this event.

Much depends on the new arrangements with the Yacht Haven. It is expected that the Yacht Haven management & Concessionaire will oversee activities, stalls, Bar and food etc.

The Island sailing Club to oversee the Sailing & Racing.

- ☐ The GMC resolved to downsize this event and prefer not to pay professionals to manage things
- ☐ Grand welcome for visiting boats - Sailing –Parade – racing – Music & Cultural festival – Food!
- ☐ Chance to celebrate our Jubilee with the French, Dutch, et al
- ☐ Draft Programme devised
- ☐ Open to the Public – Good links to the Town
- ☐ Indicative costs & revenues being amended to reflect the scale
- ☐ Can expect a grand and popular welcome with the Town
- ☐ Event structure taking shape

4. Funding

There remain 3 main sources:

- ☐ 2 interested Partners keen to act as delivering partners: International Boatbuilding Training College – 1.Lowestoft 2. Lyme Regis Boatbuilding Academy
- ☐ Keen for EU bid to progress, to help provide a viable programme, subject to further meetings to develop & share best practice & ideas with EU partners

Event income as defined in the Cowes documents

We are fully aware of the present and likely future economic situation. We have downscaled our sponsorship expectations. We have a professional smart sponsorship brochure.

5. What Next ...

- ☐ We visit our Belfast friends later this month to share the plans and get their ideas.
- ☐ Our RBC Plan and Itinerary, principal ports and dates goes out this winter.
- ☐ More articles will appear in the Boating press.
- ☐ Our Sponsorship pack is now ready and waiting.
- ☐ We have regular meetings to work up project plans with EU partners.
- ☐ The idea of a OGA 50th classic little dinghy design & build by members, for the Young and not so Young, has inspired several members, as well as our French & Dutch colleagues. This is a feature we shall consider including in the EU project plan.

We are pleased to report that all the 2013 programme activities still reflect our members' preferred Wish List and will, if all goes well, admirably promote our Aims and Themes, as well as all enjoy lots of very good parties and sailing.

Members - ACTION STATIONS!

We now need to beef up our support to make sure things happen. The period November – March is the only time we can muster many members. If you can spare an hour or two a month, the occasional advice, then please do let us know and sign up on the Reply Slip. Our membership is rich with many talents, professionals, skills and knowledge in many fields. We now need to tap this rich seam! We especially need legal & finance advice, accountants, fundraising support, help with event organising....so please step forward boldly.



OGA 50 Jubilee Reply Slip



Name:

OGA Area:

Contact details Tel: M: Email:

- | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | OGA 50 cttee - Legal/Finance: | <div>PLEASE
TICK</div> | Cowes event Legal/Finance/accounting: | <div>PLEASE
TICK</div> |
| | (The finance/accountant could support the new treasurer for 1-5 hrs a month) | | | |
| 2. | EU project support - Finance - occasional advice: | → | | <div>PLEASE
TICK</div> |
| 3. | Mentoring Young, attending local board meetings to oversee, select Young: | → | | <div>PLEASE
TICK</div> |
| | Perhaps sit on an occasional Board | → | | <div>PLEASE
TICK</div> |
| 4. | Sponsorship support, help with data base work, records | → | | <div>PLEASE
TICK</div> |

Do you have any likely candidates, suggestions for Sponsorship? If yes, details please:

How might they like to be approached?

Please contact by email, post or telephone roberttjan@holdenrj.fsnet.co.uk or ChalonerC@gmail.com

Details in Gaffers Log.