



Westerly Owners' Association

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Minutes of the Association 59th AGM 2026 (subject to ratification)

Held at the RNLI College Poole

On Saturday 31st January 2026. Commencing at 10.30 am.

Present from the Committee: Brian Jones – Commodore BJ, Bob Walker – Vice Commodore BW, Jeremy Smallwood JS2, Jan Smallwood JS, Mike Neal - Rear Commodore MN, Chris Dent CD, Chris Hoar CH, Chris Strang CS, Tom Teichmann TT, Emma LeFeuvre EL.

Apologies for Absence: Graham & Sheila McCarty, Duncan & Margaret Tannahill, Mike Haynes, Dave Tarbour, Michael Allan, Mark & Julie Allan, Ann Rand, Eddie & Terasa Niewiarowski.

There were 82 participants and 7 past Commodores present.

The AGM commenced at 11:10.

Agenda Item.

1. To receive and approve the minutes of the 58th AGM of 25th January 2025.

Proposed by Gill Clare. Seconded by Bob Walker. A hand vote was taken and they were unanimously accepted.

2.1 To receive the Commodore's Report:

Brian welcomed everyone to the 59th AGM of the Westerly Owners Association and presented his report on some of the issues and highlights of his time as commodore.

SailTies – WOA investigated a bespoke version of SailTies for the benefit of members which would have required significant investment. This was presented at an AGM but the membership decided not to proceed.

Calor Gas – WOA successfully campaigned for Calor Gas to reverse a decision to drop 4.5kg Propane Cylinders.

Event Management – WOA developed a management procedure to run events to minimise risk and protect those organising. This was introduced at the 2025 AGM and has been adopted by Area Groups for events run in 2025, some minor tweaking to the forms is under review following feedback from the first years' experience.

ASC24 – A successful event run by the East Coast Group culminating in a memorable sail through Tower Bridge into the Pool of London.

Southampton Boat Show - Brian's boat 'Bootlegger' was on show for WOA in 2024.

Archives – The Association is archiving the wealth of material saved from the skip after the collapse of Westerly yachts, it is hoped to build a database of boats past and present as a source of material for researchers and owners.

Website – Recognising the existing website is now somewhat outdated a working party was put together under Tom Teichmann to investigate requirements and develop a new WOA website. It is hoped this will be released for testing in Spring 2026.

Facebook – Membership is now some 12k, many more than the paid-up membership of the organisation and a major means of communicating with the wider Westerly community.

Stow VA – Rose Casey, as WOA's Virtual Assistant, now undertakes many of the administration activities for the organisation.

Yearbook – 2024 saw the final hardcopy Yearbook, production of which had been identified to compromise GDPR. A password protected online version has been developed which went live for 2025 which can be accessed via the website by members.

WOA Logo – the WOA logo has been registered as a Trademark copywriting its use for the Association.

RYA Course Refunds - To encourage the acquisition of sailing related skills a refund towards part of the cost of approved RYA courses has been introduced, some 7 applications have been received to date.

ECG SC25 – The East Coast Group, together with members of Westerly Club Netherlands, put on a cruise to the Netherlands in June 2026. A great time was had by all though for some the passages to and from the French coast were rather challenging!

Bristol Channel Group – Unfortunately the group has folded due to no one coming forward to continue the group.

North Wales Group – Attended a meeting at which a possible 60th Anniversary rally in association with the Scotland and NW Groups was discussed.

WOA 60th Logo competition – A competition was held for a commemorative logo to celebrate the anniversary for both adult and junior entrants.

Poorly Marked Fishing Tackle – Partly as the result of one of the Dutch boats becoming entangled off Dungeness on his way to cruise the south coast after the Netherlands Cruise, and a survey sent out to WOA members asking for reports of similar incidents, Brian is heading up a WOA working Group on the subject. The Working Group will be gathering information and consulting with the Cruising Association and RYA to develop mitigation measures for WOA members.

Thanks – Brian thanked all for attending and for the tremendous effort put in by so many for the benefit of the Association during his time as Commodore.

Proposed by George Pickburn. Seconded by Gill Clare. A hand vote was taken, and the Commodore's report was unanimously accepted.

2.2 To receive the Treasurer's report:

Chris Dent commented on the audited accounts for the year ending 30th September 2025 which were distributed in the room.

Bank account balance £79,249.

Chris has stepped down and introduced Jonathan Kent who has taken over as Treasurer. James Shillito has agreed to remain as auditor.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Jeremy Smallwood. Seconded by Doug Pattison. A hand vote was taken and they were unanimously accepted.

3. Election of the Association Committee.

The following committee members were elected at the 2025 AGM for a term of 2 years and therefore do not need to be re-elected:

Chris Strang, Jan Smallwood, Jeremy Smallwood, Bill Shepherd, Christina Neal.

Valid nominations have been received for the following to be elected to the Association Committee.

Mike Neal, Bob Walker, Steve Little, Tom Teichmann, Jonathan Kent, John Payne.

Proposed by Jeremy Smallwood, Seconded by Dick Leedham. These members were unanimously elected.

4. Ratification of Committee members to the following positions.

The names of the committee members and positions are listed below.

Bob Walker - Commodore

Mike Neil - Vice Commodore / Boat Show Organiser

Tom Teichmann - Rear Commodore

Jonathan Kent- Treasurer

Chris Strang - Secretary

Bill Shepherd - Minutes Secretary

Jan Smallwood- Magazine Editor

John Payne- Technical Editor

Position Vacant - PR and Communications

Position Vacant - Commercial Manager

Christina Neal - Regalia

Jeremy Smallwood -Zoom Manager

Steve Little – Committee Member

Election to the committee of these members proposed by Jeremy Smallwood. Seconded by Doug Pattison.

5. **Honorary Auditor** – James Shillito.

6. **AOB.**

There were no notified AOB items.

Brian Jones thanked the members of the committee for their support during his time as Commodore.

The meeting closed at 12.22

Presentation of Prizes.

Navigators and General Trophy for the best photograph was awarded to Frank Holden for “When 2 Sealords meet”

Rayner Challenge Plate. For the best cruise log overall is judged by the Flag Officers and this was awarded to Neil and Karen Fuller for Koto & Carina – Brittany Adventure.

Commodore’s Clock This is presented to somebody who has made an outstanding contribution to the association over the year The winner was Jan Smallwood for her work in producing the Magazine.

Precision Paints Prize This prize is awarded by an area group and they decide the criteria and to whom it is awarded. This year the Noth West Group chose to award to Michael Williams for his contribution over the years.

Harken Trophy for the best technical article to Brian Wyles for his article on Autohelm modifications on a Merlin.

Celebration Cup this is a new award for a Challenging Sailing Achievement in a Westerly Yacht and was awarded to James Shillito for his rapid progress from little experience at ASC24 to sailing to the Canaries with plans for an Atlantic crossing in 2026 although this has been stopped due to ill health.

Best ASC25 Photo Awarded to Doug Pattison for “Only Slightly Aground” taken at Calstock.


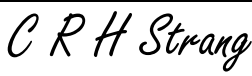
Best Written Article in the Magazine went to Jeff Middleton for “The Rise and Fall of Sesi”.

Special thanks went Chris Dent as retiring Treasurer, Tim Harrison for taking “Xante of Exe” to the Southampton Boat Show, and Rose Casey for her support with WOA admin.

After lunch there was an extremely interesting talk and presentation given by Gary O’Grady on his preparations for taking part in the Golden Globe Race 2030. This is a single handed circumnavigation using only the technology available on the first event won by Robin Knox-Johnson in Suhaili in 1968-69.

Bill Shepherd
Minutes Secretary
February 2026

Minutes accepted

Signed. Bob Walker. Commodore		Date: 05 Feb 2026
Signed. Chris Strang. Secretary		Date 5 February 2026