

Annual Report N° 19

2022/2023



*19th Annual Report & Financial Statement of the **Broom Owners Club***

www.broomowners.com

Broom Owners Club

BOC AGM

Saturday, 18th November 2023, 3.00 - 4.30pm

To be held at Dunston Hall Hotel, Norwich NR14 8PQ

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence** (list to be circulated at the meeting)
2. **Approval of the accuracy of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting*** held on Sunday 23rd October 2022 at the Portsmouth Marriott Hotel, PO6 4SH (published on the web-site, printed copies available on request)
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** (but not covered elsewhere on this Agenda)
4. **Acceptance of the Annual Report**, (pages 1 – 23) including
 - 4.1 The **Chairman and the Vice-Chairman**
 - 4.2 The **General Secretary**
 - 4.3 The **Treasurer** (including **Acceptance of the Receipts and Payments Account***) and a **Proposal for the 2024/25 Annual subscription***
 - 4.4 The **Membership Secretary**
 - 4.5 The **Magazine Editor**
 - 4.6 The **Web master**
 - 4.7 The **Technical Co-ordinator**
 - 4.8 The **National Events Co-ordinator**
 - 4.9 **Regional Reports for the Central; Eastern; European; Ireland; South Coast; South East and Thames Regions and Regional Representatives.**
5. **Martin Broom Memorial Trophy 2023**
6. **Future AGM arrangements**
7. **Election of Committee members*** (pages 23 - 29)
8. **Any other business**

N.B ONLY UNDERLINED ITEMS MARKED * WILL BE VOTED ON.

It is anticipated that this formal part of the meeting will close by 4.30 pm. After a **tea/coffee break**, there will be an opportunity for **general discussion**. Any suggestions and ideas for development cannot be voted on at *this* AGM but will be taken forward for consideration by the new committee.

2022/23 BROOM OWNERS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is the time, as Chairman, that I report on my year in the role, to the Club. Let me begin by saying it's been a busy year, and eventful. The committee has worked hard for the Club and has delivered, too. The Club continues to grow and our membership is now around the 550 mark - that's 550 Broom boats of all sizes and models - with members throughout Europe and Ireland as well as in the UK. The present structure of the Club divides it into regions, and our Regional Co-ordinators are the heart-beat of the Club. Presently, they include:

Peter Ward who has been Eastern Region Co-ordinator, in post since 2020. During his tenure **Peter** has seen the region grow and his regular coffee mornings have helped members meet each other, whilst his newsletters have kept them informed. **Peter** has also been involved with work to ensure the Broads bridges operate, working with others to keep pressure on the various authorities concerned, to minimise delay and speed up works where necessary. The highlight of the region is the Beccles meet and this year, the third that **Elaine Ward** has organised, saw a record number of boats attending. Unfortunately, **Peter and Elaine** will stand down at the AGM, as they intend to spend more time cruising, particularly in Holland and perhaps further afield. This is our largest region, and it needs a Co-ordinator. Whilst Beccles will continue, once again with the help of **Jane Neale**, as I write, we do not yet have a volunteer to take on **Peter's** role. Could this be you?

Don Walker, who heads up the European region, and has maintained a steady and enthusiastic membership, and the second, very successful, Naarden meet saw another gathering with our Dutch, German and English members, who enjoyed a very international event, once again ably led and coordinated by **Keith and Carole Rowe**. **Don** has been in the role for a number of years and is now looking for a replacement. Whilst he intends to continue for the immediate future, it would be really good if a replacement could be found now. A full description of the Co-ordinator role is on the web-site, so please have a look and put your name forward if you can.

Pete Fishwick, the Ireland Co-ordinator. Pete had an immediate and continuing impact when he took on the role in 2020. He founded a *WhatsApp* group to facilitate communications and holds coffee mornings, which allow members to meet up and get to know each other. They also attract new members, and Pete has had a very successful three years, his hard work in rejuvenating the region, without a Co-ordinator since 2016, being rewarded by a steady and very noticeable increase in new members - the Ireland region is up and running again!

Alan Foden is the South East Co-ordinator and employed the services of **Keith Rowe** to hold a very successful technical meeting through *Zoom*, where members were able to resolve many issues and receive some helpful advice and answers to their many questions, too.

Gill Oldham co-ordinates the South Coast, with its many successful events, but perhaps the crowning moment amongst many was the weekend visit **Gill** organised to the RNLI College in Poole. Sadly, this will be **Gill's** swan song. After many years in various roles both supporting and leading the Club, **Gill** is standing down, which is very sad news indeed. Again, a new Co-ordinator is required. The region has many active members so, as in other regions, the Co-ordinator doesn't have to do all the work. The key is in the title – 'Co-ordinator'. Does that sound like something you could do to contribute to the smooth running of the Region? If so, please put your name forward. You'll be very well received and made very welcome, too.

The news in the Thames region is better. **Terry Sharp** volunteered for and has been co-opted onto the Role as Thames Region Co-ordinator, and has also agreed to stand for election at this year's AGM. **Terry** has already held a successful event on the Thames and has plans for the future. It's really great to see our second largest region one again with an active Co-ordinator, so a big welcome on board to **Terry**.

Meanwhile, the Central Region is presently without a Co-ordinator, so past Chairman **Peter Bentley** has been keeping an eye on things and will hopefully be able to pass on the mantle at the AGM.

In the other regions, with smaller membership numbers, we have Representatives whose role is to help and advise visiting Broom owners as well as to encourage members to join in the BOC fun. Last year, our long-standing representative in the Channel Islands, **Peter Donne Davis**, stood down. We haven't yet found a replacement, but in the meantime, Peter is always ready to offer a helpful suggestion to visiting BOC members. I'm grateful to **Peter**, as indeed I'm grateful to all the Regional Representatives for carrying out these roles and for ensuring that the BOC continues to be represented everywhere. These include **Sandy Aitken** in Scotland; **Bevan Kendall**, who this last year has been helped by **Jane Neale**, in the South West and **Keith Tristram** in the Western Region. Thank you all for the time and assistance you give to the Club.

The Co-ordinators and Representatives have been ably assisted by the other committee members, who have given a lot of their time and knowledge to ensuring the Club continues to meet the requirements of members. These include Vice Chairman and Technical Co-ordinator, **Keith Rowe**, who has been busy offering technical savvy both at regional events and individually to members, as well as organising, together with Carole, that very successful Naarden event. Keeping the Club financially secure is our erstwhile Treasurer, **David Evans**, striving successfully in this vital role to ensure the Club remains solvent. **David** is standing down this year, and it is very much hoped that the Club will vote to elect **Debbie Eames**, whose expertise and enthusiasm will be of great benefit to the Club. Web Master **Louise Busby**, having successfully implemented the transition from the old to the new website, has been overseeing the smooth running of this centrally important function, keeping it up to date and helping members with its

use. Last October, **Karen Fishwick** successfully took over the role of Membership Secretary, a very forward-facing job, which provides the first point of contact for all prospective members. This is a continuing vital role and, as membership grows, an increasingly busy one, and it is very much appreciated that **Karen** took on this task and carries it out so efficiently.

After 13 years in the role, I was able to pass on the baton of editing and producing the Club magazine to **Jocelyn Jones** and I can happily say that I haven't been missed! **Jocelyn** has accepted the challenge with alacrity and is now seamlessly putting together her second edition, after a very successful and well received Spring 2023, first edition.

Observant readers will have noticed two names missing from my listing of the hard-working Committee. The first is that of **John Oldham**, our General Secretary, who has worked tirelessly over the last 12 years to ensure the Club has remained legal, has met with data protection and Health and Safety requirements and the tenets of the Constitution and, more importantly, has kept a number of Chairmen, including myself, on the straight and narrow and free from embarrassing mistakes. Having suffered somewhat from ill health, **John** has decided to stand down from this heavy role. However, he's not entirely giving up all his work for the Club, as he's volunteered to deal with aspects of Club communication, which have become a part of his growing Secretarial duties, until someone can be found to take his place. I'm very happy with this, and there is no doubt that the Club owes a great debt of gratitude to **John**, for his consistent and invaluable work and the giving of his expertise, to help the Club's continuing success.

Who then will take over? Step forward **Linda Varney**. Linda has been shadowing John for a number of months now and many of you will know Linda from her former role as Membership Secretary, which she took over in 2011, overseeing the applications of many members during the past eleven years, subsequently taking on the role of National Events Co-ordinator at the last AGM. Here, **Linda** has been equally impressive, chairing the 20th Anniversary Planning Group, and organising not only the new-format AGM, but also our presence at the Southampton International Boat Show. Here, her endeavours led to us winning a competition for a free site at the show, plus a cash prize of £500, which covered all the expenses and set up costs for the show, enabling us to purchase new equipment which will serve the Club for future events, too. Altogether an accomplished all-round achievement, benefiting the Club and attracting new members.

Linda is a wonderful example of someone quietly working away to ensure the success of the Club, and I hope members will join me in voting for **Linda** to succeed John as the next General Secretary. As you can easily see, I am indebted to **John** and **Linda** for all their efforts on behalf of the Club both during my year as Chairman and before and I am sure you will all agree that they deserve a really big vote of thanks.

Of course, I am very aware that many of the committee would not be successful in their roles without the support of their partners, who put up with absences due to committee meetings and time spent on various duties, as well as for all the suggestions and help that partners provide towards the smooth running of the Club. To all of them, committee members, Regional Representatives and partners alike, I offer my gratitude and thanks.

The Club would definitely not survive in its present format without all the hard work and expertise they provide.

This leads nicely onto positions on the Committee and the vacancies that will arise this year. Could you be the one to volunteer to take over and keep this great Club running? It does, of course, take, up some time, but its not unmanageable and all the roles are very rewarding in their own right. Elsewhere in the AGM paperwork are nomination forms for Committee posts. They are all roles important to the smooth running and success of the Club. If you can help at all, then please put your name forward. We need you and we would love to hear from you.

If we cannot fill the posts, and some have been vacant for quite a time, then this could lead to a re-evaluation of the structure of the Club, how it operates and how it is organised. Perhaps regions could merge? Do we need a regional structure at all? The structure works well, but if we cannot fill Co-ordinator roles then we will have to think again. Your committee will be examining this over the coming year, but if, in the meantime, you would like to make any suggestions or offer any advice on the existing structure and organisation of the Club, then please let me, or any member of the Committee, know. Your input would be very much appreciated.

As Chairman, I have had a year of variety and interest and have met a good number of members. I had a great time in Norwich, attending **Keith and Carole Rowe's** presentation to 'new to sea-going' crews and potential UK participants in the 2023 Naarden event. It was a very well attended and successful evening, which gave a lot of encouragement to those aiming to take their boats to sea for the first time.

I also had a good evening with Thames members, attending **Terry Sharp's** first event, a weekend meeting based at *Tingedene's* Thames and Kennet (T&K) Marina, which involved a lot of fun, some pubs and apparently a shopping trip (I'll leave **Terry** to explain) and a jolly supper at the T&K Marina on-site bar and cafe. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event and very good to see Thames members once again participating in a Regional event.

With next year's 20th anniversary in mind, I set up a working group to plan how the Club should celebrate it. Chaired by **Linda Varney**, it includes **Keith Rowe**, **Peter Ward** and **Graham Eames** and the centre piece will be a Pageant, attracting as many Broom boats as possible, of all types, at the spiritual home of Broom Boats in Brundall, over the late May Bank Holiday, in 2024. Whilst this will be the Club's central celebration, it's also hoped that Regions will organise

local celebrations too, but on a different date. Additionally, we aim to produce an anniversary book - a year book - together with photographs and notes on all members' boats to provide a snapshot of the Club in its 20th year and a history of the Club to date. The book will be available for members to purchase as a lasting memento. Ideas for inclusion will be very welcome.

Although we no longer have the same relationship with *Broom Boats* as formerly, I wrote to the Managing Director (MD), explaining our intentions, and received a positive response. This has been enhanced following a meeting **Keith** and **Peter** had with the MD. I also wrote to **James Fraser** of Norfolk Yacht Agency, and again received a very positive response. It all augers well for a memorable 20th anniversary celebration. We hope you can be there.

Earlier in the year, I initiated a major, Club wide survey, which provided some interesting results. Statistically relevant, the survey achieved 177 responses, 35% of the Club membership. The responses will help to guide the direction of the Club to meet the requirements of members. In the conduct of the survey, I was very pleased to have the help and expertise of **Carole Rowe**, who put the whole exercise together and provided the collation and analysis of the results. It was a very worthwhile exercise, and I am very grateful to **Carole** for all her assistance.

To give support to Regional Coordinators, **Keith Rowe** and I held a Zoom meeting with them all, aimed at sharing information between regions and promoting suggestions and co-operation between them. It was successful and it is intended that this becomes a regular annual event.

Together with the Treasurer I looked at the Club insurance cover. The policy, which is a standard RYA recommended type, negotiated through the RYA approved broker, provides cover in bands of membership numbers. It was found not to cover Club activities in Europe or Ireland, and this has now been rectified. Nor were we covered for our growing membership, and so we raised our band of cover accordingly, to cater for our 500+ membership level. Both these necessary actions have resulted in a higher premium, as shown in the Club accounts.

The accounts also show a loss with regard to AGMs due to the very low number of members who attended last year. The Committee took the decision that we could not hold AGMs as previously and risk more Club funds. We then had to cancel the proposed 2023 AGM at *Dunston Hall Hotel & Spa*, as the deposit we had paid was due to increase incrementally over time and we could not guarantee that members would attend in the numbers they had done, pre-Covid. This led to us having to forfeit the £500 deposit we had paid. We are constitutionally required to hold an AGM, so this year we are trying a new format by holding it on one day, rather than the traditional two/three day weekend, with an emphasis on members making their own reservations for any accommodation requirements, and with a dinner in the evening, based on only a small number of members attending, thus reducing the size of deposit, and potential loss, the Club would have had to pay.

We have re-contracted with *Dunston Hall* to hold the AGM there, and with the good offices of **Elaine Ward**, we managed to retrieve the previously lost deposit, which is being used to cover the conference room hire and associated costs for this year's AGM. We have kept costs down to the minimum and have contracted for just 15 meals for the dinner, which we had to undertake to pay for. We already have more than 15 members staying for the dinner, so the cost of the dinners will be covered. This has kept costs to the minimum for the Club and reduced further risks to Club funds.

We still do not have as many members attending as previously, so this year we will set up a Zoom link to enable members to attend remotely. Additionally, this should enable members in Ireland and Europe to attend in a more accessible manner, although it would be lovely to see members from those regions at the AGM meeting, too. At present, a number of members are meeting on the Friday evening, informally, and will be attending the AGM itself and the evening meal. You are very welcome to attend all or part of the planned AGM events. Just let Linda Varney know as soon as possible.

Whether this will be a successful AGM format and a pattern for future AGMs, remains to be seen. We need further input from you, in addition to that provided in the survey, and the future conduct of AGMs will be on the agenda this year. Please think about it and do let us have your comments. We would very much like to hear your comments and suggestions for how the AGM should be conducted in the future.

Whilst within the Regions we have had a number of successful events this year, we have also had a successful National event too, at the Southampton International Boat Show (SIBS), as outlined above. Many members came to visit our Stand and importantly, many members gave up of their time to help, both in its construction and its staffing. I would particularly like to single out **David Harrison** for his sterling work in both designing and constructing the stand, his help during SIBS to make it more secure as the weather deteriorated and his willingness to take it all down at the end. He's since patched up the wind damage and made some improvements for its use, and the Stand will continue to be useful for differing BOC events in the future. Thank you, **David**. The Club is grateful for your continuing contributions to its success.

BOC was also at another boat show, Boat Life 2023, held at the NEC in February. **Linda Varney, Don Walker, Keith Rowe** and myself visited with the aim of assessing its suitability as a location for future BOC involvement. It turned out not to be a show for the BOC, but we did make some valuable contacts, with agreements to pay for advertising in *Sweeping Statements* and we now have a number of paid-for advertisements in the magazine. This is the way forward to enable our splendid magazine to continue, in the face of rising costs. If you know of any firm or service provider who might pay for an advertisement in the magazine, please let me, or one of the Committee, know. We need more advertisers, and we need your help in securing them. We

also need someone to run the programme, keep a record of who has paid for what, raise invoices through the Treasurer and generally co-ordinate the advertising. Could this be you? It would be a great way to get involved and help the Club. Interested? Let me know and I'll be happy to hand it over!

In the past we had an arrangement with *Nav&Gen* which gave members a 10% discount on boat insurance, plus free legal cover and No Claims Bonus (NCB) protection. They also contributed £500 to Club funds. Following a recent review, *Nav&Gen* have informed us that they will no longer be able to contribute the £500 and they have removed the free legal cover and NCB protection too, apparently due to changes in Financial Conduct Authority rules. Whilst they cannot re-instate the other benefits, the 10% discount on policy costs is still available. I have asked them instead to take out a full-page ad in the Club magazine, at a cost of £500, and this is still being negotiated. In the meantime, without in any way jeopardising our 10% discount, I am negotiating with other insurers. So far, I have agreed with *Craft Insure* that they will take out an advertisement with us, and I will be interested in member's experiences should they decide to use this broker. I am also negotiating with other insurers to see if we can achieve some beneficial arrangements with them. Please let me know if you have any views on this subject.

There is a great deal of fun and enjoyment to be had from being Chairman, and one of the great joys is being able to recognise and reward the individual efforts of members who help make this Club what it is. During the past 12 months, I've had the very pleasant opportunity to award a Chairman's Letter of Commendation to a number of members, including **Carole Rowe** for her work and expertise in conducting the recent Club-wide survey of members and **David Harrison**, **Linda Varney** and **Peter Smith** for their expertise and skills in contributing to the successful Club Stand at SIBS. They were all richly deserved and acknowledge the enthusiasm that individual members have for the Club and the input they make to ensure its success. Any member can nominate another for the award, and it is a fine way to celebrate members' extra contributions, which benefits the Club. If you have someone in mind, please nominate them to the Committee.

There is also another award the Club can make. **Frank Hawkins**, together with **David Broad** and **Jane Neale**, make up the Martin Broom Memorial Trophy Awards Committee. Annually this awards the Trophy to a member, or a group of members, who have made an outstanding contribution to promoting, supporting or reporting on the use of *Broom* Boats. The presentation of the cup is made at the AGM, The criteria are deliberately left open, so as to encourage as many nominations as possible, and members can enter themselves, nominate other members, or simply encourage individuals or groups to enter the competition for what really is a prestigious award, presented in memory of the late Martin Broom. I await with interest to see

if it has been awarded this year, and who the winner may be. It could be you, but you have to be in it to win it!

This, then, has been my year as Chairman of the Club. Many of the Committee are volunteering to stay on in their roles, as am I and, with their support and your encouragement, we hope to take the Club into its 20th year, stronger, growing and continuing to help members make the most of their great Broom boats. Thank you for your support.

David Haugh, Chairman

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) I have had a very busy and productive year. I have been working closely with the Chairman to encourage new Club members in addition to new Committee members, to join our fun-loving club.

I have also been involved in several projects which have included supporting the Chairman to identify new advertising opportunities at the Boat Life exhibition in February, delivering presentations in Kent and Norfolk (in January and February) on cruising for beginners to support members considering going to sea for the first time and then a further event in the Netherlands at Naarden in June. The latter involved lots of planning in arranging various activities over the weekend and then communicating this to those attending - especially as we had members coming from various countries, including five boats travelling from the UK.

In October I also arranged a presentation and refreshments at *Shipshape Bedding* in Hoveton and this was followed by an interesting tour of an RAF Radar museum.

I am also on the planning committee for the forthcoming 20th anniversary pageant which is now in the programme planning stage after numerous surveys and discussions. Please note the date for this is now **25th – 27th May, 2024** and will be based in Brundall, Norfolk. I am currently in contact with *Brooms, Tingdene* and *Norfolk Yacht Agency* here in Norfolk with regard to giving the Club support with the event.

The AGM is fast-approaching, and I intend to continue to work alongside the Chairman and hope to continue in my role and help to take the club forward for the future.

Thank you again for all your support.

Keith Rowe, Vice Chairman

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's duties of ensuring the smooth-running of the business of the Club have returned to their pre-Covid pattern, with meetings no longer restricted by measures aimed at preventing the spread of infection. However restricting this may have been, some useful lessons were learnt from lockdown, of which, the development of video-conferencing is likely to remain a useful addition to the way the Club communicates with members. It offers a way of sharing ideas and experience that meets the needs of Clubs and organisations with a wide-spread membership such as the BOC. I have been involved in administering and setting up a number of such virtual meetings.

Three face-to-face committee meetings have taken place since the 2022 AGM in Portsmouth, and one *Zoom* meeting in February. The early-year committee meeting has often been dogged by adverse weather and travel restrictions, so committee has proposed that future winter meetings take place virtually. Such meetings require the acquisition of suitable equipment as well as some knowledge and experience if they are to be effective. This is not a simple matter, as the Club needs to provide for participants attending both at a physical meeting and remotely. Ultimately, the potential for holding *Zoom* Regional and interest group meetings, viewing of committee meetings and interactive technical teach-ins are some of the benefits that could be gained. Committee is currently exploring the purchase of equipment, spurred on by the promise to allow remote access to the AGM,

In addition to setting up and administering documents and meetings, I have also been responsible for formatting and sending out bulk messages to both whole-Club and Regional groups. Bulk messaging requires the use of software packages, all of which have aspects that are better-suited to commercial needs than those of a Club such as the BOC. 'Free' services generally restrict the number of recipients that can be circulated or do not offer the flexibility and convenience of more sophisticated systems. Communication is a very important aspect of the life of the Club. The increasing range of possible ways of providing Club information - Magazine, web-site, E-mail, *Facebook*, *WhatsApp*, messaging etc - make it increasingly difficult to ensure that no member is excluded from the benefits of membership.

After more than a dozen years as Secretary, I have decided not to put my name forward for re-election. However. I am aware that I have taken on the bulk E-mail process and a number of other related aspects of communication which it would be difficult for anyone to take on without a significant induction process. I am happy to maintain these tasks until someone with the time and software familiarity is able to take them on.

John Oldham, General Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the financial year ending 31 August 2023. Members will see that we have incurred a substantial loss this year of £4,758.54 as against a projected budget deficit of £1,447. We still retain a satisfactory reserve of a little over £8,000.

The reason for the deficit arises from the problems with the 2022 AGM in Portsmouth. Members will recall that our chosen venue had been denied us as a result of the government requisitioning the hotel to accommodate migrants. As a result, your committee – in particular **Gill** and **John Oldham** – had to do some rapid reorganisation to put in place an AGM by the published date. The attendance at the AGM was not on the level of previous years and as a result, the event overall showed a loss of just over £3,500 (see below). This was compounded by the fact that of the event income, £2,585 was accounted for in the previous financial year which meant that the effective deficit due to the 2022 AGM in these accounts was £5,136.89.

2023 AGM Balance sheet

INFLOWS Event Income	£5,365.00
Hotel Deposit AGM	-£1,000.00
Event Costs	-£6,687.85
AGM Stationery Printing & Postage	-£1,229.04
Total	<u>-£3,551.89</u>

As of the 31 August 2023, we had 536 paid-up members which was an increase of approximately 30 over the preceding year. This continuing upward trend in membership indicates a healthy club. The increasing numbers, however, do pose their own problems in terms of administration and administrative costs. In these accounts, we have also had to deal with the significant effect of inflation; this can best be seen, for example, in magazine costs which rose by over £1,700!

Your committee knew this year was going to be a difficult one in that we were budgeting for a deficit of £1,450. In the circumstances, the resulting deficit is significantly under that which you would expect from the foregoing.

Looking forward to next year, the increase in subscriptions will enable continued growth of the club to be properly supported and should provide a small contribution to the reserve, which is a little on the low side for a club with over 500 members.

A statement comparing the Profit and Loss of the Club for its financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23 is given on page 8, together with the Club year-end Balance Sheet and a copy of the Independent Accounts Examiner's certificate on page 9 below.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE FROM 1st NOVEMBER 2024

At each AGM, members are asked to agree the subscription rate that is to apply for the Club year commencing 12 months ahead i.e. in this case from November 2024/25. Based on the budget forecast I have made; **I am happy to propose the motion:**

That the subscription rate from November 2024 should remain unchanged at those that apply to the current Club year i.e. £30 for UK members and £35 or €40 for those residing outside GB.

I should like to thank my fellow committee members, and you the membership at large, for all the support and encouragement over the past 24 months. It is time for me to take leave of you and move on and I ask you to give the same help, encouragement, and support to your new treasurer.

David Evans Treasurer

Profit & Loss Comparison 31st Aug 2023

Category Description	01/09/2021- 31/08/2022	01/09/2022- 31/08/2023	Amount Difference
INFLOWS			
Event Income	3,865.00	2,853.00	-1,012.00
Other Income			
Advertising Income	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
Donations	82.10	158.50	76.40
TOTAL Other Income	82.10	1,158.50	1,076.40
Sale of Goods – Burgees etc	1,741.31	485.64	-1,255.67
Subscription Income	13,005.54	13,804.38	798.84
TOTAL INFLOWS	18,693.95	18,301.52	-392.43
OUTFLOWS			
Affiliation Fees	220.95	213.75	7.20
Bank Charge	6.59	4.84	1.75
Committee Expenses			
Membership Secretary's Ex's	455.81	566.21	-110.40
Secretary's Ex's	43.95	0.00	43.95
Travel	0.00	616.49	-616.49
Treasurer's Ex's	83.50	0.00	83.50
TOTAL Committee Ex's	583.26	1,182.70	-599.44
Committee Meetings	600.88	143.88	457.00
AGM Expenses	1,526.14	0.00	1,526.14
Catering	130.00	326.50	-196.50
Room Hire	445.00	102.00	343.00
TOTAL Committee Meetings	2,702.02	572.38	2,129.64
Cost of Goods - Burgees	2,315.00	1,248.00	1,067.00
Event Costs	1,998.73	5,319.65	-3,320.92
Gifts and Presentations	100.00	258.00	-158.00
Insurance	740.96	1,209.64	-468.68
Magazine Costs	7,175.22	8,954.04	-1,778.82
Miscellaneous	0.00	55.00	-55.00
Office Costs			
Postage	0.00	355.40	-355.40
Stationery	297.60	1,477.45	-1,179.85
New Members' Packs	409.20	0.00	409.20
TOTAL Stationery	706.80	1,477.45	-770.65
TOTAL Office Costs	706.80	1,832.85	-1,126.05
Regional Development	148.00	0.00	148.00
Travel	0.00	413.15	-413.15
WEB EXPENSES	3,410.00	1,796.06	1,613.94
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	20,107.53	23,060.06	-2,952.53
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,413.58	-4,758.54	-3,344.96

BALANCE SHEET

As of 31/08/2023 (in UK Pounds Sterling) (Accrual Basis)


Account	Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Euro Account NatWest	1,001.57
NatWest Current	7,859.02
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	8,860.59
TOTAL ASSETS	8,860.59
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	8,860.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	8,860.59

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTS EXAMINER'S REPORT

The accounts have been examined by **Robert Middleton**, an ex-member of the Club with the accountancy background necessary for this role. His formal approval is shown below:


Robert Middleton

"Sheiling" Wharf Street, Sutton Bridge, Spalding, Lincs. PE12 9UF
Phone 01406 351373
E-mail robertmiddleton@talktalk.net



Broom Owners Club Accounts 2022 -2023

I have scrutinised the invoices, bank statements and other documents presented to me and confirm that the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet are a true representation of the financial affairs of the Broom Owners Club.



Robert Middleton
6th October 2023

David Evans, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that we are continuing to attract new members to the BOC and during July and August alone we had 18 new members. Even though the season is coming to a close, new members continue to join which is really encouraging. I have also sadly had a few cancellations of membership recently following the mailing reminder about the subscriptions and the increase in price. The cancellations are mostly circumstantial due to members selling their boats and leaving boating altogether and their comments have been really complimentary about the BOC, mentioning how much members have enjoyed being part of our friendly club. All regions have attracted new members this year and this is down to the hard work carried out by all the Regional Co-ordinators who are doing a fantastic job promoting the BOC and holding regional events to maintain the interest of the members.

Thank you all for your continued efforts to promote the Club and its benefits and I hope that it will continue to grow in 2024.

Karen Fishwick, Membership Secretary

WEB REPORT

It has been another busy year for the Club web-site, with more and more members finding their way to the site and new members joining regularly. Since adding the facility to join online this has been the principal route for signing up new members and we have recently added the facility for new members to pay by credit/debit card making the process even easier. We are attracting increasing numbers of Broom owners from further afield attracted by the online community and technical support available. This is borne out by the activity on the technical forum and the enquiries which come through for the Technical Co-ordinator. These are always dealt with swiftly and efficiently and often lead to the person wanting to join the club. We are averaging around 2000 visitors a month, with around 500 of these being first time visitors, indicating that we are attracting non-members interested in finding out more about the club as well as drawing our own members to the site. We have reduced our list of never-visited members to about 140 from almost 200 last year, something to continue to work on in the coming year!

Further development of the technical information on the site has taken place this year in conjunction with **Keith and Carole Rowe** and we now offer a section dedicated to heritage documents including historical news reports,

documentation from the early years of *Broom Boats* and the popular history book which was published in 2011. I have also continued to update the members' home page to include more recent BOC activities on the photo slide show, and to reflect the increased membership on the Club statistics panel. Club events have been added for Regional Co-ordinators where requested and these appear on the Club events calendar and also on the home page. Updated membership documents have been uploaded when available to give up-to-date information for members.

I have also added an FAQ page which points members and visitors to key areas of the site and helps them to get the most out of the information on offer. This is promoted via a QR code on the new members' letter so that they can get up and running straight away. If you are unsure how to access the site or find various features then you can also try scanning the code with your phone camera and you should be taken straight to the page to find out more.



Future development - there are several projects in the pipeline to add functionality to the site including expanding the Offers and discounts section to promote our commercial partners and also to make owners' boats for sale visible to non-members who may be interested in them. We intend to do this alongside increasing the visibility of boat brokers who are *Broom* specialists so that potential new owners can find their way to their new boat as easily as possible.

Louise Busby, Web Master

TECHNICAL CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The last 12 months have been busy for me in my role as Technical Co-ordinator. Building on the work undertaken last year, I have continued to arrange for information to be added to the technical pages on the website. I have been able to do this due to the help of members who have kindly allowed us to scan a copy of their boat information. If you have manuals or brochures of your boat which you are aware are not on the website, I should be grateful if you could get in touch with me so I can co-ordinate with you in order to get this copied too. This is particularly important since *Brooms* have moved their focus to hire fleets, so they no longer have a need to retain model information.

You may have noticed that we also now have a Heritage section on the website (under the 'Home' tab). This includes newspaper articles, old holiday brochures,

Broom News publications and also a *Broom's* History book (which the Managing Director of Brooms kindly agreed could be displayed on our website). In this respect I would like to thank **Louise Busby** for her support in arranging for all this additional information to be available on the website.

Earlier in the year we had a successful Technical *Zoom* meeting with the Ireland region which **Pete Fishwick** arranged and then we had a further meeting with the South Coast region arranged by **Gill Oldham**. We had good participation from members at both events and we had an excellent response from members at these sessions. I am happy to hold further Technical *Zoom* sessions over the winter in other regions if this is required by members. So, if this is of interest to you, please get in touch. winter in other regions if this is required by members. So, if this is of interest to you, please get in touch.

I receive regular correspondence via emails and messages from members on technical matters which I enjoy receiving. In addition to this there are often technical queries or requests for information on our *Facebook* page. We also have a European member who has a 'You Tube' channel ('Boater on Tour') on which he posts videos of his cruising voyages and he also films repairs/updates he has made to his Broom boat. This has proven popular with other members. It is also always interesting to see members sharing their experiences on our *Facebook* page.

I find that when BOC members' boats are up for sale, I often receive phone calls from prospective buyers asking for information on the model they are thinking of buying and I use this as an opportunity to encourage them to join the Club.

I'm hopeful that I can continue with my role for another year and carry on giving my support to the Club.

Keith Rowe Technical Co-ordinator

MAGAZINE EDITOR'S REPORT

The months between editing the Spring issue of *Sweeping Statements* and this Winter edition, have afforded me the benefit of time to reflect on my role as editor. It is one of those jobs, when nothing happens, and then everything happens at once. So, I will start at the beginning...when nothing happens!

When nothing happens: It was with some trepidation that I started out as editor of *Sweeping Statements* in Spring 2023. I was acutely aware that *Sweeping Statements* is a magazine in which the Club members are its sole contributors, the creators of its very engaging content.

You are the storytellers. You are the very heart of its success. So before I began the rather awesome task of editing, I imagined myself in your shoes;

how would I like it, if someone came along and changed my words or rewrote my sentences? Would I take any changes made by the editor personally?

I appreciate, from my own experience of writing, how much time it takes to compose each and every word that tells the story you want to tell; how much of 'you' is in each word that is scribed, reflected on and then possibly de-selected and finally chosen from the extensive vocabulary that our incredible English language offers us as writers. From this, I understood I'd have to work with sensitivity.

Luckily, I had plenty of experience to guide me along the way. I reflected on my first published book, an educational volume for teachers, 'Access to Literacy'. I recalled how I experienced not only a satisfying sense of accomplishment, when I handed over the final draft to the editors, but also a wonderful feeling of relief. Finished...hallelujah! Likewise, I'm sure all our contributors feel a similar sense of achievement.

In addition to these thoughts I must admit I experienced a rather daunting awareness, as the previous editor was none other than our new Chairman, **David Haugh**. So, no pressure then! Understandably, **David** in his role as editor, enjoyed an enduring attachment to *Sweeping Statements*, of thirteen years. So, I had quite a big pair of shoes to fill.

Furthermore, in comparison to other members, my knowledge of the technical side of boating was and still is sadly lacking. I don't mind admitting that a certain glaze comes over my eyes once the 'nuts and bolts' of Perkins engines, and other technical matters are discussed. But that is because I have the inimitable **Peter**, my husband, who always seems to know everything practical and if he doesn't, he will, I can be guaranteed, solve the problem!

So, bearing all this in mind, I seized the job in hand with a great sense of energy and purpose. As my editor's eye and nimble fingertips on my MacBook seized control, any sense of hesitation about the task in hand, quickly evaporated.

When everything happens at once: I am absolutely delighted with all the members' contributions to this season's edition. As you can see, I am continuing the same magazine format, as **David** has so competently mapped out. However, I have introduced a *FaceBook* 'Boat Front Cover' Photo Competition which is held a few days before the copy deadline goes to print.

Also, for your further reading pleasure, I have provided an additional section, affording an opportunity to describe that one day in the year, on your boat which is completely unforgettable. Maximum Word Count 400. Now, there are surely a few tales to tell, and for others to enjoy reading!

Jocelyn Jones, Editor Sweeping Statements.

NATIONAL EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The year began quietly if frustratingly. **Gill Oldham** and I spent considerable time trying to find out from *British Marine* contacts what was happening about the Southampton Boat Show and whether BOC might have a presence. In late April we heard informally that *British Marine* planned to run a ticket promotion competition but it was the end of June before all the details were available.- less than 3 months to go! The outcome of that competition and a 'public vote' was that BOC was offered a free exhibition space and £500.00 donation. Thanks to everyone who helped us achieve that. It was then 'all systems go' to organise the display for the stand. Thanks to fantastic help from a number of members, especially **David Harrison**, **Peter Smith** and **Don Walker**, we were set up and ready to greet visitors on the first day. The Boat Show maintained its reputation going from warm sunshine to near gale force winds and pouring rain. But we survived it with the Stand more or less intact and over 70 members and friends dropped by to say 'Hello'. We now have some useful stand elements for future occasions.

Meanwhile we started planning the 2023 AGM at Dunston Hall Hotel. Hopefully we'll have an interesting 'hybrid' meeting with some members attending in person and some via a *Zoom* link followed by an evening meal for those who wish to meet up.

Next on the Agenda is the BOC 20th 'birthday' in 2024. Current plans are for an event based around Brundall Norfolk over the late Spring Bank Holiday weekend (25th -27th May 2024) including an opportunity to show off our lovely Broom boats. I hope many of you will want to join in.

Linda Varney, National Events Co-ordinator

REGIONAL REPORTS

Central Region Report None available

Eastern Region Report

Eastern Region is in good shape with a high level of interaction amongst members, especially in the Norfolk Broads area where rapport is facilitated by the proximity of a large contingent within a relatively confined area.

This intimacy is a key enabler of continued modest growth of membership, supported by the monthly 'Heads Up' newsletter that maintains member engagement and a sense of belonging.

The boating season has been plagued by the ongoing bridge and lock closures on The Broads. The Club has represented the views and frustrations of members to various stakeholders involved, and now receives regular updates such is our presence and engagement.

The restrictions have meant that the Broads have effectively been land-locked for long periods, meaning that Club cruises to sea have not been possible this year. We are still trying to arrange a simple cruise from Great Yarmouth to Lowestoft, for which many members have expressed an interest; but having launched the idea over 12 months ago it's yet to happen.

As a means of keeping in touch, members have in good numbers supported a few coffee mornings throughout the season, including a combined coffee morning and factory visit in October.

The annual rally in Beccles over the August bank holiday proved once again to be the highlight of the season, with 27 boats and around 60 people attending. An extensive and informative programme of entertainment was well supported; photos and video have been posted to the website to showcase the spectacle of the Broom flotilla, plus the vast enjoyment of owners, crew and guests.

To avoid conflict with the AGM we brought the regional Laying up supper forward to the end of September, giving members the chance to join by boat prior to winterisation, and in more comfortable weather than last year when we encountered the winter's first heavy freeze. This proved popular, with thirty-six attending. Indeed, as well as the excellent dinner at the popular *Waters Edge*, the lovely weather enabled members to make a weekend of it, which included the spontaneous arrangement of a large game of cricket on Bramerton Common.

It is pleasing that the few organised events have been very well supported and the stimulus of great camaraderie, the formation of new friendships and the catalyst for many other self-initiated boating activities amongst members.

I was somewhat embarrassed by the confusion that surrounded the planning of next year's

20th Anniversary celebrations, and the potential conflict with the region's principal event. Whilst pleased that the tradition of Beccles has been saved, I am disappointed that respected colleagues found it so hard to listen and accept that we, the planning committee, had initially got it wrong - and that a change of direction was needed. The matter unfortunately caused some unnecessary animosity and lack of respect; but we got there eventually, with the pageant and other festivities to be held over the late May bank holiday. This means the tradition of the region's annual rally in Beccles over the August bank holiday is maintained. After careful consideration I have decided not to stand for re-election at the AGM and I look forward to handing over to my successor in due course. I am pleased that **Jane Neale** has offered to take over the organisation of Beccles from **Elaine**.

Whilst it has been a privilege for us both to be involved in our respective roles in the region, we are looking forward to approaching the 2024 boating season with a little more freedom, and we'd like to thank everyone for their tremendous support and the friendships that we've wholly enjoyed.

Peter Ward, Eastern Region Co-ordinator

European Region Report

The focus of European activity this year has been in the Netherlands, with the second international gathering of Brooms at Naarden. This took place over the weekend of 9th to 12th June, attracting a number of new members from Holland and Germany.

Keith and Carole Rowe's two Spring seminars in Maidstone and Norwich, open to members of all regions who might be interested in joining the fun at Naarden, attracted over 50 people. Fourteen UK based boats originally planned to make the crossing in three groups, including one for slower craft and those with limited experience of sea cruising.

Sadly, strong NE winds from mid-May, persisting into early June meant that only five craft finally made the North Sea crossing, joining up with eleven EU based craft, some bringing their boats from Germany, Belgium and France. Another four couples came by car and excellent weather over the action-packed weekend contributed to another very successful gathering.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for continuing to organise international events. When the Naarden crowd heard of plans for a BOC 20th Anniversary gathering and pageant on the Broads in May 2024, several expressed interest in bringing their boats across the North Sea to take part.

This seems a very fitting way of keeping the Naarden tradition going and celebrating our European connections as the Club moves into its third decade.

The Netherlands has clearly become the natural centre for gatherings of EU based craft, so it seems right that I should step aside as I intend taking *La Strega* back to St Jean de Losne in central

France. This will allow a more locally-based member to take on the role of European Co-ordinator so I will not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming AGM.

Don Walker European Region Co-ordinator

Ireland Region Report

I am pleased that the BOC membership in Ireland is continuing to grow. We now have 76 boats registered. Unfortunately, the weather this summer has been very hit and miss with particularly heavy rain during the majority of July and August. The Shannon rose by over 1.5 metres making navigation quite tricky in some areas. The 'Brooms and Coffee' meeting unfortunately had to be cancelled 48 hours prior to the event due to extremely heavy rain and 40 knot winds forecast over that weekend. This was disappointing as we had 8 confirmed boats attending with a possible further 4 likely to attend. I will be planning the next 'Brooms and Coffee' to take place in June 2024 and this will probably be at the *Lough Ree Yacht Club* which is a fantastic venue. I have just returned from my final trip of the season where I managed to sign up a new member after spotting his fantastic *Broom* Skipper moored up nearby. Spending time over in Ireland has given me the opportunity to chat to fellow boat owners and attract several new members this season. Additionally, our *WhatsApp* group continues to thrive and is a fantastic resource for our members.

To keep our members in Ireland engaged I will be holding another *Zoom* Technical Meeting with **Keith Rowe** in February 2024.

Pete Fishwick Ireland Region Co-ordinator

South Coast Region Report

The South Coast has had a full programme of land-based and on-the-water activities in 2023. On two occasions, we have been pleased to welcome members from other regions to join us. Our boating year started on 12th February, with a pre-season lunch at *The Boat House*, Hythe Marina organised by **Julia and John Greenhalf**. 29 members gathered for this event which gave us a chance to shake off the Winter Blues and prepare for the season ahead. Our thanks to **Julia and John** for their excellent organisation of this event.

On 5th April, we held a *Zoom Technical Question and Answer Session* led by the BOC's Technical Co-ordinator, **Keith Rowe** and **Tom Brissenden**, a long-standing former employee at *Broom Boats*. 17 members, including some from the Thames and South West Regions, took part. The topics were wide-ranging, and ideas were freely exchanged. My thanks to **Keith and Tom** for giving up their time to lead this helpful session.

The region's first on-the water-event took place on 12th – 14th May at *Haslar Marina*, Portsmouth. The weekend, organised by **Beverly and Martin Briggs** was attended by 40

members and friends, some arriving by boat, others by car. Activities included: a pontoon reception party (including **Warwick Morgan's** renowned rum punch); a passenger-boat trip around Portsmouth Harbour followed by one of **Beverly and Martin's** famous quizzes; and a Saturday evening meal in *The Creek Restaurant*, overlooking the marina. Our thanks to **Beverly and Martin** for organising this very successful weekend.

A cruise in Company was organised for 2nd - 4th June to be led by **Donna and Chris Dawson**. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas and Force 5-6 winds prevented the event from taking place. Undeterred, **Donna and Chris** are hoping to resurrect all their planning and hold a cruise at a future date.

On 13th -16th August, 30 members and friends took part in the region's annual visit to *Island Harbour Marina*, Isle of Wight. Once again, the weather played its part in disrupting the organisation with strong winds and rain forcing a modification to the arrangements for the drinks reception and the cancellation of the Saturday BBQ. On Sunday, the weather was in a more friendly mood, allowing members to travel by river taxi for a meal at *The Folly Inn* on the Medina River. A special thanks to **Lesley and Andy Spain** for all their help in organising this event.

The region's most recent event took place on the 20th – 22nd October, when 12 couples including members from the Thames, Eastern and South West region visited the RNLi College at Poole. The weekend's activities included a tour of the College's training facilities and a meal in the Harbour Suite on Saturday evening. At this Dinner we were able to mark the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of South West region members **Mary and Bevan Kendall** and to wish them well for their special day on 28th October.

The end of season activity will be a lunch on Saturday, 25th November at *The Creek Restaurant*, Haslar Marina, Portsmouth. My thanks to **Jan and Warwick Morgan** for organising this event.

During the year, I have kept members informed about Regional and whole-Club issues through a series of well-received Newsletters, entitled '*Making Waves*'. Seven issues have been distributed using the BOC's mailing system, *MailChimp*. These Newsletters have also been published on the South Coast Regional section of the web-site.

Finally, after serving on the BOC Committee in various roles for the last 13 years, I have decided not to stand for re-election at this year's AGM, So, the region is looking for a member willing to put their name forward for election to this important post. I will not be leaving the Club and will therefore help my successor in any way I can.

Gill Oldham, South Coast Co-ordinator

South East Region Report – None available

Thames Region Report

After a while without a Co-ordinator, **Terry** and **Sue Sharp** volunteered to arrange an event for the late summer. This took the format of a weekend gathering at *Thames & Kennet Marina* near Reading over the weekend of 1-3 September where the group enjoyed the generous hosting of *Tingdene Marinas Ltd*. Six boats attended (though two were already there!) and 18 people joined in the Saturday night's supper.

The weekend featured an informal gathering on the Friday, a shopping trip into Reading during Saturday and the meal on Saturday night.

All those present said they enjoyed the event and the casual format seemed to suit. The real success of the weekend, and motivation to repeat the event, was in seeing members enjoying each other's company and watching friendships being formed. It has been suggested to arrange a similar weekend gathering for early 2024 in the Windsor area.

Terry Sharp, Acting Thames Region Co-ordinator

END OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023/24 COMMITTEE (Agenda item 7)

All committee positions are open for election at each AGM business meeting. Nominations having been sought from all members; the following have put themselves forward:

Chairman	David Haugh
Vice-Chairman	Keith Rowe
General Secretary	Linda Varney
Treasurer	Debbie Eames
Membership Secretary	Karen Fishwick
Magazine Editor	Jocelyn Jones
Web Master	Louise Busby
Technical Co-ordinator	Keith Rowe
National Events Co-ordinator	<i>No nomination</i>
Central Region Co-ordinator	Simon Acaster
Eastern Region Co-ordinator	<i>No nomination</i>
European Region Co-ordinator	<i>No nomination</i>
Ireland Region Co-ordinator	Pete Fishwick
South Coast Region Co-ordinator	<i>No nomination</i>
South East Region Co-ordinator	Alan Foden
Thames Region Co-ordinator	Terry Sharpe

These names appear on the voting forms sent out to all members. Each nominee has provided a brief CV to indicate what they bring to the post for which they are applying. These are set out below.

Voting results will be announced at the business meeting, with the votes cast by members at the meeting itself added to those submitted by postal and electronic means.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

In areas where there are relatively few members, the committee encourages one or more local BOC members to act as a point of contact for any visiting Club member.

These are non-elected positions. Currently, the following members have offered to help in this way: **Bevan Kendall**, **Keith Tristram** (Western Region) **Sandy Aitkin** (Scotland and Borders Region).

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTS EXAMINER

Each year committee informs members of the person that has agreed to act as an independent accounts' examiner, Such person must not be a member of the committee.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB POSITIONS

ELECTED POSITIONS

David Haugh (for Chairman)

Broom 30 Skipper 1980 "*Kiowa (2)*": Eastern Region

I joined the BOC on its formation in 2004, having attended the inaugural meeting at the RSYC. I was editor of Sweeping Statements from 2010 until last year, and was, for a number of years, the coordinator of the European region, formerly the Rest of the World. Since 2022, I have been Chairman, and am putting myself forward again to stand for a second year.

Over the years, I've been involved in many actions to improve the offering of the Club to members but, more importantly, I've also owned and cruised extensively on a number of Broom boats, around the coasts and inland in the UK and particularly in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany, where the quality and build of Broom Boats has readily demonstrated their practicality for extended voyages, but also their suitability for just meandering down the river, or riding at anchor in some quiet creek. My enthusiasm for the marque itself extends to the Club, which I see as an excellent grouping of like-minded boat owners, where membership allows one to get as much or as little out of the Club and put as much or as little into the Club in return, as one is able.

The BOC has grown over the years and my aim is to enhance and strengthen the benefits the Club provides by supporting the growth of the already strong regions, encouraging the exchange of information, both practical and technical, and enabling members more easily to communicate and, for those who wish, to meet, socialise, cruise, have fun together, and get the most enjoyment out of our Broom boats that we can. I hope to do this in conjunction with **Keith Rowe**, who is standing for Vice Chair.

I believe that, together with a strong and enthusiastic committee, we can continue to enhance the experience owning a Broom boat provides and lead the Club forward over the coming months in a way which meets with the needs and requirements of our growing membership. This, at a time when Broom boats are no longer being built and when the exchange of information on an ageing, albeit relatively young fleet, becomes more necessary. These are great craft and a strong Owners Club will ensure that we keep them going for many years to come.

Keith Rowe (for Vice Chair and Technical Co-ordinator)

Broom 41 2001 "*Great Escape*" Eastern Region

I would intend to work closely with David Haugh who is volunteering to stand for the role of club Chairman at the forthcoming AGM . I do believe we have similar interests and ideas to take the club forward together and we would intend to liaise closely with the rest of the committee.

Since my involvement with the BOC over the years it's the feedback from the members that I receive which inspires me to promote the club the best way I can. Having arranged numerous events locally and nationally it's important to me that feedback and communication is key in responding and promoting this fun-loving boating club for the future. I would also encourage to be involved with all the regions for future events and ideas that can incorporate invitations from other areas.

My other role as Technical Co-ordinator I hopefully will continue doing for the foreseeable future, however it would be my intention to be very active in the role of vice chair supporting David to continue taking the club forward. With my past experiences talking and working doing the technical role I've had the opportunity in meeting many members in person or with *Zoom* which with the Vice chairman role this will continue with the same format to promote the club and increase the membership.

Linda Varney (for General Secretary)

Broom 33 1980 "*Flying Visit*" Thames Region

I have been a member of the Broom Owners Club since 2008, originally as the owner of a Broom 35 European and latterly a Broom 33. I've cruised mainly on the non-tidal Thames but also down river to the Medway and to France. I was BOC Membership Secretary for a number of years and National Events Coordinator for the last year so, as a committee member, I have an understanding of how the Club operates.

For the last few months I have helped by taking the minutes at Committee meetings. The needs and preferences of the members are changing but I hope to facilitate the operation of a Broom Owners Club that its members continue to value and want to be a part of.

Debbie Eames (for Treasurer)

Broom 10/70 1985 "*Hyperion*" Eastern Region

I have been involved in boating on the northern broads since 2008, my first experiences being on hire boats until 2013 when Graham and I purchased a Freeman 27 called *Wild Rover*. We loved it so much and wanted to spend more time on the water with family and friends, so in 2015 we upgraded to our 1985 Broom 10-70, "*Hyperion*". I love being

on the boat, the tranquillity and peace of the Broads is very special and provides a welcome weekend relief from a stressful job. We visit most weekends in the season and also try to have one or two longer breaks a year. We have been on “*Hyperion*” between Christmas and New Year and once became an ice-breaker on Ranworth after an overnight temperature drop to -3!

I currently work for *Mars UK* and have done since 1989 in various roles in finance, IT systems, process design and end-user system support. I’m a qualified Prince2 Project Manager and the most recent projects and systems I’ve been involved with have been large-scale changes that include system and process improvements to deliver simplification and efficiencies. I am looking forward to bringing these skills to the role of BOC Treasurer if elected.

I am also the independent auditor of the accounts for a local charity, and when I retire in 2024 I hope to be able to dedicate more time to charity work and boating.

Karen Fishwick (for Membership Secretary)

Broom 37 Crown 1978 Salem II Ireland Region

I have now completed my first year as Membership Secretary and it has been very enjoyable learning the role and interacting with members as well as the BOC Committee. It has been a challenge at times getting to grips with the membership administration and producing reports, but I have gained knowledge over the last 12 months and I have also developed a more streamlined membership pack.

Together with my husband Pete Fishwick I love spending time on our Broom Crown Salem II which is currently moored in Ireland. I enjoy getting to know other Broom Owners and helping them to enjoy the benefits of being a member of the BOC. The BOC continues to grow and gain new members and I look forward to another year of acting as Membership Secretary and providing the best support I can to both members and the BOC Regional Co-ordinators.

Louise Busby for Web master

Honorary and Founder member of the BOC. Eastern Region

I held the post of General Secretary from 2004-06 and the post of National Events Organiser from 2006-14, organising AGM and boat show events. BOC web designer and editor 2004-14. Co-opted back onto committee as webmaster in 2021. Author of personal boating web-site, magazine cruising articles, Imray cruising guide ‘Inland Waterways of the Netherlands’ and former Regional Editor of the Cruising Association Almanac for Netherlands and Belgium. 20 years cruising experience in UK and Europe, now boating on the Norfolk Broads.

Jocelyn Jones (for Magazine Editor)

Broom 37 Continental 1977 *Aldena* Thames Region

We bought our first boat 13 years ago and we learnt as we went along. Then in 2017, we sold our country Manor House hotel, after 30 years of ownership and bought a Broom 37 Continental called *Aldena*.

We have spent these years exploring the wondrous River Thames; so much so that I have just published a book, 'One More Lock Down, Cruising the Thames Locks, Pinkhill to Teddington.'

Vacancy for National Events Co-ordinator

Simon Acaster (for Central Region Co-ordinator)

Broom Ocean 38 1999 "*Salix Lady*" Central Region

I have owned a pleasure craft since 2004 and purchased my first Broom in 2015 when I also joined the BOC. Since joining the club, my wife Linzi and I have been actively involved in helping organise Central Region events and promoting the Club along with serving as the Regional Coordinator in 2022/3. I am a mechanical engineer and have recently retired from the position of Operations Manager at Drax Power Station. I try to spend as much time as I can cruising around the waters of the Central Region. My base is Newark Marina having recently moved from Goole Boathouse Marina.

Vacancy for Eastern Region Co-ordinator

Vacancy for European Region Co-ordinator

Pete Fishwick (for Ireland Regional Co-ordinator)

Broom 37 Crown 1978 *Salem II* Ireland Region

I first started boating on the River Shannon in 1976 with a hire boat from *Carrickcraft*. I was 13 at the time and fell in love with boating and the River Shannon. I took over the role as Co-ordinator for Ireland 3 years ago and since then the membership has trebled in size. We do a 'Brooms and Coffee' meeting each year which this year had to be curtailed due to the awful weather we experienced. I am planning to hold a *Zoom* Technical Meeting with **Keith Rowe** in February 2024 as these have proved very popular with the members. I am also planning to hold a Brooms and Coffee meeting again in June 2024 in Athlone. I am enjoying being the Co-ordinator for Ireland and I am looking forward to another year of promoting the BOC and helping members in Ireland to enjoy the benefits of the club.

Vacancy for South Coast Region Co-ordinator

Alan Foden (for South East Region Co-ordinator)

I would like to stand again this year for the Southeast Region Co-Ordinator's role. I was co-opted on to the BOC Committee in May 2022, and elected at the following AGM. I took on a position that had been vacant for some time. I organized a presentation meeting in Maidstone called 'Cruising for beginners' with **Keith Rowe** as guest speaker which was well received by all attendees. I have been a *Broom* owner since May 2015 and have enjoyed my time on the Committee looking at ways to encourage new members to join and to make the Club more enjoyable for our current members. My recent travels on *Calico* include St Katherines Dock, Holland, and cruising along the Normandy coastline. I would like the opportunity to continue in this role to help develop the Southeast Region.

Terry Sharp (for Thames Region Co-ordinator)

Broom Ocean 38 CL 1989 "*Synchronise*" Thames Region

Sue and I have owned our present boat since 2015 and keep her on the Thames at Racecourse Marina, Windsor. She is our second *Broom*; we enjoyed a rare Broom 31 called "*Nonsuch*" before upsizing and modernising. We love the Thames with its tranquillity, nature, relative safety, and frequent mooring opportunities – especially those with great pubs nearby. When time allows, we also like to venture coastal and cross the channel occasionally.

I work as a Consulting Engineer in the field of building automation and energy management systems and my career has allowed me entrance to many of the world's greatest buildings. I've worked in palaces, stadiums, the world's tallest high rises and critical life-saving areas of hospitals.

I have messed about in boats all my life and blame my Dad – he was in the merchant navy. A few years back I attended an RYA Training course at our local yacht club and enjoyed it so much I kept going back. I am now an RYA Instructor and Assessor and thoroughly enjoy sharing knowledge and experiences with students over a range of practical and theory courses.

Aims and Objectives

- To encourage ownership of Broom boats
 - To encourage owners of Broom boats to use, maintain and enjoy their boats
 - To provide a forum to give support and assistance for owners of Broom boats
 - To encourage members to help other members, by means of information and/or practical help
-



The winner of this year's BOC Martin Broom memorial trophy will be announced at the AGM



Notes for the AGM