

# ***Annual Report No 21***

## ***2024-2025***



***21<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and Financial Statement of the***

*****Broom** Owners Club***

<https://broomowners.com>

# ***Broom*** Owners Club

## **BOC AGM 2025**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025 10.00am - 12.00pm**

**To be held at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford OX2 8AL**

### **MEETING AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for absence** (list to be available at the meeting)
2. **Approval of the accuracy of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**\* held on Saturday 2 November 2024 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Birmingham B1 1BT (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**, (including reports from:
  - 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 for 2024-25\***; **Proposal to transfer some BOC funds into an interest earning account\***  
**Proposal for the 2026/27 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 **Regional Reports for the Central; Eastern; European; Ireland; South Coast; South East and Thames Regions and Regional Representatives.**
5. **Club Awards for 2025 including the Martin Broom Memorial Trophy**
6. **Election of Officers and Committee members and any motions proposed\***
7. **Any other business**

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

There will be an opportunity for **general discussion** after completion of formal AGM business. Suggestions/ideas will be considered by the new committee.

# **BROOM OWNERS CLUB**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024-25**

### **Chairman's and Technical Coordinator's Report for the Year 2024-25**

#### **Keith Rowe**

This has been my first year as the Chairman of this fun loving and prestige boating Club which certainly has been quite full on with loads of activity. I've kept you updated with my previous reports.

Full credit to the committee for their input and commitment to work together. I respect that as they are all voluntary positions. Our aim is to listen to what our members would like from the Club to take it forward which is not an easy task at times. But having a different approach is key in my view and hopefully will encourage more interaction from all regions. I'm pleased to hear that our Club membership has increased despite non renewals through members selling their boats or having health and personal situations. We appreciate their input and support to the club plus all the members that network for us.

We have had some resignations from Committee roles due to their personal decisions and I appreciate the input that they have given. Our Webmaster and founder of our Club Louise Busby has done a sterling role for many years especially picking up the 'new' website and making it work. Louise informed us earlier in the year that she would like to step back but would help any future person who would like to undertake this role. From this we have introduced Sammi Hallam to her and they are working together very well. On top of this, another role being the magazine editor was not going to be an easy replacement but fortunately, doing some networking, Jo Moore stepped forward and 'Wow' what a result with her first publication. The feedback I've received is outstanding. Mike Moore her husband has taken on the role of Central Region Coordinator and he held his first event in Newark which was also a successful event supported by James at Newark Marina. This support is appreciated and I understand that more events are currently being planned.

We are looking at re-structuring the club for going forward and listening to ideas for the situations within different regions for boating either seagoing or inland usage. Keeping members informed of what's happening regardless of where they moor or live is a great way of socialising and interacting with fun and friendship. Our European region has been cruised / explored by members from different regions throughout the season whether single or in a flotilla which is inspiring. We would love to hear from you about your adventures which can be shared in the magazine or at different get togethers. The Facebook page and Website we are receiving feedback on how sometimes it's difficult to access plus the contents that are being shared. We will review these.

The Technical section is always very busy on queries on the Facebook page, Website and personal emails and messages; I have various experts that I can call upon for advice about our prestige marque - owing a Broom. The Technical zoom meetings are proving popular during the winter and any other region that would like to be involved, please get in touch with me.

Our awards section judging panel has had two nominations for the Martin Broom Memorial Trophy so far. The other awards are: Outstanding Achievements Award (Boat Horn), the Tony Buttolph Memorial Trophy (Special Services Award) and Chairman's Letters of

Commendation. The panel has discussed possible recipients for the above; the list of winners will be finalised shortly.

I'm looking forward to meeting you at the Friendship & Adventure weekend in Oxford incorporating the Annual General Meeting. My sincere appreciation goes out to Graham & Debbie Eames along with Terry Sharp and Caroline Buttolph for all the arrangements.

Thank you and looking forward to supporting you in the future.

### **Vice Chairman's Report for 2024-2025 Graham Eames**

I effectively started my time as Vice Chair with a coffee morning organised for the Eastern region

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024. I had 22 members confirm their attendance but 31 turned up and all decided to have a breakfast. This was good news for the pub but did create some amusing confusion in the food distribution. I was able to bring those members up to date with some plans and ideas I felt we should look at as a Club. These included expanding some coffee mornings into mini seminars to cover issues like training, boat refurbishments, safety, boating for beginners etc. These seminars might also be open to non-members who could be looking to buy a boat.

At this coffee morning I was also able to introduce to the members the new sales and business manager for Broom boats who was able to tell them more about the new ownership's plans for the future and the various ways she hoped to be able to help the Club and its members.

There was some discussion as to why such a prestigious club did not have a motto so I challenged those there to come up with some ideas. This developed further at the Eastern region Christmas dinner and ultimately I settled on **Amicitia et Adventura**. I will not bore you with all the details of how we got there save to say it was ideal in that it translated equally forward and reverse and in English means **Friendship and Adventure**. I circulated this to 40 of the members who took part in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary pageant and received 38 supportive comments. Three of these suggested it should just be in English but would then just read like an advertising strap line. I explained that it would look more intriguing in Latin and would lead to new or potential members to seek a translation and hopefully be pleased and inspired by the result.

I have also sent Louise a page header to be used for an 'in memoriam' section on the members' side of our website. This will be titled **Remembering our Friends**, and is accompanied by a nice poem. We need to configure this so that it will also look ok on mobile phones and tablets. Louise is working on that.

I agreed in November to take responsibility for the magazine advertising and am pleased to confirm I have secured a further three full page, 3 half page and one ¼ adverts for the magazine. This is a good boost to the income. I have also completely updated the contact details for all advertisers and created a new magazine distribution list for copies that are sent to the advertisers.

I was conscious that we did not want the magazine to become overloaded with ads, so have met with Jo Moore to discuss additional material we might look for to fill gaps and expand the magazine with interesting material.

I am also currently looking into the Club's public liability and marine insurance to improve our cover and reduce the cost.

Debbie and I spent two hours meeting with James the owner of Newark Marina discussing how we might develop the Central region's activities in his area. He was very responsive and supportive of the Club. Mike Moore agreed to become Coordinator and is taking this forward.

The first coffee of this year was again at Acle in the Eastern region following on from the November one and this time I had 48 members attending. Keith and Linda were also able to attend and we had a great three hours bringing them up to date with events and ideas, along with sharing the normal boating stories etc.

An idea I had after the anniversary pageant was that we might consider having a page on our website where members could offer a day or part day on their boat, as guests, to members from a different region. This would probably work on a reciprocal basis and would allow members to experience boating in different areas whilst hopefully making new friends at the same time. Whilst discussing it with Terry Sharp he came up with the great title for the page of **Be My Guest**.

I intend to devote more time to meeting members from different regions and working with Keith to grow those regions, and the activities they enjoy, where possible.

Much of my other club time has been working with Keith on ideas to develop the Club further, make it more engaging and inspiring to new and potential members and to make it more manageable, efficient and cost effective.

### **General Secretary Linda Varney**

This was my second year as Secretary and the role has changed somewhat from that I inherited from John Oldham although he has been my 'go to' when unsure of Club protocol! The Committee has made more use of electronic communications including Zoom which has allowed more frequent consultation to progress day-to-day matters. This year's AGM will again be a hybrid one to allow those unable to attend the weekend to join the discussions if they wish. One Committee meeting was held in Norwich as it was cost effective but meetings will also continue to be held in London for convenience of travel links and the wish to have face-to-face meetings. Agendas for Committee meetings continue to be posted on the website ahead of meetings and meeting minutes are available under the 'Members' drop down. Louise has continued to manage all member mailings from the website.

I'd like to thank those who decided not to complete their elected year in Committee posts for their contributions especially Jocelyn Jones who edited the Winter edition of Sweeping Statements.

I tried to maintain contact with British Marine, the organisers of the Southampton Boat Show but there seemed to be little interest in linking with boating associations unless they were prepared to pay the high cost of a stand or marina berth. Despite early encouraging noises there weren't even offers on ticket prices to encourage members to attend. Disappointing. I will keep in touch where possible to see if anything new becomes available in 2026.

### **Treasurer's Report Debbie Eames**

The Club financial position remains healthy this year with an overall surplus of £8830. Our membership continues to hover around the 500-mark with the new financial system maintaining accurate records of payments from members. In early October I will be sending out the reminders for next years' subscriptions – **£30 due on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025**. Payment details will be included in the reminder email with bank transfers preferred (no costs), but credit card options are also available.

- **I propose that the club membership remain at £30 for the year 2026-27.**

Over 80% of our magazine costs are now funded by advertising revenue. Thanks go to Graham Eames our Vice Chairman for increasing advertising revenue by over 100% since last year.

Graham also negotiated a better insurance policy for the club allowing us to go up to 550 members (rather than 500) before going to the next insurance bracket which would double our costs.

With the club in a strong financial position the committee agreed to fund regional events with up to £250 available per region. Ireland and Eastern regions took this up this year.

- **I propose that the same amount (£250) should be available to each region for the next financial year.**

As we have a healthy bank balance – there is the option with the Nat West bank for us to transfer some of it into a business savings account. Whilst the interest rate would only be 0.95% (allowing immediate access), this could generate enough money to offset our Stripe credit card fees each year.

- **I propose that we move a suitable amount of our bank balance into a business savings account to make the club money work for us.**





## Accounts for YE 31 August 2025

Parent/Cost Code	2024	2025	2025 vs 2024	2025 vs 2024 %	Notes
<b>ALL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS</b>	<b>6,483.50</b>	<b>8,830.80</b>	<b>2,347.30</b>	<b>36%</b>	The club has a healthy surplus again in 2025. Proposal therefore is not to increase membership fees for 2026-27
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>25,224.09</b>	<b>29,094.70</b>	<b>3,870.61</b>	<b>15%</b>	
4005 Event Income	4,929.00	4,050.00	-879.00	-18%	
4015 Sales of Goods (Burgees etc.)	1,067.70	960.00	-107.70	-10%	
4020 Advertising Revenue	3,125.00	6,500.00	3,375.00	108%	
4105 Miscellaneous Donations	1,553.30	1,344.00	-209.30	-13%	Donations from members who paid membership in error but didn't want a refund (or those who didn't respond to messages)
4115 Gift Aid Donations	4.48	0.00	-4.48	-100%	
4140 Misc. Receipts	0.00	153.00	153.00		Funds left over from Naarden - Keith Rowe
5001 Membership Fees	14,544.61	15,107.70	563.09	4%	
5003 Member payments refunded	0.00	0.00	0.00		
5004 Next Year Membership for reallocation	0.00	30.00	30.00		
5102 Sponsorship	0.00	950.00	950.00		Sponsorship for AGM 2024
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-18,740.59</b>	<b>-20,263.90</b>	<b>-1,523.31</b>	<b>8%</b>	
7004 Event Expenses	-91.00	0.00	91.00	-100%	
7005 Magazine Costs	-7,767.73	-7,827.05	-59.32	1%	
7008 Payments to 3rd Parties (Donations)	0.00	-500.00	-500.00		
7010 Purchase of Burgees etc. for Resale	0.00	0.00	0.00		
7101 Committee Meeting	-155.88	-155.88	0.00	0%	
7102 Chairmans Expenses	0.00	-165.25	-165.25		
7104 Membership Secretary Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00		
7106 Travel Expenses	-1,028.43	-751.81	276.62	-27%	
7107 Committee Meeting Costs	-500.50	-619.23	-118.73	24%	
7108 Website Expenses	-1,729.21	-1,978.31	-249.10	14%	
7201 Postage	-196.05	-196.34	-0.29	0%	
7204 Printing & Stationary	-21.67	-674.99	-653.32	3015%	£640 - club window stickers distributed with Spring/Summer 2025 magazine
7206 Insurance Costs	-796.36	-808.68	-12.32	2%	
7207 Bank Charges and Expenses	-119.27	-0.86	118.41	-99%	Most costs came from Euro account - now we have Stripe cc fees
7210 Affiliation Costs	-278.75	-251.53	27.22	-10%	
7217 Gifts & Presentations	-15.00	-17.99	-2.99	20%	
7221 Purchase of Equipment (not for resale)	-399.00	0.00	399.00	-100%	
7222 Finance System Fees	-183.00	-216.00	-33.00	18%	
7223 Show Expenses	-351.65	0.00	351.65	-100%	No presence at Southampton boat show in 2024
7224 Stripe Fees	-65.09	-175.56	-110.47	170%	Cost of accepting credit card payments (enabler for removal of Euro account)
7301 Room Hire	-315.00	-1,635.00	-1,320.00	419%	Event costs cover events in multiple years - see event summary for split for YE 2025 accounts
7302 Catering	0.00	-2,172.30	-2,172.30		
7303 Entertainment	0.00	-687.40	-687.40		
7304 AGM General Expenses	0.00	-126.72	-126.72		
7401 Food & Drink	-3,001.00	-873.00	2,128.00	-71%	
7402 Transport	-530.00	0.00	530.00	-100%	
7403 Entertainment	-1,046.00	0.00	1,046.00	-100%	
7404 Regional Event Sponsorship	-150.00	-430.00	-280.00	187%	Ireland (£180) and Eastern (£250) Region. Money is available for all regions to support events - please request via your co-ordinator or a Committee member

## **Membership Secretary Karen Fishwick**

I am pleased to report that Club membership continues to increase, even now the summer and the boating season is almost at an end. We now have 472 members and I fully expect this number to continue to increase over the winter period. I am working hard to get welcome packs out to the new members and I am currently looking at revising the format and content of the packs. Please remember to keep me updated with any changes to your personal or boat details and feel free to contact me if you require any assistance at all.

## **Editor: Sweeping Statements Jo Moore**

After quite a 'sudden' start to my new role, I had little time to review the existing format of the magazine so I chose to retain the previous layout, as it is a formula that is familiar to most of you and 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it...!' However, after all the anxiety and sleepless nights producing my first edition, the feedback I have received from many members has been very kind and positive, so I now have much more confidence in my role as the new Editor.

Our vice-chairman Graham had already taken on the task of reviewing and updating the advertising for the magazine (which was greatly appreciated as it allowed me more time for editing) also I have found our current printing service to be very helpful and efficient, so I am quite happy to remain with them.

I will also be retaining the Facebook photograph competition, as it is quite a popular way to source some absolutely spectacular images for the front cover, which then helps to result in a very professional looking magazine - many thanks for all your entries, keep them coming.

Moving forward, I do plan to subtly update and refine the magazine over the coming issues to appeal to the (slightly) younger generation who are our new readers, but without alienating the (slightly) more senior and long-standing membership. As ever I would appreciate all of your feedback and any ideas, thoughts, comments, from any of our members (young and old!) on how we can improve our magazine, so please keep sending me your stories, adventures, technical articles, bloopers, tips and advice to [editor@broomowners.com](mailto:editor@broomowners.com)

Don't forget - without you, the members and your wonderful contributions, the magazine would simply not exist.

## **Webmaster's Report Louise Busby**

The website continues to be a key tool for the Club particularly providing an efficient and effective way for new members to find and join the club with online applications regularly coming in via the site.

Members continue to enjoy the technical advice both on the web forum and on the Facebook group with many years of experience being shared amongst members. In addition, the Technical section of the site continues to grow with new entries added to the Owners' Manuals section. The new members' details section has proved convenient in allowing quick access to finding out names, boat names or mooring locations when out and about and is easy to use on a mobile device from your boat.

In addition to the MBMT section on the website, I have also added a new section detailing all the valuable contributions made by club members which have been recognised by a Chairman's Letter of Commendation. This showcases the wonderful work done by some of



our members, both within and beyond the committee. Sadly some of our friends are no longer with us but now there is the opportunity to remember members in the Remembering our Friends section.

On the back end our hosting package has been upgraded with improved security and a more reliable server which has eliminated page access and loading issues which we were having with the previous service. This year sees the second time that I am retiring from this role and I am confident that I am leaving the job in capable hands with an enthusiastic nominee for the role standing at the AGM.

### **Technical Coordinator Keith Rowe**

See Chairman's Report

## **Regional Co-ordinators' Reports**

### **Central Region Mike Moore**

I was co-opted as Coordinator for Central Region during the year. The Central Region held a coffee morning in May at Newark Marina. A Laying up Supper is being planned later this year and a Technical Q&A in the new year is envisaged.

### **Eastern Region**

2025 was another busy year for Eastern Region with members being informed of events and other regional navigation news through the monthly 'Heads Up' newsletter produced by Paul and Thandi Bates. The winter programme included a successful Christmas Party at the RNSYC, coffee morning at Acle organised by Graham Eames with 40+ people attending and a 'New to Cruising and Technical session' organised by Keith Rowe at Harwich Yacht Club, again attracting 40+ attendees; many stayed for a walk, pub lunch and quiz on Sunday morning.

The 2025 season started with a 'pie and pud' fitting out supper at the White Heron. Some members cruised at Easter but the weather was not good for the planned 'Shakedown Cruise' which changed from a trip to Southwold to a meet up at Oulton Broad – still enjoyable.

A development this year was an invitation from RNSYC for BOC members to join their cruising programme. Some members took advantage of this, some went with NYA and others headed off with groups of BOC boats to the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, the South Coast and the Channel Isles. Those in Brundall enjoyed a coffee morning. Most returned in time for the traditional August Bank Holiday Beccles Rally, yet another major success !

There continued to be navigational issues in the Broads area. Mutford Lock finally opened after maintenance work, there were problems with gabion baskets in the New Cut coming loose and fouling boat propellers and ongoing problems resulting from Peel Ports and Norfolk CC 's disagreement restricting access to the sea via Great Yarmouth. Peel Ports imposed an increased charge for a transit. Difficulties with Network Rail and the aging metal swing bridges continue. BOC members have been working with boating partners to try and resolve issues to allow members to cruise freely.

Note: Paul and Thandi Bates stepped down recently. This has been compiled from Heads Up issues with their knowledge.

### **Europe Guido Roß**

Boats in Europe are spread over many countries often hundreds of kilometres apart. It has not been possible to organise an event in 2025 but I was pleased to meet with friends, David Haugh and Pete and Karen Fishwick at the Dusseldorf Boat Show.

### **Ireland Pete Fishwick**

As we draw to the end of the season it's been another successful year for the Broom Owners Club in Ireland. Club membership remains strong and we now have 82 boats registered in Ireland. Our annual Brooms and Coffee meet up was held in Banagher this year and was a great success. 7 boats and 35 people came along to join us on a very hot and sunny day in June. Coffee and cookies were supplied by Joe and the Little Coffee Company, who provided a great service on the day and really looked after us. 3 new members joined following the event and I had some fantastic feedback from members who enjoyed catching up with other BOC members and friends to chat about their boats. We have a fantastic group of boaters in Ireland and we have a great sense of camaraderie, humour and friendship, knowing that we can support each other through technical difficulties and other challenges that come with boat ownership. I am looking forward to one final week on the River Shannon in October with my wife Karen where we will take in the sights and sounds of the Autumn season before the cold winter is upon us once again. I intend to organise a technical zoom meeting over the winter which will keep our members engaged and is something that we always look forward to.

### **South Coast**

The Region continues without an elected Coordinator but members have organised an early season lunch and a mid-summer BBQ and Quiz with an end of season lunch to come.

### **South East**

No report received.

### **Thames Terry Sharp**

The Thames region got off to a flying start to the year when 26 members met for a pre-season Sunday lunch in March. Indeed, the take-up exceeded our original plans, and an alternative venue had to be found last minute.

The Bridge Hotel at Chertsey served a marvellous Sunday lunch and reserved us an area of their restaurant so that friends and members could mingle, catch-up and share plans for the season ahead. It was good to have Graham and Debbie Eames join us. The event was deemed a great success, and intentions are to repeat this in the spring of 2026.

Attempts at organising a rally were more challenging as the Thames region covers over 100 miles of inland waterway and travelling at 4 knots, can take several days to traverse locks to a central meeting place. Though initially five boats were booked to meet in Windsor, only two boats made it on the day though others joined us by car or public transport.

The weekend in June saw us entertain on Synchronise (Terry & Sue's Broom Ocean 38), frequent a pub serving a good curry, visit the Windsor & Eton Brewery and the Boatman riverside restaurant. The smaller group enjoyed one-another's company and allowed a look around one another's boats where we could pinch ideas, tips and techniques – us blokes love a gadget!

The Thames Region are proud to be hosting the Social Weekend and AGM in Oxford and look forward to meeting members from other regions and welcoming you to Oxford.

## End of Annual Report

Cover photograph: Broom Boats moored at the Beccles weekend 2025 courtesy of Jane Neale

## COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2025-2026 (Agenda item 6)

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

Chair*	Keith Rowe
Chair*	Peter Ward
Vice Chair	Graham Eames
General Secretary	Linda Varney
Treasurer	Debbie Eames
Membership Secretary	Karen Fishwick
Magazine Editor	Jo Moore
Web Master	Sammi Hallam
Technical Coordinator	Keith Rowe
Central Region Coordinator	Mike Moore
Eastern Region Coordinator	Ian Hallam
European Coordinator	Guido Roß
Ireland Coordinator	Pete Fishwick
South Coast Coordinator	No nomination
South East Region Coordinator	No nomination
Thames Coordinator	Terry Sharp

The names appear on the voting forms sent out to every membership. Each nominee has provided a brief CV to indicate what they bring to the post for which they are standing. These are set out below. Voting results will be announced at the business meeting. The votes cast in the room will be added to those submitted by 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 visiting boats. These are non-elected positions. Currently the following members have offered to help in this way: Bevan Kendall (South West) and Sandy Aitkin (Scotland). Other offers from members are welcome.

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTS EXAMINER** Each year the Committee informs members of the person that has agreed to act as an independent accounts examiner for the Club. Such a person must not be a member of the Committee. For 2025-26 Paula Sharp agreed to undertake this role.

Please note: some candidates have been nominated by other members but self-nomination is acceptable

## **For Chairman –**

### **Keith Rowe Broom 41 Great Escape Eastern**

Nominated by Ken and Jane Foster Gentle One Eastern

Seconded by Chris Cole Ikon Eastern

I have been Chairman of BOC for a year and been very active promoting the Club during that time. I have appreciated the feedback from members that I have received doing that role and as Technical Coordinator. I have been encouraged to stand for the Chairman's role again and I hope the feedback I have received will help move the Club forward as members wish. I appreciate that we are all volunteers and being part of a "Fun loving Club" we must cater for all types of Broom ownerships and encourage different types of activities. I'm certainly proud to wear the BOC logo.

I have been in regular contact with the new owners of Broom Boats who wish to build a good relationship with the Club and to promote the brand. I will continue to develop that relationship further to our mutual benefit.

I fully support events for the future being planned within individual BOC Regions – I have managed to attend some myself in the past year - but I do stress that any event is open to any members wherever they live or moor. I have organised events myself and know that members are willing to travel (by boat, road or public transport) if they know what is happening and are interested. Continuing to strengthening our communication systems will be key to this.

Working with other Committee members I am sure we can move the Club forward reflecting members' wishes. We may need to change the way things have been set up but, rest assured, we are all enthusiastic members who have one thing in common – the wish to build and promote the Club.

## **For Chairman –**

### **Peter Ward Broom 42cl Ocean Belle II Eastern**

Nominated by David Haugh Kiowa Thames

Seconded by Alex Daniels Cyrella South East

I am pleased to nominate Peter Ward for the position of Chairman of our club.

Peter has been a dedicated and enthusiastic member for over 13 years, during which time, together with his wife, Elaine, he has consistently shown his commitment and passion for the Club and its community.

Peter served as Eastern Region Coordinator for three years, where he demonstrated strong organisational skills and effective leadership and during this time he was strongly supported in the role by Elaine. Indeed, Elaine makes her own contribution to the Club and has three times organised the famous Eastern Region Beccles weekend, as well as the annual regional laying-up suppers and other events.

Both Peter and Elaine have had their contributions to the club recognised, being awarded the prestigious Martin Broom Memorial Trophy when writing of their experiences of the many benefits membership of the Broom Owners Club offers and more recently for a second time for Peter, when his leadership in negotiating with external agencies, together with Chris Cole, led to the successful re-opening of the Gt Yarmouth bridge, the closure of which had prevented many boaters from entering or exiting The Broads.

Peter and Elaine spend over 100 nights each year aboard their Broom 42cl, Ocean Belle II, whose permanent mooring is on the River Yare at Brundall.

With extensive inland and coastal cruising experience, and holding RYA Yachtmaster qualifications, Peter brings deep practical knowledge of boating that will inspire confidence across the membership.

Away from the water, Peter has retired from full time employment, following a successful career in the maritime freight and logistics industry, where he built a reputation for strategic leadership and professionalism. He continues to apply his expertise as a Non-Executive Director of a leading logistics company; and as a Trustee of two registered charities - roles that reflect his ability to guide organisations with integrity and vision.

I believe Peter is the right person to bring unity, stability and renewed positivity to the Club, following the difficulties that have been encountered this year, with a number of premature resignations from the Committee.

His proven leadership skills, calm authority, and experience in steering organisations through challenges make him exceptionally well-suited to lead the Broom Owners Club forward.

It is with great confidence that I nominate Peter for the role of Chairman.

## **For Vice Chairman**

### **Graham Eames Broom 10/70 Hyperion Eastern**

Proposed by Ken & Jane Foster Gentle One Eastern

I have been a BOC member for just over 10 years and have owned boats in the Broads area since 1987. With my wife Debbie, we became more actively involved in the club following Keith Rowe's hugely successful seminar in Norwich in 2022 for people considering a cruise to Holland. Up until this point there was little or no activity organised on the northern Broadland rivers either to attract new members there, or for the then current membership. All the coffee mornings were held in the Brundall area.

At that seminar I suggested, that to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee we might hold a boating pageant on the northern rivers. The simple premise would be to celebrate the Jubilee, promote the club and hopefully attract new members. As Peter Ward would be away on that date, he asked me if I could take it on. In the end, the Pageant was successful with YouTube and drone films and a number of new members were inspired to join, and have participated in club events since. After this, I also took it upon myself to arrange a coffee morning on the northern rivers. This went well and I have worked with Paul and Thandi to do this more regularly since.

I worked with Keith Rowe and Linda Varney to create the hugely successful 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend at the end of May 2024. I was particularly responsible for the River Pageant part. During the time leading up to the event, I was able to meet and chat to so many members, making new friends along the way and persuading 40+ members to promise their boats for the weekend. With 40 boats ultimately in the pageant and just over 135 people aboard those boats it was probably the largest BOC event since the Club was founded.

I was honoured to be told that I had been nominated again by one or more Club members for the role of Vice Chairman. I have considered what I could contribute and I believe that we can still gain many more members by better exposure and interesting events.

I believe we can improve the working of the club by using our combined expertise to make things simpler, more effective and with less workload on the volunteer committee members. We should be constantly in the pursuit of excellence. To this end, I am seeking your support for my nomination as Vice Chairman. I will bring to the club my natural exuberance and sense of humour, 55 years of business experience in the cold chain industry, mostly at director and board level, and chairing of two industry think tanks, two industry Lifetime Achievement awards and a strong willingness to work closely with the other Committee members and support them in their roles.

### **For General Secretary**

#### **Linda Varney Broom 33 Flying Visit Thames**

I joined BOC in September 2008 and I was BOC Membership Secretary for a number of years so, as a Committee member, I have an understanding of how the Club operates. I served for a year as National Events Coordinator before taking the General Secretary's role. I also act as an administrator for the BOC Facebook page. I have more than 25 years boating experience originally as the owner of a Broom 35 European in 2004 and latterly a Broom 33, cruising mainly on the River Thames but also downriver to the Medway and to France. I am involved in local boat club and residents' committee as well as volunteer crew for the River Thames Boat Project. I recognise that the needs and preferences of the members are changing but I hope to help maintain the corporate identity of the Broom Owners Club while implementing the changes members want and to continue to make being a member of BOC an enjoyable experience.

### **For Treasurer**

#### **Debbie Eames Broom 10/70 Hyperion Eastern**

Proposed by Ken & Jan Foster Gentle One Eastern

Seconded by Linda Varney Flying Visit Thames

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 Broad is very special and provided a welcome weekend relief from a stressful job. Now that I have retired, we visit the boat as often as we can, but particularly when the weather is nice. We have been on "Hyperion" between Christmas and New Year in the past, and once became an ice-breaker on Ranworth Broad after an overnight temperature drop to -3!

I worked for Mars UK for nearly 35 years 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 global changes that include system and process improvements to deliver simplification and efficiencies.



I have brought these skills to the role of BOC Treasurer already having sourced and implemented a new system for managing the accounts and membership in my first year. As part of this work a full review of club members was carried out and we now have a clear view of our membership numbers. If elected to do so I will continue to work with the Membership Secretary to improve the system and processes to provide improved financial reporting and membership data.

## **For Membership Secretary**

### **Karen Fishwick Broom 37 Crown Salem II Ireland**

I have been involved in boating for around five years and I love to spend time with my husband Pete 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. Boating is a very sociable pastime however I also enjoy the peace and quiet of the River Shannon in Ireland where I can spend my time enjoying the wildlife and improving my photography skills.

Social media is now a part of our daily lives and I like to keep my computer skills up to date. I enjoy all aspects of computers and IT and I feel this will be helpful if I am lucky enough to be reappointed Membership Secretary. My previous jobs include working in banking and financial services as well as legal services, working as a Will writer. All my jobs have involved working with people which I really enjoy.

I would love to be involved in promoting the club further and as the Membership Secretary I think this position would give me the perfect opportunity to do this.

## **For Editor, Sweeping Statements**

### **Jo Moore Broom 37 Serenata S Eastern**

Proposed by Debbie Eames Hyperion Eastern

Seconded by Graham Eames Hyperion eastern

I have always loved being on the water since a teenager, when with a few friends we would hire a boat on the Norfolk Broads each summer to see how many riverside pubs we could find whilst enjoying the freedom of the water...luckily not one of us fell in, although we did once manage to wedge the boat broadside when trying to pass under Wroxham Bridge...! Needless to say, my boating experience as an adult is much improved...

We fell in love with and bought our Broom 37 'Serenata S' in February 2022 on the river Trent, where we soon learned how to navigate locks and manoeuvre at very low water levels (thanks to the 2022 drought). After relocating Serenata S to the Norfolk Broads later that year, we now try to spend as much time as possible aboard and last year we were able to take her out to sea, visiting Ipswich and Southwold, with the ultimate intent to cross the channel and explore the continent...eventually...

My career background ranges from architectural design, CAD, interior design, graphic design and now the world of horticulture, and my interests include travel, crafts and amateur musical theatre. I have also created and edited various newsletters and publications in previous workplaces, so when the position of Editor became vacant, I offered to take up the challenge.

After producing the Spring 2025 Sweeping Statements and receiving lots of kind messages and positive feedback from many members, I am happy to continue in the role of Editor.

### **For Webmaster**

**Sammi Hallam Broom 38cl Sunniva Eastern**

Proposed by Graham Eames Hyperion Eastern

Seconded by Jo Moore Serenata S Eastern

I'm fairly new to boating about 18 months so still lots to learn.

I'm a scuba diving instructor so I'm more used to being under the water than on it but hope not to be in it when boating.

I work as a project manager for an IT Analytics corporation so know a little about the pitfalls of software systems and I'm pretty good at navigating systems and problem solving.

Web editing will hopefully not be a problem that I will need to solve but perhaps could add some useful shortcuts and ideas.

### **For Technical Coordinator**

**Keith Rowe Broom 41 Great Escape Eastern**

(see Chairman for proposal)

### **Regional Coordinators**

#### **Central**

**Mike Moore Broom 37 Serenata S Eastern**

Proposed by Graham Eames Hyperion Eastern

Seconded by Debbie Eames Hyperion Eastern

I've been boating from a young age so it was a proud moment when Jo and myself bought our first boat, a Broom 37 'Serenata S', from Newark Marina in 2022.

Our first season was spent on the gorgeous River Trent - a really enjoyable time, albeit a steep learning curve contending with locks, low bridges, etc.

Serenata S is now based on the Norfolk Broads, however we have fond memories of the Central Region and I am keen to give support to members in the region.

#### **Eastern**

**Ian Hallam Broom 38cl Sunniva - moored at Langford Marina, Brundall**

Proposed by Graham Eames Hyperion Eastern

Seconded Chris Cole Ikon Eastern

I am new to boating, Sunniva is my first ever boat (excluding a Mirror Dinghy more years ago than I care to remember!) which was purchased in early 2024.

I enjoy meeting new people and have had a great time in the club since joining.

I see opportunities for Eastern region members to enjoy more varied types of events and encourage friendships and adventures for new and existing members.

I live locally in Norfolk and can always be found on board in Brundall at weekends.

## **Europe**

### **Guido Roß**

#### **Broom 9/70 Zausel Friesland in Netherlands**

When we were looking for a compact but more spacious boat in 2019, it was by chance that we found a Broom. And to this day, it has been a good decision. We use our boat as often as possible, for simple weekend trips, but also for longer holidays.

Our home port is in the beautiful province of Friesland in the Netherlands.

Our German home area with its harsh waters (the coast in the north-west of Germany) have little to offer water sports enthusiasts, and the infrastructure is poor. The situation is changing completely when crossing a border to the Netherlands. This small country not only has an excellent infrastructure for commercial shipping on its countless canals and rivers, but also an equally good infrastructure for water sports enthusiasts.

Although the 'European Coordinator' is probably the contact person for the largest area in the BOC in terms of surface area, the number of Broom boats on the continent is significantly smaller than elsewhere. While there are still relatively many Brooms and members in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, the situation is somewhat different in the many other European countries between the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean. BOC members are spread across almost all European countries, but boats and owners are sometimes many hundreds of kilometres apart. This makes joint ventures more difficult, but not impossible. Today, there are many good and fast ways to stay in touch or make new contacts... with emails and mobile phones. So if you are travelling in north-western Germany or north-eastern Holland, feel free to drop by. I look forward to meeting you in person!

## **Ireland**

### **Pete Fishwick Broom 37 Crown Salem II Ireland**

I have been on the BOC Committee since April 2021, taking on a position that had been vacant for some time. I have been a Broom owner for five years 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 boating history goes back to 1976 when I first took a boat out on the Shannon and I've never looked back. I would like the opportunity to continue in this role to develop the Ireland Region.

The Broom Owners Club in Ireland has members in various locations all over the country. In Northern Ireland there are two large lakes, Upper and Lower Lough Erne which are connected to the Shannon Erne Waterway which flows south into the Republic of Ireland. This then continues into the River Shannon which flows all the way down to the Shannon Estuary at Limerick, via two large lakes, Lough Ree and Lough Derg. This provides boat owners with a variety of waterways and lakes to explore. In addition to this, many members venture out to sea and explore the many beautiful coastal regions of the Island of Ireland.

There are a large number of Broom boats in Ireland, varying in age and size. It is possible to hire a boat in Ireland and in fact one large hire company, Emerald Star, was a major customer of Broom Boats in the past. Some of these ex-hire boats are now proudly owned by members of BOC and can be seen all over Ireland.

Broom Owners Club is a wonderful opportunity for members to exchange ideas and technical advice and is an opportunity to draw on the experience of others in the event of any problems encountered.

It is also a wonderful way to meet fellow like-minded boat owners at social events and meetings which we hope to arrange during the boating season.

All our members have the opportunity to join our Ireland WhatsApp page which was recently introduced. It has proved to be a great success with our existing members and is a good way to discuss problems or concerns, talk about technical issues and also to arrange social events and even check on mooring or weather situations.

## **South Coast**

No nominee

## **South East**

No nominee

## **Thames**

### **Terry Sharp Broom Ocean 38 Synchronise Thames**

Sue and I have owned our present boat Synchronise, a Broom Ocean 38, 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.

## **Motions to be voted on**

- 1 That all committee posts are circulated throughout the club as the vacancy arises, especially when this occurs during the club year.**

**Proposed by Peter Bentley Hon Member**

Supporting Statement.

Whilst, of course, it is within the domain of the Committee to appoint ad hoc members to cover vacancies, it seems an obvious step to cast a wide net amongst all members for nominations as soon as a vacancy occurs. This didn't happen with the vacancies created when the last Editor of SS stepped down, nor for the Webmaster. Indeed, in the latter case, it was announced that the webmaster was stepping down at the same time as announcing a successor. In addition, a Regional Coordinator, who didn't moor in the region, was appointed without any apparent reference to those members who do moor there. This is in no way intended to reflect on the new post holders and the Club should certainly be grateful that they have taken on these responsibilities, the last edition of SS being very well edited and successful, but these are important post and the vacancies should have been advertised to all Club members, as soon as the vacancies arose.

- 2 That Club funds are not used to fund individuals' meals/drinks, particularly when events are open to non-members as guests.**

**Proposed by Alex Daniels Cyrella South East**

Events should be self-supporting as is the present case. The AGM itself and the hire of the room is a mandatory event and a cost to the club. Social events surrounding it, like all other social events, should be self-funding.

- 3 Rule 7 of the Club Rules should be amended to read.**  
**- The Committee shall consist of - Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary and Membership Secretary together with the Regional Co-ordinators and others as elected. (remove 'as a minimum' after Membership Secretary).**

**Proposed by Pete Fishwick Salem II Ireland**

Regional Coordinators are the ones who know their members best and are well placed as a link between members in their region and the rest of the BOC Committee. I feel it is really important that Regional Coordinators remain as official and recognised Committee members and are considered as important as other roles within the BOC Committee. Coordinators must be included in all Committee meetings and I would like to see this formalised in the Constitution.

- 4 That content of the magazine, a magazine by and for the membership, is the preserve of the Editor and should not be subject to influence by the committee, the Editor, in their elected role being fully conversant with Club procedures and its ethos. That Facebook postings, which do not violate the Administration Rules, are not censored by the Committee.**

**Proposed by David Haugh Kiowa Thames**

- 5      **That the Club's constitution is amended to ensure that any changes to the format and style of the club logo, and/or the adoption of new features or 'mottos', are presented to the Club as a whole for agreement before implementation. As in the past, such changes should be presented for formal adoption through the customary AGM process.**

**Proposed by Jane Neale and Richard Isabella Eastern**

- 6      **That editorial content of Sweeping Statements, a magazine by and for the membership, is the sole responsibility of the Editor and not subject to approval by the Committee. Also, that Facebook postings which do not violate the Administration Rules, are not censored by the Committee. Section 3 of the constitution states clearly one of the Club's objectives is to encourage sharing of information between members. This should be observed irrespective and independent of the Committee's views.**

**Proposed by Peter Ward Ocean Belle II Eastern**

- 7      **I propose the motion for a new and additional Committee position of External Affairs Officer (EAO). A growing number of external issues facing our members and the leisure boating community are taking on nationwide significance; the collective interests of our members should be properly represented.**

**Proposed by Peter Ward Ocean Belle II Eastern**

A dedicated and mandated focus on these critical matters will prove beneficial to members and enable the Club to better achieve its stated aims and objectives. Adhering to Section 3 of the Club's constitution, the EAO will provide skilled support and sharing of important information, aiding members' continued enjoyment of boating, whilst maintaining our non-political status.

Many organisations describe themselves as non-political, but campaign hard when rules, infrastructure or legislation impacts their members. For example, The National Trust describes itself as a non-political conservation charity, but intervenes in planning law, countryside protection, and environmental regulation; framing its activity as 'protecting heritage and members' interests'. Likewise, the Caravan and Motorhome Club represents touring members on fuel duty, emission rules and road access; working with government departments whilst staying neutral.

As one of the larger motor boat owners' clubs, the voice of Broom Owners Club should be heard. The Club has the opportunity to collaborate with other boating stakeholder groups and related authorities to influence the discourse on important matters, which, if not addressed, carry significant risk to our future boating experience.

The Club already has evidence of success in this area, playing our part in resolving, albeit temporarily, the impasse between Norfolk County Council and Peel Ports regarding Haven Bridge, enabling the re-opening of navigation via Great Yarmouth. The Club recognised the value of this crusade by awarding the Martin Broom Trophy to myself and Chris Cole at last year's AGM.

A further achievement came earlier this year when the Club took the lead in the Great Yarmouth Port Users' Group, following Peel Ports' intention to introduce a further fee on leisure craft for the lifting of Haven Bridge, in addition to the recently introduced Transit Fee. The proposal to burden more costs onto our members was dropped when, through our due diligence and structured consultation, we maintained that such a fee would be illegal under statutory legislation.

The proposal for the appointment of EAO is to ensure that such discussions are conducted with the formal and authorised backing of the Club, rather than members taking on these tasks with the best of intentions, but in no official capacity.

The key purpose of the EAO is delegated responsibility for the Club's relationships with key external stakeholders, including government bodies, regulatory agencies, media, partner organisations, and the wider leisure boating community; and to keep members informed. Issues highlighted of relevant to BOC members included Government policy especially Marine decarbonisation; evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Waterways; conservancy fees for leisure craft; taking pets abroad; funding of navigation; bridge opening and fee issues at Great Yarmouth and Network Rail's swing bridges.