

JOG Captain's Report November 2022

This time of year often fills me with mixed emotions. Having to wait until March 2023 to race again is torturous.

The year has been an exceptionally busy one for all the team at JOG. We've had very mixed conditions and new challenges that we haven't had to plan for in the past.

In 2022 we not only put on 18 races but ran a spectacular JOG week in Torbay. A rest from both the organising of races and all the late nights that come with them would be the tonic of most mortals but there is no time for that as we are full steam ahead with the preparation for the 2023 season.

We continued to build on the momentum of growth both for coastal and offshore racing. 151 different yachts entered races accounting for a total of 673 entries. We now have over 3,000 different crew members that have raced with JOG over the past 3 years, 1,096 of those raced this season alone, with the highest proportion of younger crew that we have seen to date.

We added 'The Great Escape' race to the opening weekend as a permanent fixture. The growing success of 'The Lonely Tower' Race has helped us to create an iconic opening weekend for the sailing season on the Solent.

We make no apologies for promoting the success of these coastal races as they help us grow the club and enable us to build participation in offshore racing for all, youth, small boats, larger boats, beginners, and seasoned veterans alike.

At the core of JOG is our ethos of supporting all with competitive events that are adapted for conditions that suit all categories of boats in our fleet, mindful of the limited time that is afforded to us. If *regular* offshore racing is to grow, we need to instil confidence in crews and skippers that they will be set out on an achievable course without having to take an unexpected week off work to complete the event.

Our membership has grown by 70% in the last 3 years, a testament to our efforts to modernise our vision of a yacht club and break down historic barriers to being a member.

Our Generation JOG programme has continued to grow and now, 28% of our club membership is made up of members under 30. This is an achievement beyond our initial expectations, largely helped by the sustainable nature of the programme and the generous support we have had from Henri Lloyd to provide kit awards to those racing within the Generation JOG class.

At the beginning of the season, helped by the generous support of members, we opened applications to our Generation JOG "introduction to racing" course where the climax of the training was to compete in both 'The Lonely Tower' and 'The Great Escape' races. This highlighted that we still have work to do as a sailing community when it comes to equality of opportunity in sailing. 80% of those that applied were young women who needed the confidence to join a racing team.

The same ratio completed the course, and we are delighted to see them all amongst the crews of our JOG fleet, now competing regularly to a high standard.

It's our vision that in future, most young people sailing on the Solent will say that they started racing with JOG and, possibly, one day, finished racing with JOG.

Your support is critical to this, and I encourage you to contribute to the Generation JOG fund to help us continue this good work. [Contribute Here](#)

Following a nomination for the RYA Yachting Club of the Year 2023, we have been awarded as a finalist and we hope we can count on your support when voting opens in December for the overall winner. Not only does this give recognition to our club, but it also helps create awareness for what we do and helps us to continue recruiting new people to offshore racing using this broader outreach.

With the growing popularity of our races, we have made an extra effort to publish our 2023 programme early. This is something we plan to continue.

One change that is intended for next season is moving to the more common model of charging race entry fees by length. We have spent a considerable amount of time modelling this to get to a formula that gives us a gradual step change.

Pricing by length affords us many benefits over our current model of pricing by class. These include the following: -

- We can set our rating bands later to give us time to analyse the impact of IRC certificate changes.
- It's a more simplified process – Boat lengths don't typically change whereas ratings are a constantly moving target.
- We can set our pricing to provide more support for smaller boats where budgets are typically smaller, as we see a diminishing trend. After all, supporting small offshore boats is one of our key principles.

Whilst we still have a lot of work on the mechanics of this, we recognise that entering a race is not just about paying the fees. There is currently far too much administration for skippers, and in the future, we will be well positioned to offer event packages where you will be able to reserve your berthing, meal options and race entry within one simple transaction. This will save the headache of multiple phone calls and emails. All marinas charge by length, and this will align us to that principle.

Our core goal is to maintain affordable racing whilst being mindful of financial sustainability and, less critically, reliant on the good will of some generous members.

We are also planning for the higher costs of running offshore events and the full-time role of a club secretary that has evolved.

This year we will see three committee members leaving through rotation and other personal commitments.

Part of the reason I have gone into such detail about our success over the last 3 years is to highlight the achievements of committee and the three leaving have been instrumental in this. There are few clubs that can claim such success during such a turbulent period in the world. Being on committee is a voluntary role and on behalf of JOG, I would like to thank Kate Cope, Will McGough and Olly Love for their great service.

I would like to thank Martin and Ruth for their unwavering dedication to the cause and all our race officers for helping with all the race commitments that they have dutifully and professionally done.

Great credit is given to Ross Perchard and Alexis Eyre for their excellent work with our social media awareness, drive for sustainability and work with supporting partners.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2023 for another great JOG season.