



The Old Worcesters' Yacht Club



CONSTITUTION

1. Title & Definitions

- a) The title of the Club shall be the "Old Worcesters' Yacht Club" ('OWYC').
- b) "The Association" shall mean the "Association of Old Worcesters" ('AOW').
- c) "Members" shall mean OWYC members as distinct from members of the AOW.
- d) "Founder Members" shall mean those members who joined the Club before the 30th November 1974 on payment of a Founder Member's fee.
- e) "The Annual General Meeting" ('AGM') shall mean that held by the OWYC and is distinct from that held by the AOW.

2. Objects

The objects of the OWYC are the perpetuation of the Ensign of the former Incorporated Thames Nautical Training College, HMS "Worcester", by its use as a Ministry of Defence Recognised yacht club ensign on the Privileged list, to be worn by Members of the OWYC Whose yachts are eligible, and for the use by Members of a Burgee representing the OWYC.

3. Qualifications for Membership.

Membership of the OWYC is open only to Cadets of the former Thames Nautical Training College, HMS "Worcester", who must also be members of the AOW.

4. Finances

- a) There shall be a once only Founder's Fee of £5 to be paid before the 30th November 1974.
- b) The annual subscription shall be £4 or such amount as may be later approved in any AGM.

All persons admitted to membership of the OWYC after the 1st January 1993 shall pay either a five-yearly subscription of £20 or a life subscription of £50. Existing members may continue to pay £4 annually but are encouraged to change to either life or five-yearly membership. Those seeking re-admission after a period of lapsed membership shall pay a re-entry fee of £10.

Subscriptions are due for payment on the 31st October and may be paid by cheque or Banker's order.

- c) On application for an Ensign Permit the sum of £10 shall be forwarded to the OWYC Secretary with the application.
- d) Any monies received from the above dues shall be in a holding Bank Account in the name of the OWYC and independent of any financial arrangements of the AOW. Cheques are to be made payable to the "Old Worcesters' Yacht Club".
- e) Save as otherwise authorised by the Members at an AGM, no member or officer of the OWYC shall be in receipt of any fees paid out of Club funds nor shall any member be entitled to any distribution upon the dissolution or winding-up of the Club. In the event of the winding-up or dissolution of the Club the assets, after discharging all liabilities, shall be distributed amongst recognised nautical charities the selection of which shall be at the option of the Club Officers at the time. The said distribution shall also be deemed as an object of the OWYC.

5) Officers

- a) The Officers of the Club shall consist of a Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer & Honorary Auditor, the latter shall be nominated by the Members at the AGM and shall be an ex-officio member without voting rights.
- b) The Commodore, Vice Commodore & Rear Commodore shall be elected annually at the AGM to hold office for the coming year. Initially they will be selected in order of "Worcester" term seniority from the Founder Members.



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- c) The Vice Commodore & Rear Commodore of any year will succeed as Commodore and Vice Commodore respectively in the following year.
- d) Members of at least five years standing who are over 75 years of age shall be designated as "Senior members" and shall have no further liability for subscription.

6. Management

- a) The affairs of the club, including admission and expulsion of members, shall be controlled by the Club's Officers (save for the honorary Auditor) on behalf of the members.
- b) The Officers, at their discretion, may delegate specific duties to other members of the club.
- c) There shall be an AGM of the OWYC, the precise date, time and location being at the discretion of the Officers. Notice of the AGM will be sent to members at least one month in advance.
- D) The Commodore, Secretary or Secretaries will report to the members at the AGM. The Club's Officers will keep accurate records of the finances and assets of the Club. The Treasurer will Provide audited accounts at the AGM.
- e) The AGM shall be open to members of the AOW who will not, however, have voting rights unless they join the OWYC. Club members will each have one vote.
- f) Decisions shall be made by a majority and shall be by a show of hands. The Commodore, who will act as Chairman, will have a casting vote.
- g) At any AGM the quorum shall be six.
- h) At any AGM a decision to amend or change part of the Constitution shall be by a majority of two-thirds of all voting Members present.
- i) The Officers described in item (5) shall be appointed annually at the AGM.
- j) Rule amendments which have not been proposed by the Flag Officers should be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least two weeks before the AGM.

7. Ensign & Burgee

- a) The Club ensign is the defaced blue Ensign of the former Incorporated Thames Nautical Training College, HMS "Worcester". This shall be worn agreeable to a Warrant first granted by the Ministry of Defence on the 31st January 1975 which was replaced by a further warrant dated 8th February 1985.
- b) The ensign shall only be worn if the owner or charterer holds a Ministry of Defence Permit obtained through the Club and provided that the owner or charterer and such permit are onboard the vessel whenever the ensign is worn. When the yacht is in harbour, or at anchor near the shore, the owner need not be onboard but must be in effective control of the yacht.
NOTE: Admiralty or Ministry of Defence Warrants issued to individual members were Replaced in 1985 by Ministry of Defence Permits – they have a similar validity as fully Described overleaf.

- c) The Burgee shall be:

Shape – Triangular. Background – Coloured Blue as ensign. Superimposed thereon – from the mid point of the hoist to the apex a wavy line with two Peaks and two troughs of depths equal to one-twelfth the height of the hoistside of the burgee and such wavy line to be coloured as follows: top third silver and the remainder or. bottom two thirds gold. Above the wavy line adjacent to the hoist a gold naval crown and below the wavy line adjacent to the hoist a gold capital 'W'. Form of letter to be 'Welt Extra Bold' (Letraset) or 'Beten Extra Bold' (Typeface).



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The symbols referred to shall be identical reproductions of those used on the defaced blue Ensign of HMS "Worcester".

The Flag Officers of the Club shall wear a swallow-tail pennant of similar design. The Vice-Commodore shall also wear a gold sphere above the crown and the Rear-Commodore a Second gold sphere below the "W".

The Club Flag is rectangular and is a similar design to the Burgee and is flown at the cross-trees when the burgee of another club is flown superior. Former Commodores may fly the Club flag as a burgee.

d) When a vessel belonging to or chartered by a member is wearing the Club Ensign on the authority of an Ensign Permit obtained through the Yacht Club that vessel shall also wear the Club Burgee or Flag Officers pennant (as appropriate), preferably from the main truck.

e) Club Ensigns, Burgees and Flags shall only be obtained through the Club Secretary to ensure they are only used by bona-fide vessels and/or members so that they retain the authentic design characteristics.

8. Application for Ensign Permits

a) Ensign permits are issued by the Club on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. Responsibility for the correctness of the application rests with the Secretary who will, therefore, need to check the details of the yacht's registration document (or photocopy thereof) which must be forwarded with the application form and issue fee.

b) As soon as possible after the 31st December each year the Club is required to send to the Royal Yachting Association (as agents for the Ministry of Defence) a complete list of club Yachts for which permits are held together with the owner or charterers name and the vessel's Official or SSR number.

c) Permits must be returned to the Club Secretary for Cancellation following disposal of the vessel concerned.

9. General

Communication with OWYC members shall be via the AOW Newsletter or website, the OWYC website, by e-mail or direct postal communication.

b) An Annual List of Members shall be published following the AGM.

c) Social events shall be arranged under the direction of the Commodore of any year with the assistance of the secretary

The Constitution of the Club was originally approved by members of the Inaugural General Meeting held at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in London on the 4th October 1974. Minor changes were made in 1975, 1976, 1988, 1992, 1993, 2000, 2005 and 2013.