

The **WOBYC Development Group** (Simon Marfleet and Ben Falat) has through this year slowly and intermittently addressed a Development Plan by formulating a rubric against which future plans, initiatives and developments should be measured; if we agree such a rubric now as describing what WOBYC is about then any future personal ideas become automatically supported or rejected from inception through complying with the rubric or not; that is to say nevertheless, that should any future idea be seen as so fundamentally attractive, that the rubric be not set in stone, but could be massaged and expanded.

There are only two fundamental requirements placed on WOBYC:

Internally (Object) **“The object of this club is to encourage the improvement and sailing of small Yachts and Boats”**

Externally (Lease) **“To run Regattas”**.

This clarifies and focuses thinking, that what this club is actually about is ‘Competitive Racing’.

This focus is reflected in holding the club’s premier Open event Oulton Regatta Week, Open Meetings for various classes of racing dinghy and Closed club racing. WOBYC chooses to do this throughout the year both winter on Sundays, and summer Wednesdays and Saturdays as well; additionally various initiatives are undertaken to address training events and broadest participation. All this is supported by a social programme and physical facilities including bar, changing, toilets and viewing areas (upstairs lounge, balcony and downstairs awning), pontoons, motorboat support e.t.c.

	Very Low	Low	Middle	High	Very High	Importance
Club & its Future	1	2	3	4	5	
Junior & Youth Sailing	0%	0%	3%	33%	63%	Yes
Promoting adult sailing	0%	18%	21%	29%	32%	
General coaching	7%	4%	50%	18%	21%	Yes
Volunteer training	11%	4%	50%	36%	0%	Yes
Safety, risk assessment	4%	18%	25%	29%	25%	
Promotion and Publicity	14%	21%	39%	14%	11%	
Develop links with Watersports Centre	14%	11%	36%	21%	18%	Yes
Develop links with community, schools	7%	18%	29%	18%	29%	
Improve club premises	21%	14%	29%	25%	11%	
Offer more social activities	4%	14%	43%	18%	21%	Yes
Buy club squib	50%	18%	18%	7%	7%	No
Offer more recreational sailing	29%	25%	32%	4%	11%	No

During the time of Commodore Jenny Riley, a questionnaire was circulated around the membership; this elicited the following responses:

During late 1980’s a document titled, “Whither the Club?”, was produced under Commodore David Brooke by Tim Barrett, Mary Stamp and Paddy Hardiman; this described falling memberships over the decade to 1986 and focused of the three pillars of “Sailing - Attitude - Clubhouse”.

Issues particularly pertinent to today have been emboldened in the table below:-

Sailing	Attitude	Clubhouse
Course setting	Application forms	Changing & toilet facilities
Buoy numbering	Links with schools	Catering
Sailboard introduction	Display of committee members	Upstairs clubhouse layout
Programme review	Newsletter	Bar seating
Class representatives on committee	Line rota and duties and volunteering	Wet bar
	Improved communications	Additional West Verandah
		Starter's box
<p>A series of recommendations followed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to hold all committee meetings at the club house • to hold less disparate fleet functions, rather focus on full club events • to communicate more frequently with members • to adopt sailboards • to raise the junior subscription age • to focus on committee organisation and make-up • to ensure good course setting every race • Toilets, changing and Starting box upstairs, with Bar, catering, barbeque and any other social facilities downstairs 		<p>Winter meeting to warmer locations; Annual Prizegiving & Dinner/Dance prioritised; Website; Broadside; Mailchimp newsletter proven difficult to sustain though highly valued; Sailboards folded; Welcome to younger members; Committee make-up works reasonably well; Duty response remains poor and volunteering restricted to the repeated same small group; NO ! Upstairs viewing prioritised.</p>

Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club - Development Discussion Document 2015

Introduction - The committee is preparing a discussion paper of ideas for establishing how future club development should progress.

Object of the Club - To encourage the improvement and sailing of small yachts and boats (Club General Rule 2).

The Club has a single Objective and all activities and developments of the Club should fulfil this.

Encourage the improvement and sailing of small yachts and boats

Small boats (non-Members)

The Club has a share-agreement with the Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club (**LOBMBC**) as its tenants.
Many activities of the LOBMBC are similar to WOBYC's, but remain separate within their own autonomous organisation

The Club operates as an 'RYA Champion Club' providing a pathway of progress in collaboration with both the Suffolk Water Sports training establishment and the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club from learning-to-sail through racing to tidal sea experience.

The Club actively supports the sharing of its facilities with other water-based activities:

- » **Visiting individual yachtsmen and canoeists**
- » **Waveney Sailability** » **University of East Anglia Sailing Club**
- » **Suffolk Watersports** » **Visiting cruising clubs**
- » **Lowestoft Rowing Club** » **Dragon Boat 'charity' events**

Small yachts and boats (Members)

WOBYC achieves its Object through focus on sailing dinghies, small keelboats and yachts, by organising a variety of race formats, regattas, training events and encouraging the use of Oulton Broad and its adjoining waters by its members.

The Club encourages its members to participate in sailing and racing at local clubs and at regional, national and international events; it also encourages activities that support its core objective.

1. Maintain a Clubhouse and ancillary facilities:

- Rescue Boats
- Pontoons
- Boatshed
- Boat-Park
- Boat-Crane
- Careening Tirlor
- Race-Buoys
- Race-Management Boat
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2. Provide Services to Members:

- Rescue 'team'
- Race Management
- Club boats
- Club handbook
- Tea/coffee between races
- Bar, loung & viewing area
- Changing rooms & toilets
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3. Undertake Marketing of Club and recruitment:

- Annual Open Day
- Family Fun Fridays
- Club website
- Race-reports to local press
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4. Provide broad Social activities:

- Prizegiving Dinner Dance
- End of winter season Prizegiving buffet
- Friday evening bar and sporadic events
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WOBYC Development Plan 2015 – Aims

To be the **first choice sailing club** for the Southern Broads Area and North East Suffolk

1. by being the **best sailing club** for racing in the Broadland Area;
2. by providing **excellent support** for racing and sailing at the club;
3. by providing **excellent facilities for racing and sailing** at the club;
4. by providing **excellent facilities for those supporting** racing and sailing at the club;
5. by supporting other waterborne activities in allowing **partner associations** to access the club facilities;
6. by providing a social programme to help build a **strong ‘club ethos’**.

Analysis :-

Strengths		Weaknesses	
all	The best venue in terms of available water and prevailing wind direction	all	WOBYC is at the southern limits of the Broads and Oulton Broad can be difficult to get to
4, 6	The best venue in terms of viewing racing and sailing from a clubhouse	3	The clubhouse is remote from the launching area, the boat-park and moorings
1, 2, 3	Competitive racing fleets	1, 2, 3, 4	Can be off-putting for sailors new to racing. Little sailing organised other than racing
1, 2, 3, 5	Good and accessible launching and craning facilities	1, 2, 3	These facilities are some distance from the clubhouse and are shared with the public
1, 2, 3, 5	Good pontoon / mooring facilities adjacent to the clubhouse	1, 2, 3	Ageing pontoons that are not very dinghy friendly
1, 2, 3, 4	Good, experienced race management	1, 2, 3, 4	Not always at weekends in the summer. In the winter, racing is not always optimised for the sailors
1, 2, 3, 4	Committee boat to optimise race starting	1, 2, 3, 4	Not always used when it would be advantageous and not the best platform for conducting race management
1, 2, 3, 4	Good rescue facilities and well trained and motivated rescue team	1, 2, 3, 4	Rescue crews are not permanent
1, 2, 4, 5	Well equipped clubhouse with good changing & toilet facilities / snack bar / licenced bar / race office and starting box	1, 2, 4	Ageing infrastructure that needs constant updating
1, 2, 4	Dinghy park / boathouse and winter storage	1, 2, 4	Poor security
1, 2, 3	Year round sailing	all	Strain on race management / rescue facilities
all	Oulton Week	all	Volunteer recruitment

Opportunities		Threats	
all	Best sailing area in the Southern Broads	all	Geographically 'remote' and not always easy to access by road. Small local population / catchment area from which to draw membership
1, 3, 4	Year round sailing	4	So have other Broadland venues
1, 2, 3	Safe launching / sailing / recovery		
1, 2, 3	Access for coastal sailing	1, 2, 3	Not very suitable coast for small boat sailing
1, 2, 3	Links with RNSYC / Suffolk Watersports / UEA / Motorboats	1, 2, 3	Not always easy to sustain links
1, 2, 3, 4	Can offer limited 'championship' sailing events	1, 2, 3, 4	Reduced number of sailing participants - ageing population / new into the sport
1, 2, 3, 4	Additional moorings for keelboats	1, 2, 3, 4	Management of moorings Dredging of broad Flooding and Low water
1, 2, 4, 5	Develop 'beach area' for dinghy landing	1, 2, 4, 5	Permissions ?
1, 2, 4	Winter memberships	1, 2, 4	Reduced income vs additional members
1, 2, 4, 5	Other facilities - Suffolk Watersports Pegasus Yard redevelopments Webcams		
1, 2, 4, 6	Veteran members continued association with the club - the new lift	1, 2, 4, 6	Reduced income vs retained participation
1, 2, 4, 6	Plan for an enhanced social area bar extension (Verandah)	1, 2, 4, 6	Preclusive cost

Whither the Club 2016 ?

If the ethos of what this small group is doing lies broadly in line with the wishes of the committee, we should like to proceed to a final stage of identifying 'Projects' and 'Initiatives' that are clearly supported within previous work and present these together with reasoning to the membership at the A.G.M.

We should like all committee members to scrutinise the paper and share their own ideas, certainly at least communicating an agreement or disagreement by eMail to benfalat@gmail.com