

Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society

The 85th Annual General Meeting of the Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society held at
Cherwell Boathouse on Saturday 4th October 2025 at 7.20pm

Minutes

1. Apologies received from Alex Baxter, Tiarnan Finney
2. The minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting, shared in person, were approved with no comments.
3. Amanda shared her first president's report, replicated as Appendix A.
4. The accounts ending June 30th were shared in paper format and approved with no comments.
5. Tom Low added additional context in the meeting on the state of the Society's investments. Previously he had considered rebalancing the portfolio but no plans to make no such change when accounting for recent performance.
6. Port report from Alex was read out in his absence, and provided as an appendix below.
7. There being no further nominations, the following were approved unanimously:
 - President - Amanda Hampson
 - Honorary Treasurer - Tom Low
 - Honorary Secretary - Greg Sale
8. Following the stepping down of Tiarnan Finney & Callum Farnden, the following were elected to the committee nem. con:
 - Vincent Geake
 - Rosie Jones
 - Ewan Gribbin
 - Matty Evans
 - Hugh Tomkins (Events)
 - Helen Jones
 - Alex Baxter (Port)
9. AOB
 - Chris Pugh thanked Amanda for her most obliging conduct in the chair.
 - There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.32pm.

Appendix A: President's Report 2025

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Society's 85th AGM and a particular warm welcome to all new members. Many thanks to you all for attending tonight, especially as the sailing was sadly cancelled – but given the weather we had no choice. I know that many of you have travelled a long way and I really appreciate your attendance. As I am sure you are aware it is a requirement that we hold a formal AGM each year.

I promise that we will keep the formal part of the meeting brief so that we can get to the dinner and of course the all important [Loving] Cup and port afterwards.

Now to the first item on the agenda.

It has been a huge privilege and honour it is for me to have been elected president at last year's meeting. Some of you may know that I was one of the first cohort of women admitted to the society thirty five years ago, and I am delighted that a number of others from that cohort are here tonight. To have then been elected the first female president is very special.

I would in particular like to thank Jeremy for his continued efforts over the years to increase the diversity of the society.

I have now been in this role for a year throughout which I have been supported by a brilliant committee. During that time we have focussed on a number of things, which I would like to briefly outline.

We have been working to update the OCSS website so that it more accurately reflects the society and also to make it easier to keep up to date. This is one of my objectives for my three year term and we will continue to work on it and any suggestions or offers of help would be warmly appreciated, in particular from anyone with practical experience of building websites. I would also like to make the process of joining the society more transparent, with a goal of broadening the membership to a wider number of people who have contributed to sailing at both universities.

I have also been working to broaden the committee and I am pleased that we will be electing new members to the committee later in the agenda.

Jeremy was a fantastic champion of diversity but I feel we still have more to do there, and in particular I would like to get the balance of the committee more even. To that end I would welcome any Oxford sailors that would be interested in joining the committee to let me or any of the committee members know.

One of our proposed new committee members, Vince, has been looking at the purpose and the objectives of the society, in particular the important connections and bonds that the society builds and helps to sustain over the years.

Finally my overwhelming objective is to ensure that this wonderful society, of which we are all members, continues to thrive and survive for years to come.

Appendix B: Port Report 2025

Firstly, I would like to apologise once again for my absence. I would like to once again state that I would LOVE generations not to be arranged on the weekend of the Firefly Inlands. At least, none of us are sailing this year, and I am probably at this point say on the banks of Chew Valley, eating a curry, wishing I were drinking some vintage port.

Anyway, down to business.

General Performance Overview:

The cellar currently holds a total of 14 wines, comprising 23 cases and amounting to 138 bottles in total.

The overall cost of building this collection stands at £4,575.00, while the present valuation has risen to £5,032.00.

This represents a gain of £457.00 in value, equating to an increase of around 10%.

The figures indicate that the cellar has not only maintained its worth but has also delivered a notable return on investment, with the portfolio demonstrating steady growth in value. This will likely only continue due to the prudent investment of my predecessor, Katie Nurton.

On Katie, at this years dinner, we will be finishing off the last of the 2000 Dow which she has kindly stored for the society for a number of years, so if you see her at any events, do thank her!

Specific Performance Overview:

Early holdings include the 2003 Quinta do Noval and 2007 Quarles Harris, both youthful but within or nearing their drinking windows.

The 2007 Warre's has gained modestly (+17%), while the 2011 Taylor's is broadly flat.

Strong growth is seen in the 2011 Niepoort (+38%) and particularly the 2015 Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas (+120%). Other 2015s, including Quinta do Vesuvio (+19%), Cockburn's (+26%), and Dow's Senhora da Ribeira (+28%), also show healthy appreciation.

By contrast, the more recent 2016 Taylor's (-35%) and 2016 Graham's (-41%) have fallen in value, as have the 2017 Croft (-6%) and 2017 Taylor's (-24%). Although this is due to their age, and will likely rise with time.

Recent Sale:

The case of 2003 Quinta do Noval (1x6) has been sold at a price of £285.00, with a net total payable of £256.50. Against the original purchase price of £195.00, this represents a realised gain of £61.50, equivalent to approximately +32%. I sanctioned this sale as we are not drinking as much as originally planned, which has created something of a bottleneck in the cellar.

It is my intention to reinvest these proceeds, likely into a further 1x6 case—though possibly two cases—from the 2046 and 2047 vintages. I shall reach out to our portfolio manager and to Mr Rudd for their advice before making a final decision.

Looking forward:

Again, I am more than happy to stay on in the role. I monitor the regular bids which we get on Berry Bros daily, look at general market trends, and shall have conversations with Berry Bros about the planned reinvestment of the recent sale.

Hopefully, I can also make a Generations dinner at some point soon and actually enjoy the stuff!