

Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society

The 86th Annual General Meeting of the Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society held at
Cherwell Boathouse on Saturday 3th October 2026 at 7.30pm

Minutes

1. Apologies received from Alex Baxter.
2. The minutes of the 85th Annual General Meeting, shared on the OCSS website, were approved with no comments.
3. Amanda shared her president's report, replicated as Appendix A.
4. The accounts ending June 30th were shared in paper format, with additional context from Tom that as Generations did not go ahead last year there was a high “profit” realised as many people were happy to donate their entry to the society rather than request a refund.
 - Alex Smallwood queried the £6 monthly payment to Gregory Sale. This payment is to make a card payment (the society bank account has no card) to pay for the Google account email system, using a custom domain name.
 - *Editor's note [Greg himself!] this charge has now actually increased to £7 a month which I may ask for a pocket money increase next year.*
5. Tom Low added additional context in the meeting on the state of the Society's investments, including generally good performance due to overall market returns.
 - Hugh and Greg thanked Tom for his support and long tenure as society Treasurer and Investments officer as he steps down.
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 - Ashi Banerjee
 - Honorary Secretary - Greg Sale
8. Following the stepping down of Alex Baxter, the following were elected to the committee nem. con:
 - Vincent Geake
 - Rosie Jones
 - Ewan Gribbin (Fixtures)
 - Matty Evans
 - Hugh Tomkins (Generations)
 - Helen Jones
 - Jamie Webb (Port)
9. AOB
 - We wished Jamie a happy 30th birthday.
 - Rosie produced some first edition Musto jackets bearing the OCSS logo. A vote was taken whether the branding should read “O&CSS” or “OCSS”. The ampersand was voted out with an overwhelming majority.
 - Greg Sale thanked Amanda for her most obliging conduct in the chair.
 - There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

Appendix A: President's Report 2026

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Society's 86th AGM. Many thanks to you all for attending tonight, and I hope that those of you who participated in the Intergenerations had a thoroughly enjoyable day on the water. Thank you to Hugh, as ever, for organising a wonderful event, and allowing me on the committee boat.

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, and that we have the necessary quorum.

I promise, that like last year, 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 we will move on to the formal agenda, which hopefully you all managed to find on the website or on the OCSS Whatsapp group.

First I would like to formally welcome all the new members that have been nominated and meet all the criteria for joining OCSS this year:

From Oxford we have

- Lucia Grundy
- George Edwards
- Elizabeth Bonnet
- George Coop

From Cambridge we have

- Ellen Morley
- Blake Tudor
- Will Adler
- Kelsey Leet
- Claudia Bazyk

Apologies if I have mispronounced any names!

I have now completed two years in this role and once again I have been supported by a brilliant committee. I would like to give you a brief update on the things that we have been focussed on this past year.

This year we have made fantastic progress on the OCSS website and I would like to thank out Greg, Hugh and the other committee members for their significant work on this. Consequently, the site is now faster, much easier to navigate and the content is up to date. It is also significantly easier to administer.

As many of you will know, we have also set up a members WhatsApp group to further improve our communications, and I would like to thank both Helen and Matilda for this initiative. If you would like to join that group please either contact them or any of the committee members so that we can add you.

Over the last year we have also taken the opportunity to review the overall governance and status of the society, as a result of a concern raised regarding the legal entity and status of OCSS.

We received some, pro bono, legal advice and the outcome was that we are in an extremely low risk entity – this is a **good** outcome. We have filed the legal advice and do not need to take any further action at this point in time.

As I mentioned last year I had a goal of making the process of being elected to the society more transparent, with an objective of broadening the membership to a wider number of people who have contributed to sailing at both universities. I am really happy to report that we completed a review of the nomination process and as a result we now have clear and transparent criteria for election. I would be happy to share that with anyone that is interested – it is also on the OCSS website

I would like to thank Rosie, who has been leading the charge to broaden the range of society branded merchandise. The latest fantastic addition to the range are these wonderful jackets. These are available to order now, please talk to Rosie if you are interested and we will be adding a link on the website shortly to make purchasing easy for all of you.

I would like to remind you all about the winter drinks that Vincent has organised at the Royal ocean Racing club, RORC, on Wednesday 9th December in London. Thankyou Vince. This will be a cash bar, with some Port of course. Although December is a busy time of year, I do hope that many of you will be able to join us. Please do let us know if you expect to attend so that we can plan for the numbers.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for attending, it is wonderful to see so many here this evening.

Appendix B: Port Report 2026

General Performance Overview:

The cellar currently holds a total of 13 wines, comprising 22 cases and amounting to 132 bottles in total, all held in bond at Berry Bros.

The overall cost of building this collection stands at £4,380.00, while the present valuation is £4,440.00.

This represents a gain of £60.00, or around 1.4%. That is a much quieter year than last, when the cellar showed a gain of £457 (+10%). Allowing for the Noval sale, the remaining wines have slipped by roughly £300 over the year, largely because the 2016 and 2017 vintages have softened further in the market.

The cellar has nonetheless held its value overall, and the older holdings remain comfortably ahead of what we paid for them.

Specific Performance Overview:

The 2007 Quarles Harris is our best performer (+44%) and is now in its drinking window. The 2007 Warre's continues to hold a steady gain (+17%), and the 2011 Taylor's has edged up (+9%), while the 2011 Niepoort has fallen back to roughly what we paid for it (0%, down from +38% last year).

The 2015s remain the backbone of the cellar: Dow's Senhora da Ribeira (+28%), Cockburn's (+26%), Quinta do Vesuvio (+14%) and Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas (+11%, well down on last year's +120%). The Fonseca Guimaraens Bicentenary is flat.

By contrast, the more recent 2016 Taylor's (−31%) and 2016 Graham's (−52%) remain well below cost, as do the 2017 Taylor's (−36%) and 2017 Croft (−5%). The Graham's figure looks harsh: other sources value it nearer £228 a case, and the best bid on Berry Bros is £180. These wines are a decade or more from their drinking windows and I would expect them to recover with age.

Since the Last AGM:

Last year I reported the sale of the 2003 Quinta do Noval, which raised £256.50 net. No new wines have yet been added to the cellar, so these proceeds remain available for reinvestment, and I will continue those conversations with Berry Bros.

Looking forward:

With the last of Katie's 2000 Dow finished at last year's dinner, and the Noval (pencilled in for 2026) sold, this year's slot is open. I propose we drink the remaining case of 2007 Quarles Harris: it is in its drinking window, it is our best performer, and it was never intended for long keeping.

After that, the drinking plan runs as follows, roughly one case per dinner:

2027: 2015 Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas

2028 and 2030: 2015 Fonseca Guimaraens Bicentenary

2029, 2032 and 2034: 2007 Warre's

2031: 2015 Dow's Senhora da Ribeira

2033: 2015 Quinta do Vesuvio

The 2011 Niepoort is also drinking now, so it could be brought forward from 2035 if we want a change. The 2011 Taylor's, 2016s and 2017s are held back for the 2040s.