



MALVERNIAN
SOCIETY

OM Sailing Club

2024 - 2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

Report by Robert Hammond (2.96-01)

The Old Malvernian Sailing Club (OMSC) had a memorable and hard-fought campaign at the 2024 Arrow Trophy, held over the weekend of 5th – 6th October in Cowes. With conditions ranging from light airs on Saturday to gusty 20-knot squalls on Sunday, the regatta provided a testing challenge across both Fairview and Sunsail fleets. Malvern's entry, skippered by veteran helm Charlie Thompson, once again demonstrated resilience and skill, sailing in the Fairview fleet.

Saturday saw OMSC open with a solid 2nd place in Race 1, capitalising on a clean start and textbook upwind tactics in light SW winds. A tight mark rounding in Race 2 left Malvern boxed out on the final downwind leg, finishing 5th. The afternoon saw stronger breezes and closer boat-on-boat duels. Malvern held their nerve with a well-earned 2nd in Race 3 and a composed 4th in Race 4. On Sunday, the breeze built considerably, catching out several crews. Malvern remained consistent despite challenging chop, securing 4th and 5th place finishes respectively. With best-five-race scoring applied, Malvern finished 4th overall out of ten in the Fairview fleet – just one point off the podium and tied on 22 total points with Pangbourne, who pipped us to third place on countback.





Off the water, the OMSC crew upheld Malvern traditions in fine style. Saturday evening's dinner at the Royal Ocean Racing Club was as lively as ever, with stirring speeches, questionable toasts, and the usual stories of near-misses and heroic recoveries.

Looking ahead, OMSC aims to build on this strong performance with early planning for the 2025 Arrow Trophy. We continue to welcome new members of all ages – whether seasoned racers or complete novices – and seek to compete in the Belvedere Cup at Queen Mary Reservoir. Crew spaces fill fast, so do get in touch if you'd like to get involved, either as helm, crew or shore-based supporter.

Looking ahead, Malvern has taken on a new and exciting role: for the next three years, the Old Malvernian Sailing Club will head the Arrow Trophy Yacht Racing Association and the organisation of the annual regatta. This follows Oundle's unexpected DNS in 2024, which triggered a reshuffle in the event's long-standing committee structure. It's a fitting development, reflecting Malvern's consistent presence at the regatta and deep bench of alumni sailors.

For more information or to express interest, please contact the OMSC via:

malsoc@malverncollege.org.uk



The 2025 Arrow Trophy will take place on 4th – 5th October, again based out of Cowes with racing across the Fairview and Sunsail fleets. This format, now well established, supports up to 24 teams with matched boats and rotating race crews — levelling the playing field and emphasising teamwork, tactics, and spinnaker discipline under pressure. We're expecting around 21 school teams again this year and over 200 competitors from across the UK and overseas. The Solent's autumn conditions always add a dose of unpredictability, and we're working closely with Shepards Wharf, Royal Ocean Racing Club, Cowes Corinthian YC, and Royal Thames YC to ensure the weekend runs like clockwork on and off the water.

With Malvern in the chair, we're aiming for a blend of tight racing and excellent socials — building on tradition while making improvements where needed. A refreshed notice of race and revised crew guidance will go live in early summer, and we'll be introducing a few modest tweaks to the weekend schedule to improve flow and inclusivity, especially for new teams. Plans are also in motion to bolster the Saturday night dinner at RORC, ensuring it remains a flagship event of the Arrow calendar.

Whether you're planning to compete, support from ashore, or just want to relive your glory days with a beer in Cowes, we'd love to see as many Old Malvernians as possible involved.





MALVERNIAN SOCIETY

CLUB ENQUIRIES

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