

OPEN LETTER TO ALL INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Throughout history whenever boats were raced, or newly acquired, a celebratory atmosphere took place. Long before there were yacht clubs, or boat clubs, crowds gathered to share in the excitement and usually this meant celebrating using food and drink for this momentous occasion. The victors and the defeated joined in good fellowship and looked forward to the next challenge or event. Thus was born the idea of joining like-minded people together with common interest. With the advent of boats being available to the masses, the creation of yacht clubs and boat clubs soon followed. Of course the idea of hospitality was a given and the tradition continues to this day.

Over the years as clubs began to grow and prosper, the idea of sharing this hospitality started to become more selective as to who could share in this tradition. Some clubs began to focus inward to only include clubs and members in their geographical area, or a division by power or sail. Other clubs became more selective by social status, or the prosperity of their members, or regional associations.

Each club must decide for its members what restrictions should be utilized, and all must abide by their decision. The International Order of the Blue Gavel, would encourage all our members to approach their respective clubs to consider a policy, allowing access to our members. By allowing IOBG members access to your club, your club is recognizing the service our members have been to the boating community. Your club will benefit by an increase in income, reputation as a friendly club, and extending knowledge of your club throughout the IOBG family of clubs.

Unlimited access to your club is not what is anticipated here, but rather consideration be given after following the enclosed guidelines.

Suggested Club Access Guidelines

At the discretion of the IOBG chapter club, visiting IOBG members may be granted entry to enjoy the clubs hospitality

- 1 The host club is requested to add the IOBG to your club's access registry.
- 2 Visiting IOBG members must present a current membership card, and vouch for any in the party that are not current members (spouses, travelling associates, etc.).
- 3 Where possible the visitors should contact the club prior to their arrival, to ensure that permission is granted and their presence does not interfere or disrupt the clubs activities.
- 4 Prior contact will provide the club the information needed as to the number of people in the party, and intentions as to food and drink. The visitor can also determine the dress code and method of payment and other considerations such as handicap access etc.
- 5 All visitors must ensure their behavior and actions are conducted with the utmost respect as befitting their position as IOBG members.
- 6 All visitors needn't be reminded that you are representatives of our organization and your own club.