



AQUARIUS S.C.

# THE MAIN SHEET

*Summer Edition 2002*

Web Site: [www.aquarius.sc.ukgateway.net](http://www.aquarius.sc.ukgateway.net)  
Email: [aquarius.sc@ukgateway.net](mailto:aquarius.sc@ukgateway.net)

Editor: Richard Cannon 01932 786636  
Email: [richard@cannonr.freemove.co.uk](mailto:richard@cannonr.freemove.co.uk)

## COMMODORE'S REPORT - Rodger Wheeler

The first part of the season has raced away, but it has been full of activity.

The start of season party was a "big screen job" courtesy of Nigel Knowles and a video projector. That was followed by the "Easter Bunnies" races, and an hilarious Maritime Fun Time evening with Bob "Captain Chaos" Sumner and Janet. Everyone was in stitches all evening.

We came second in the Mid Thames trophy at Desborough S.C. That was followed by a successful Open Weekend. Linda and I did some cheese hunting for "A Right Royal Cheese and Wine" and the next weekend we were guests of Desborough for their Jubilee Jazz Barbecue. The following two days were spent in ideal sailing conditions at Bewl Water. Then Richard took first place in the Handicap class at Hampton Regatta. Even I took second place with a variety of Crews including Finn Gloyn and Brian Clements.

Finally we "went to see The Queen" at the Queen's Jubilee Picnic in Bushy Park. Mike Baker and John Neale did a splendid job on our stand, complete with polished Pico decked in bunting.

This weekend we have the Aquarius Regatta and Jazz Barbecue (with Young's Special out of the cask). Close on it's heels we are hosting a Signet Open Meeting and visit to Wisley Gardens.

That's a pretty busy season. You must be exhausted just reading this.

As usual it is almost impossible to thank all those who have gone way beyond the call of duty in helping the club. I must thank, in particular, Tony and Brenda for the Aquarius logo garden, Nigel Knowles for the new starting hut window, all the ladies for keeping us very well fed, and Richard Cannon for nearly everything else.

Now just a word of warning.... there are some local thieves who have decided that local sailing clubs are easy prey.

Five Laser hulls have been stolen from Island Barn S.C. A group of youths were seen carrying the boats. 3 have been recovered but have been vandalised to varying degrees. Desborough has had two incidents. As you are aware, thieves broke into two cars during the Mid Thames Trophy. Since then a thief has stolen items from their changing room which were broken into.

We now have an intercom on our inner gate which will be locked when unattended. Please remember your key - or phone the club on 020 8979 4720.

Yes - the phone line has been repaired too.

That's more than enough from me.... so See you on the water.....or propping up the bar...

**Rodger**

---

## Pre-Season Activity at AQSC

Nineteen people (bless their cotton socks) turned up for the pre-season working party at The Club on Saturday 16 March. Peter Carpenter & myself pitched into clearing up the trailer park while Bryan Clements satisfied his pyromania urges by getting a good bonfire going on the water front. Keith Hatton ensured that nobody would vanish feet first through the race box floor during the coming season by fitting a new deck (come on admit it, you didn't even know it needed one did you?). Nigel Knowles and Keith subsequently plumbed a hot water supply into the ladies changing room (talk about luxury!). Lawrie Bridges tinkered with the rescue boat to ensure it was ready for the season and Joan Bray, Madeline Hatton, Joan Garrett and Diana Carpenter spruced up the clubhouse interior. Rodger & Linda Wheeler got the telephone & car park PIR/spot light working. Meanwhile Eric Bridgewater, Mike Rogers, George Bray and Graham Thompson and

Charles Dennis all pitched in clearing weeds repairing & painting woodwork and taking rubbish to the local dump. At around 1:45pm everything stopped and Diana served up baked potatoes with chilli or chicken & mushroom. Luv'ly Jubbly! Richard Cannon suddenly appeared in the middle of lunch waving a video camera. He claimed he needed some pictures for the March newsletter but most of us just figured he'd smelt Diana's Chilli. Unfortunately the afternoon session ended at around 4'ish as the heavens opened & 'rain stopped play'. However, enough had been achieved by then to ensure that the 2002 sailing season could get underway without a whole lot of niggling things still needing to be taken care of around The Club. Many thanks to everybody involved for a good days work and especially to Diana for a great lunch ... much appreciated.

**Mike (I came, I saw, I strimmed) Baker**

---

## News of Members - Joan Bray

We warmly welcome the Phil and Liz Courtney and wish them fair winds and a happy future with Aquarius.

## 23 March 2002 - AQSC Start of Season Party

The 2002 sailing season kicked off on Saturday night with the traditional start of season party in the clubhouse.

Some fifty members attended and the evening started with a video called 'The Maiden Voyage'. On May 28, 1990 the female crew of the 58 foot yacht Maiden, skippered by Tracy Edwards, made history when it sailed across the finishing line of the Whitbread Round the World Race. The video was taken by crew members and documented the three year struggle to get Maiden to the start line in 1989 and the triumphs and traumas of her crews nine-month long 33,000 mile race around the world.

Following this a buffet supper was served, courtesy of Joan Bray. To just say this was 'very nice' would be a gross understatement ... it was great ! and judging by the rate it vanished off the tables everybody else thought so too.

The evening ended with desserts and coffee and a lot of very congenial conversation about the coming season ... which incidentally commences with the Easter Egg races next Sunday 31 March. See you all there !

**Mike (Must get my dinghy back from Windermere) Baker**

---

## Maritime Quiz Night - 27 April 2002

By any standard Captain's Chaos & Calm's latest quiz night would have to rate as the best yet. I have never seen club members so engrossed in such good hearted lunacy off the water. In spite of a wet night the car park ran out of space with around 30 members and friends enjoying the evening.

The assembled maniacs were split into three teams, Port, Starboard and O/D's. For starters each were given an event/date questionnaire. This was devised by Bob Sumner & Janet following their recent trip to the shipyards at Portsmouth. One for history buffs.

This was followed by rounds of questions to each of the teams just to get everybody 'warmed up'. Captain Chaos's scoring methodology was as original as ever and a fair amount light hearted bantering ensued.

The next round featured weather forecast areas around the British Isles. Everybody must have heard those famous area names many times during Aunt Beebs shipping forecast ... but do you think many got the right names on the right grid references. Did they heck ! The real laugh was when someone pointed out that one of the areas identified was no longer

used following some problem with Spain. Cap Chaos was totally un-phased saying that they might have got Finnistaire, or whatever it was, but they'd never get Gibraltar!

The next game involved racing three model dinghy's around a squared up course board. Moves were decided by numbers called out, equivalent numbered tags peeled of a score board. Under each tag was either a number or a question. A number indicated how many squares a dinghy could move, A correctly answered question also resulted in a move forward. Forget racing rules ... this was a Cap Chaos special, his race, his rules. It was a riot. The whole evening was rounded off with a great cold buffet.

What else can I say, it was a really good evening. Many thanks to Bob & Janet who obviously put a lot of work into preparing the quiz. Thanks also to the Janet and the Aquarius ladies for an excellent supper. Can't wait for Captain's Chaos & Calm's next extravaganza.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**



Hampton SC Regatta Handicap Class Results

Place	Helm	Boat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
1	Richard Cannon	ST368	1	1	1	2	1
2	Rodger Wheeler	Grad2046	4	2	4	1	2
	Bryan Clements	Grad	dnf				
	Mike Baker	ST369			3	4	
3	HSC	Solo3133	2	4	2	3	
4	HSC	Byte280	3	3	5	5	

## 2002 Club Open Weekend

This years Open Weekend was held on 18 & 19 May between 10:00am and 5:00pm. It was a mixed weekend weather-wise. Saturday was straight 'slam-dunk' and at times I wondered whether we should even be taking visitors out. Sunday was a little more like it but occasionally was a bit of a drifter. We had eleven people visit the club on Saturday. Not fantastic but better than nothing. Things picked up a little on Sunday with some thirty people dropping in.

Over Easy, resplendent with new decking, was back in the water for the weekend and distinguished herself by capsizing on the moorings 'mit visitor' aboard. Actually I can't take all the credit. It transpired (word for today) that my keen crew had cleated the genoa on the starboard side before casting-off. Over Easy turned away to port and presented a cleated windward genoa to the elements. Result ... instant capsize. The tansom was exactly one foot from the bank !

I ended up standing chest deep in the wet stuff holding the mast just above the water. My crew, with the agility of a monkey, hung from the starboard shroud and the mast with his bottom three inches above the river. I managed to walk Over Easy sideways towards the safety boat where a number of helping hands grabbed the monkey and dragged him aboard. I kid you not, he never got wet, not even a little bit ! However, not to be put off he got straight back in the dinghy and we had a great sail.

Our visitors this year seemed to be a bit more serious about the possibility of joining Aquarius. A number of 'singles' visited which is a little unusual. The youngest we took afloat, and have a go on the helm, was two and a half while the oldest was eighty-one! (we did have some fun and games getting him up & out of Richard's SigneT). We even had a family along from one of the moored cruisers that share our water-front. Several other visitors came across from the far bank in the safety boat. The safety boat also proved very popular and seemed to be constantly taking people out for 'jollies'.

This years publicity seemed to be particularly effective. Key were the advertisements in local papers supplemented by press releases, flyers in shops and library's and banners on the road and river bank. On Saturday Richard and I seemed to be sailing all day, grabbing the occasional coffee in passing. On Sunday we were joined by Graham's Bosun, Lawrie and Rogers Bosun and Rodgers Enterprise. Keith also doubled up on Over Easy and everybody was kept pretty busy.

From the club down to Platt's Eyot it was very gusty and fluky. Upstream, especially beyond the slipway, it was very patchy and difficult to sail. The best area was the reach in front of the rowing club; it was a steady wind straight down the reach and there weren't any rowers out.

Ashore the organisation also ran very smoothly. After the problems at Desborough SC with car break ins, as we couldn't lock the visitors out, there was a heavy overhead manning the car park both days. Many thanks to everyone who took a turn at this tedious task. We may have prevented problems as one motor bike drove in and went straight out again.

All valuables were locked up behind the bar and the new club barbecue was put to good use at lunchtime on both days care of Diana. Linda and Madeline also ensured that tea and cakes were also available in the afternoon's. Pete Carpenter even found time to 'trim' the grass out front of the club while Bryan fitted a new window in the race box. In the clubhouse Roger and Eric made sure that everybody's details were taken and that membership applications distributed.

That's about it really ... all that remains now is to see what kind of 'take-up' we get for all our efforts. In addition all members should undertake to bring a friend down to the club during the next few weeks to try sailing. That alone could bring more visitors to the club than stopped by over the entire weekend.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

---

## Hampton SC Regatta 15-16 June 2002 - Richard Cannon

The weather was ideal for the Hampton SC Regatta on Saturday and Sunday; dry and warm with a fairly steady SW 10-15 knt wind., at Hampton this gives a run down the river.

On Saturday Rodger Wheeler and Fin Gloyn, in the Club Graduate, Richard Cannon and Bob Gloyn in ST368 and Bryan Clempents in his Graduate were escorted to Hampton by the AQSC safety boat.

The main support at Hampton SC is for class racing with GP14 (8 entries), Merlin Rocket (11 entries), Enterprise (6 entries) and Laser (6 entries). Our boats entered the Handicap Class and the only other entries were a Byte and a Solo. Hampton SC have very simple courses with just an upstream and downstream mark taken to port; different classes use a different combination of marks; we used the nearest marks so didn't have to go past the islands.

Both races were excellent although Bryan, with out a crew, found it rather windy even without a jib and capsized on a gybe near the end of the first race; he didn't sail in the afternoon race. In the first race Rodger's sail was caught by a passing boat and the batons pulled out; fortunately it was the old sail and Rodger had the new sail with him for the rest of the races.

Room was found to leave our three boats on the Hampton 'Island' so we didn't need to take them back to Aquarius overnight.

On Sunday we were joined by Mike Baker and Keith Hatton in ST369. The day was very similar to Saturday, except there were three races and a little bit less wind. Bob and Fin weren't available and Rodger found a couple of Hampton SC children who wanted to sail. Holly, a 8 year old girl, crewed for Richard and her younger brother, Jack, crewed for Rodger. Holly was very keen and half way through the first race asked if she could crew in the afternoon.

Bryan crewed for Rodger in the afternoon. For the first race the top mark was changed to further upstream, alongside Platt's Eyot, giving a dramatic reduction in the wind; fortunately it was changed back for the last race. In the last race Richard let Holly have the helm for the runs downstream and she coped very well. Richard won and Rodger was second in the handicap fleet.

Many thanks to Hampton SC for giving us an excellent couple of days sailing and they made us extremely welcome. Though out both days there was excellent spread of food. Although they only have a small handicap fleet the other classes were well supported and there were a lot of young families around.

## Bewl Visit 1-3 June 2002 - Richard Cannon

An unusually few number of members made the trip to Bewl this year. It competed with the Jubilee celebrations, the forecast was for the weather to become wet, and there was no camping at the club. Although those who went could not have had better sailing.

On Saturday Richard Cannon took Robert Britton and his girl friend Carly with him with ST368, Laurie Bridges took ST856 and Barry Jones took his Hawk catamaran. The weather was perfect; sunny with a steady 10knt SE wind. Unfortunately only Richard's group were feeling fit to sail. The wind was coming down the 2 mile long Bewl Straight. Sailing three up the beat up and run back took just over an hour. The Hornets were holding an Open Meeting on Saturday and Sunday which helped make the water look busier than usual. The evening was spent having an excellent dinner at the Elephants Head.

The Sunday weather was similar but even hotter. Graham Thompson arrived with his wife Eiko and his Bosun. Rodger Wheeler came with the Club Graduate. We had Honorary Aquarius members with old Hawker friends Bill Poulton and John Dovey bringing an Enterprise.

Rather than join the normal Bewl Sunday racing we had another day cruising in perfect conditions. It was the first time Eiko had sailed at Bewl and she enjoyed a long cruise with Graham exploring all parts of the reservoir. Barry's brother Bob joined him for sailing the Hawk, while Laurie and Rodger borrowed Graham's Bosun for a comfortable cruise. Richard had three trips up to the extremities of Bewl Straight with various crew; about 20 miles of very pleasant sailing. Carly suffered from the pain of sunburn.

Although the Monday was forecast to be very wet we had another perfect day for the Bewl Regatta races; a bit windier at 12 knts westerly rising to 15 knts in the afternoon; Richard became rather nervous because he wasn't wearing a wet suite. There were two starts; the first for Bewl 'Champions' and the second for the rest, Flying Fifteens to Oppies, the average lap time system similar to ours was used. We did three laps of a triangular course taking about an hour. Richard gave Robert the helming job in his Signet, and Rodger and Laurie sailed Grahams Bosun. Robert did very well and had very close racing with some Pacers that he finished ahead of in the last two races.

### Results

Pos	Boat	Helm	Crew	R1	R2	R3
8	ST368	Robert Britton	Richard Cannon	15	9	7
12	Bos1777	Rodger Wheeler	Laurie Bridges	18	12	10
13	Ent19536	Bill Poulton	J Stubbs	12	13	DNS
22	Hawk20	Bob Jones		21	DNF	DNS

The boats ahead of Robert were a Flying Fifteen, a RS 200 and Lasers, so he had a very creditable place.

Soon after Richard arrived home he received a phone call from Rodger asking if he was missing anything; he had left his sails behind but fortunately Graham had noticed them. Unfortunately Richard found he had also left his cover behind and had to go back to Bewl on Tuesday to fetch them; it was a very wet but easy journey and the round trip took under 2 ½ hours. Bewl was looking very uninviting for the Junior Regatta; wet and no wind.

---

## 08Apr2002 Cundy Long Distance Race - Richard Cannon

The Cundy Trophy is traditionally allocated to a long distance race. As a good sail away from our immediate reach requires suitable wind conditions, preferably a steady Easterly, it is not allocated a fixed date in the program but is sailed when conditions are suitable. It wasn't sailed in 1991 and 1992.

On Sunday 7 April 2002 it was fine with a 8-15knt Easterly wind, fairly steady by river standards. After the morning Fun race it was thought that the conditions would be good for a long distance race upstream. The Spring Series first race would also be for the Cundy Trophy.

As we didn't know what the conditions would be like upstream the plan was for the safety boat to lead the fleet running upstream and drop a mark when a suitable spot was reached for either one or two laps.

Charles Dennis spoilt the plan by running into some trees out of control. He jumped out but found the water was up to his neck; his second ducking of the day with out wearing wet gear. He had to capsize the Laser to get it out of the trees. After waiting for him to recover the safety boat was unable to catch up with the rest of the fleet.

Michael Stevens was leading and continued past Sunbury Lock as far as the Wilson Ferry; he sensibly used this as a turning line. His race time was 48 mins. Unfortunately this was 1:30min to long for him to win the Trophy.

Bryan Clements decided it was too windy to sail his Graduate with out a crew and Richard Cannon was delighted to be able to take him as crew in his Signet; they won the Trophy on Personal Handicap.

The second race in the afternoon, the SPA series race 1, was 2 laps using the channel sign post at the end of the next wider bit of river. This time it was Michael Stevens turn to run into the trees.

Surprisingly generally the wind was nicer upstream than downstream; it was less gusty. It was a great pleasure racing upstream almost as far as it is possible to go.

Although for various reasons there were only 4 boats out, the Club was busy with 16 members present to enjoy the delicious cakes provided by Linda Tillman and Magaret Tomkins.

## A Right Royal Cheese and Wine 25 May 2002

It was never going to be easy following the success of Captains Chaos & Calms last quiz night at the club. Something completely different was required and that is exactly what Roger and Linda Wheeler came up with. They indulged their love of fine wine and cheeses by providing an opportunity for members to sample a wide range of both. They also cleverly wove a very light-hearted quiz into the proceedings.

As members arrived at 8:00pm they were greeted by Roger with a non-alcoholic fruit punch and invited to complete the first part of a three part questionnaire. This was concerned with identifying the names of twenty-two types of grapes used for wine making from a supplied list. This caused great hilarity. Well I ask you do you know your Montepulciano from your Garafa ? No, don't worry, nor did a lot of perplexed people !

Things then got 'serious' as half a dozen white wines were sampled and attempts made to identify them. My team actually got four out of six with the other two being the wrong way round.

A selection of some twenty cheeses were then uncovered. Linda provided some samples of eight of these and everyone was challenged to identify them. If you think that should have been easy I can assure you it wasn't, especially as some of them had names like Reblochon de Savoie and Fourme d'Ambert.

Next came 'the reds'. Fitou followed Bordeaux followed Syrah followed Cotes du Rhone and Beaujolais. My favourite was the Beaune. So dry it set your teeth on edge !

If that wasn't enough a superb supper was then served, crowned, with what else but Coronation Chicken. Also on display was an interesting display of 1952 Illustrated magazines, records, books and silverware that members had also been asked to bring.

Many thanks to Roger, Linda and their helpers for a very different, interesting and enjoyable evening. Where or how long it took them to assemble all that cheese and wine, heavens only knows but it was certainly appreciated.

Several of us sailed the following morning and there didn't appear to be a hang-over in the house ! Strange really contemplating all the empty wine bottles lined up on the bar Sunday morning

**Mike (Haute Cotes de Beaune) Baker**

---

## Reflections on a Royal Jubilee Weekend

I guess you couldn't help but notice 'things' going on over last weekend. For aficionado's of regular shaped balls the World Cup started with France getting beaten by Senegal (don't you just love it when things like that happen). For Royalist and Republican alike the shops made a killing out of selling Union Jacks and plastic bunting for the Queens Jubilee Romp. For anyone not turned on by either of those events there was three or four days of sailing at Bawl Water. Such diversity of choice at global, national and local levels !

On Sunday morning yours truly woke up, admittedly not too early, to highly organised chaos outside. Our road was officially closed at midday. Big yellow notices underlined the fact that no car could move in or out. So if you hadn't escaped very early that was your hard luck! Houses rapidly became draped in heaps of Union Jacks, bunting and balloons. Instead of car parking problems there were trestle table parking problems. Men wearing Union Jack bowler hats kept rushing about with chairs, tables and barbecues. Women wearing crowns kept appearing with, yes you guessed it, Union Jack table cloths, cups and plates.

At 10:30am it suddenly went very quiet. Nothing to do with the England vs. Sweden game of course ! At 12:30pm they started re-appearing, muttering, and looking far from happy. Apparently it had something to do with 'almost' winning. By early afternoon it all went mad again, except this time knee deep in rug rats.

I never realised our neighbours had so many children. It must be the water in Epsom, their all breeding like rabbits ! Lets face it there was no way that today's 'kids' were going to dress up for traditional fancy dress competitions but if designer labels were anything to go by I reckon Nike won from Adidas and Reebok by several tee shirts. They did however

all wear crowns, although several of them looked suspiciously like converted baseball caps. Strangely however they did all have a go at egg and spoon and three legged races.

Lyn and I bumped into Ann and John Neale, who live just up the way from us. Both sported the mandatory but very fetching Union Jack bowlers. Bottles/cans kept appearing out of houses and the afternoon passed very salubriously.

We left late afternoon, just as the Mayor arrived, and drove down to Kent to spend the rest of the Jubilee weekend with friends. We eventually ended up having a drink in the Mermaid Inn at Rye. I said to Lyn "this looks familiar". She looked a little pained and said "you should, we spent our honeymoon here". Oh come on guy's, we've all done it ! haven't we?

On the whole not a bad weekend. If nothing else the street party provided time for neighbours to talk to one another and make new friends instead of just nodding at one another while doing the weekly car wash. England opened their 2002 campaign in typical style but hopefully Sven or Posh will have a word with them and their performance will improve before it's too late. I don't know what happened to the guy's at Bawl Water but I expect Richard will write something about it for the newsletter.

So that was the Jubilee weekend, I hope it was good for you. The next diversion will be the Queen's Jubilee Picnic in Bushy Park on Tuesday 25 June. Aquarius has applied for display stand space at this bash. Keep those Union Jacks somewhere handy for this ... and, just in case, Beckham's brigade do the impossible and get to the quarter finals.

**Mike (Red, White & not the least bit Blue) Baker**

## A New Look For Over Easy

My second trip up the M6 this year to Fyne Boat Kits at Windermere was tinged with a little apprehension. What sort of a job would Hugh have made of re-decking Over Easy ? Replacing decks is never as straight forward as building new.

We arrived at Bowness late on Sunday 14 April. On Monday morning I left Lyn at the hotel and drove down to Fyne's boathouse. I was met outside by Hugh's brother Paul. He was sanding down a Mirror dinghy and appeared out of a blizzard of dust.

Paul explained that the dinghy was painted with a special, and very expensive, coating. It was rather like a paint mixed with a lot of talcum powder. It was pretty thick and sanded down to a near perfect finish. The downside appeared to be that to achieve this at least 75% of the coating was sanded off creating absolute clouds of choking dust. Strange thing is that Paul hates Mirror's, but I guess business is business !

Over Easy was inside the boathouse under the end window that looked out over the lake. She looked great. The new arrowhead decks were blond compared with the darker mahogany coloured interior. The contrast was pleasing and I was glad that Hugh hadn't stained the decks down. The surfaces were clear with only the port & starboard stay plates protruding through the decking. I resolved there and then to only put back those deck fittings absolutely necessary.

My thoughts were interrupted by two RAF Tornado jets hurtling past the window about thirty feet above the lake. Hugh and Paul didn't bat an eyelid, apparently this was an every day occurrence that had long since lost its novelty value.

The new decking had been epoxy coated inside and out and then finished with three coats of two pot varnish. Hugh pointed out that while the top was off he had made a couple of minor interior repairs concerning the interior transom pin-ple plates and the decking supports. The rest, he said, was in good condition given that the dinghy is over thirty years old. A game old bird with the young heart of a SigneT !

Later, back at the hotel, Lyn said she'd been shopping and that a local art gallery would be delivering a picture at 6:00pm. She explained it was a little to big to carry. An understatement if ever I heard one, it turned out to be over three feet square !

We towed Over Easy back down south on Tuesday the 16th and on Wednesday morning she went straight into the garage, which had been hastily converted into a temporary boathouse, for the interior and bottom to be stripped and repainted/varnished.!

Keith supplied a good idea which you might try sometime. I rigged two webbing ratchet straps from eyebolts set in the garage walls. These passed under the dinghy and raised her up off the launching trolley. She could then be easily rolled in the straps to any position required for work to be done. Simple and easy, nice one Keith !

To create the right conditions for varnishing (i.e. to overcome to cold and wet outside) I sealed the garage door with duck tape and set a fan heater working full time. Varnishing is now well advanced and I'm beginning to think about what fittings to put back and then getting Over Easy back in the wet stuff where she belongs.

**Mike (Up to my eyebrows in epoxy resin)  
Baker**

---

## Mid-Thames Trophy 2002

The first Club away visit of 2002 was to take part in the Mid-Thames Trophy event, hosted by Desborough SC this year, on Monday 6 May.

As Desborough SC is only a short trip upstream Bryan Clements with Michael Stevens towed three Graduate up there on Sunday with the safety boat. En route he took the opportunity to fill the safety boat with very low cost diesel at Shepperton Marina; it should last us for the season.

The Mid-Thames Trophy is an inter-club event between Desborough SC, Staines SC, Littleton SC, Aquarius SC and Hampton SC. with clubs taking turns to host it. As usual it was dominated by the host club with 10 boats, Aquarius did well to have 5 boats, Staines SC and Littleton SC each had 2 boats, Hampton SC was represented by their Commodore but no boat.

The Aquarius team was Mark Stevens and Robert Britton in a Grad, Rodger Wheeler and Fin Gloyn in the club Grad, Brian Clements and Peter Carpenter in a Grad, Richard Cannon and Bob Gloyn in a Signet, and Charles Dennis in a Laser.

Unfortunately the East wind, although the best for the Aquarius reach, was the worst direction for the Desborough reach. It was very light for the morning race and although stronger for the afternoon there was still no wind around the

first mark and each lap the fleet tended to collect there. It seemed even more fluky and variable than it usually is at Aquarius. The short course was 3 port hand marks.

One rule that differed to ours was that if a mark was touched it was re-rounded. With mark 1 this could mean that while you were trying to re-round the boats around you could complete a lap.

The fleet was split into two starts , one for fast and one for slow boats, to reduce congestion on the start line; the results for the two starts were combined.

The race positions and final results were as follows:

RESULTS							
Place	Club	Helm	Crew	Class	R1	R2	R3
1	DSC	Adam Baxter		Moth	1	1	1
2	DSC	Terry Moody		N12	3	4	2
3	DSC	Phil Gorham		Moth	2	3	8
4	SSC	G Tompkins		Moth	5	8	4
5	DSC	G Hurst		Ent.	14	6	3
6	SSC	D Miles		N12	16	7	5
11	ASC	C Dennis		Laser	10	15	7
14	ASC	M Stevens	Robert Britton	Grad	7	10	R
16	ASC	R Cannon	Bob Gloyn	ST	18	13	9
17	ASC	R Wheeler	Fin Gloyn	Grad	19	18	14
19	ASC	B Clements	Peter Carpenter	Grad	17	19	R

TEAM RESULT		
Place	Club	Points
1	Desborough	48
2	Aquarius	60
3	Staines	177
4	Littleton	216



## Queen's Golden Jubilee Picnic in the Park (Bushy Park that is) - 25 June 2002

An open invitation to participate in the above arrived at Aquarius back in early May. It was sent by the Royal Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, The City of Westminster and The Royal Parks (Phew !).

The event was to embrace the diverse communities from all of the four boroughs and reflect many of the activities associated with each, culminating in a 'grand finale and march past'. Oh yes ! and The Queen, who will be visiting Kingston on the 25th will also be looking in. Your Management Committee decided this was definitely something Aquarius, as a local leisure amenity, should get involved with. Accordingly an application for display space was sent off to the organising office and was accepted.

The day started quite early because our set up time was 8:00am plus Bushy Park was to be closed to traffic by 10:00am. So John Neale and I set off at 7:00am to fight our way through the rush hour traffic. We entered Bushy Park through the Hampton Court gate and made our way down to the show site near the Teddington Gate. Aquarius had been allocated Plot 20 which we quickly found and got underway with the setting up. Our spot was at the end of a long oblong shaped marquee. We had an area approximately 10' x 10' and a trestle table. To this we added chairs, display boards and our new Pico dinghy. The whole lot was topped-off by bunting and Union Jacks. In case it got windy I substituted the Pico sails for their outside profile in red, white and blue bunting. Very effective, colourful and a whole lot safer around members of the public.

According to the programme some 80 to 90 other groups had displays around the show but interestingly Aquarius was the only sailing club represented. By 10:00am John and I had finished setting up and we stopped for coffee. Eric Bridgewater was the first of our crowd to appear and as the 'great British public' started pouring in he was quickly pressed into service answering questions and handing out publicity material.

We were soon joined by Roger Wheeler, Joan Garrett, Richard Cannon, Joan & George Bray and Keith & Madeline Hatton. As we were only allowed three people on the stand at

any one time this provided plenty of opportunity to have a look around. There were stands for everybody including Boats (big and models), Army vehicles, Fire Engines, Vintage Bikes (a Penny Farthing was even being ridden), Bee Keeping, Theatre, Gardening, Toy Libraries, Rambling, Hospitals and Talking Newspapers. The live displays included Vietnamese Dancing, Shires Horses, Civil War Battle Re-enactment, Bands, Orchestra's, Choir's, Jazz, Dance. You name it !

A little later Lyn and a couple of girl friends arrived 'mit picnic' and we spent a very pleasant hour or so, munching our way through chicken salad, strawberries & cream, cheese, fruit and champagne. Pretty average, but someone had to eat it all !

Mid afternoon The Queen arrived and everybody went 'camera-mad'. Keith and I found a particularly good spot, so good in fact that it attracted the attention of the security people around the royal couple. But what the hell, hopefully we got some good pictures. The day was scheduled to end at 4:00pm but it was gone 5:00 before the crowds thinned out. Everybody helped to pack up the stand and the Pico, which was great and saved a lot of time.

So what did we get out of it, apart from a sun tan? Well, virtually all the publicity material was handed out and a good number of people filled in the visitors book. We will follow these up and maybe hold another 'mini' Open Day. We were visited by a number of Councillors 'glad-handing' their way around the show, but we made some useful contacts. We got ourselves well and truly on the map as the only Sailing Club at the show, Tamesis SC having dropped out, so I was informed by the organisers. All together not a bad day!

Many thanks to everybody who helped on the stand, it was much appreciated. My special thanks go to John Neale who worked like a Trojan to help me set up, was on the stand most of the day and came back to Aquarius with me to drop off the dinghy. Thanks mate, I owe you one !

**Mike (The AQSC Publicity Officer) Baker**

Also thanks to Mike for all the work he put into putting on a first class display. Display boards that are used for the Signet Association display at the SailBoat. Exhibition were used.



Kids having fun on the Pico



Joan and Eric on the Aquarius Stand

## Social Calendar Dates For Your Diary

20	July	Visit to Wisley Garden , meet ticket office 12:00; entry is £6 each. Excellent café
		Molesey Rowing Regatta, NO sailing on the Club Reach
24-26	August	Away Weekend Bewl Water
14	September	Quiz night with Fish & Chip Supper
12	October	Murder Mystery
02	November	Fireworks at Kempton Park followed by party at Club
23	November	Annual Dinner
07	December	AGM, Prize Giving & End of Season Party

### Abandoned Property

Brian Clements and I have been working hard to clear out the clutter in the boatswain's hut, which has accumulated over many years. I am pleased to say that it is now possible to get in but there are still some items which we could not identify. Would all members who have, or might have left or abandoned property there or elsewhere around the Club, please effect one (or more as appropriate) of the following actions:-

1. Remove it (or them) or
2. Identify it (or them) to Brian or I or
3. Donate it (or them) to the club

When you have occasion to use this facility, please leave it tidy, for the sake of others who come after you..

**ALL** property left at the club **MUST** marked with the owner or boat number it belongs to. Unmarked Items may be disposed of or put to general use.

Many thanks, **Laurie Bridges**.

### FOR SALE

**Laser 4.7 Mast and Sail**, brand new £350 -  
**Pat Hallings** 020 8979 5707

**Multifabs** Survival Coverall Immersion Suit foul weather gear, small (less than 5'7" and 39" chest) excellent condition. Offers around £40 - **John Botterill** E-mail botterillschess@hotmail.com or phone 020 8391 1079

**Gull 277**. Refurbished. £200.00 - **Barry Jones** 020 8255 1501

**Trailer mudguards**, pair of brand new Towsure 'Mini' wheel size, free to person able to drink 'yard of ale' - **Andrew Davies** E-mail nishikigoi@btinternet.com or phone 07050 269152

**Laser** – elderly but sound (55000 something). 2 sails (one pretty blown out, but ok for pottering), cover, trolley, spar bag £450 o.n.o 020 8399 9266 or [ncknowles@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ncknowles@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Laser** 2.7 rig (i.e. lower mast and sail). Little used. Ideal for youngster/beginners (or oldsters who haven't got the stamina to sit out in a blow any more!) £250 o.n.o. 020 8399 9266 or [ncknowles@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ncknowles@blueyonder.co.uk)

### WANTED

Laser condition immaterial, also cheap Optimist -  
**Pat Hallings** 020 8979 5707

**Laser Radial** rig and **Tiller** extension - **Charles Dennis**  
Mobile: 07984 921139, Phone home: 020 8224 1051  
Phone work: 020 8891 0121 Extension 2785  
Mobile: 07984 921139 (temporary)  
e-mail Charles.Dennis@mailhost.brunel.ac.uk

### Sunday Racing 28 May

It was a very windy day with the W to SW wind gusting up to 25knts at times. To play safe Charles Dennis decided to use the Club Pico instead of his Laser; it didn't help him as he fell out 15 seconds before the start of the first race but recovered so quickly that he was still first across the line.

The conditions took quite toll on boats with Michael Stevens kicker shackle, and tiller extension breaking.

In the afternoon race Michael also had his jib tear, Roy Clough capsized twice and Charles capsized 5 times. Richard Cannon survived but decided not to do the last race and then nearly capsize sailing up to the slipway; he went way past the normal point of no return and completely filled his SigneT with water.



Charles falling out and then swimming for the Pico

