



AQUARIUS S.C.

# THE MAIN SHEET

*Autumn 2002 Edition*

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## COMMODORE'S REPORT - Rodger Wheeler

Having miraculously recovered from being found dead after the lights went out, in true Agatha Christie style, at the AQUARIUS "murder mystery" evening, I am now able to pen these notes against the clock so that Richard can put this newsletter to bed. Unfortunately I have to admit that the unscripted lighting failure was due to the microwave and I was neither the victim or the murderer.

I have been really pleased to see so many new faces at the club this year and would like to wish them all a hearty welcome and good sailing.

Autumn is upon us and the gales are not far away. So please take a look at the security of your mooring. Is your boat tied down in such a way that it will not budge in a Force 8? There should be a few good sailing weeks left, but looking further forward, please make sure that you remove items which might be better stored indoors during the winter months?

Fireworks - yes we are going to Kempton on Saturday 2nd November and in a change to the program hot food will be provided at the club afterwards. Ring Richard Cannon for advance tickets.

One of the social highlights of the year, the annual dinner is on Saturday 23rd November. As an incentive to book early, if you make sure your

cheque reaches Diana before November 5th, you can have tickets at last years price.

The council are once again examining the feasibility of a bridge at the end of our moorings. Together with Hampton S.C. we shall be reiterating our objections. Eric Bridgewater will be giving a report at the AGM on Saturday 7th December.

Do come and use your vote at the (short) AGM followed by the prize giving, and then eat, drink and be rather merry after Joan Garrett's more-ish "Gluhwein" at the end of season party.

We always encourage new blood on the committee so please let us know if you would like to participate. Equally your suggestions or any new ideas would be appreciated.

As this will be my last scribbling as Commodore, I would like to say a very very big thank you to all those who have helped the club over the last 5 years. A special thank you must go to those who are always on the scene, their work going way beyond the call of duty.

Finally my personal thanks to Linda for all her support, tolerance and infinite patience.

**Rodger**

## Things to Remember !

Just a couple of reminders that the Management Committee have asked me to pass on.

Firstly, in an effort to keep the club secure, after what has happened at the Aquarius, Hampton and Desborough clubs in the past, please **KEEP THE CAR PARK GATE LOCKED !** If the bad guys can't get into the car park, and hence secure a quick get away, they are less likely bother us. For those without keys an answer phone has been installed to the right of this gate and is linked direct to the clubhouse. Just buzz and someone will be happy to come and let you in. Secondly, if you bring guests down to the club ... and you are welcome to do so of course ... could you please ensure that you sign them in using the visitors book located on the table to the right as you enter the club lounge area. This is a requirement of the clubs health and safety plan and of our bar license.

Your attention to both these matter would be appreciated.

**Mike (Don't mean to be a nag)  
Baker**

## Members News - Joan Bray

### Welcome

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to Aquarius :-

David, Noreen Ian & Alexander Lowenhoff.  
Paul, Yuko & Ani Hampartsoumian.  
Pat Irving  
Stan Wright.  
Liz Archer  
Alex & Doris Seaman

### Return of former members,

Richard and Jennifer Hider and their daughters Rosemary and Elizabeth

We wish you all happy and successful sailing with us.

### Congratulations.

To Charles Dennis on obtaining his PhD in marketing.

### Good Luck.

To Alan Tolfree who has moved to Gosport, to Keith and Madeline Hatton on their impending move to West Sussex and to Joan Garrett in her new abode.

### Thank You.

Have you noticed our gardens? A big thank you to Joan Garrett for the attractive approach to the clubhouse and another to Brenda and Tony Allen who plant and maintain the circular garden on the bank

## Voices from the Past - Richard Cannon

I came across a June 1986 newsletter that made interesting reading. It included a Voices from the Past story, from 1953, that is reproduced below, also the start of the newsletter is include; it seems that moans on bad weather don't change.

**THE GOOD NEWS** - Rewiring is complete and the Club is now on A/C throughout. Please contact Commodore on 04862 25579 if you can help to complete showers and toilets. You needn't be an expert, what we need is labour not expertise!

**THE BAD NEWS** - The Weather!!!!

### **VOICES FROM THE PAST.**

#### **First Boat**

The Club was formed in 1948 without a boat but with a loan of £250 from the Staff Association and individual members. The first boat "Old No. 4" as it was called for a long time was bought from a Miss Saunders of Kingston, and was inspected at Harts Yard, Surbiton by Mr. Redgrave, the club's first Treasurer, and the Harbourmaster. Though not the sleek graceful type of craft as the National Class it was regarded as an ideal learners boat.

The boat was 12 ft. clinker built, Bermudan rig with red sails which were in poor condition and for which we haggled a £2. 10s. Od. rebate. So the price was fixed at £62. 10s. Od. A Snipe mainsail was later "acquired" by H.M. which fitted perfectly when a new boom was made. It is interesting to note that the boat arrived at the club after being towed all the way by Mac and Sandy to be welcomed by the whole club (5 of them) sculling around in the ferry boat.

Subsequent history; the boat was sold to V. Ladwood and sailed at Leigh-on-Sea.

(from an edition of "Mainsheet" of 1953 - the club's original newsletter) - Lesley Richards.

### **Beware - The Next Generation - Graham Thompson**

Whilst becalmed for the umpteenth time on this summer's cruise in the Firth of Forth I was drifting amongst a sail-training class of youngsters in Toppers out from the Port Edgar Marina.

In order to liven up the proceedings one lad moved on to the bow, which itself is a tricky manoeuvre as the surfboard like craft is not the most stable of boats, and performed a head-stand up against the mast. Around me others took up the challenge and tried it, amazingly none fell in!

I began to feel old.

### **Club Books**

The Club has has a number of books for use by members at the Club. These should **not** leave the Club premises. A number of books seem to have disappeared; if any one has Club books at home could they please return them.

### **Food in Fridge - Peter Carpenter**

If anyone leaves food in the kitchen fridge would they please make sure it is dated and they leave a name tag on it. If food cannot be identified by date and owner them it will probably be thrown out at the end of the day. This is an important health issue.

### **Bowl 24-6 August 2002 Richard Cannon**

Saturday was the Bowl Board Regatta but there was very little wind and they didn't bother to sail. There was just enough wind for Richard Cannon with Robert Britton in ST368, and Laurie Bridges with Michael Stevens in ST856 to go for a short cruise. Then Robert and Michael went out but paddled back when the wind dropped to nothing.

Sunday was normal club racing that we could join in but all, except Nigel Knowles in his Laser, decided to cruise; see Mike Baker's story on the next page.

Sunday night was wet and windy fortunately it cleared up before the morning and we were able put the tents away dry. Monday was the Bowl Regatta with all boats starting together in short course racing; these were 2 lap races, over a trapezium course, lasting under 30 minutes and as soon as one race has finished the start sequence for the next race started. Richard let Robert helm, Laurie had Michael as crew and Eiko Thompson crewed for Graham in his Bosun.

We had a good sail in a 10-15 knot wind although in the first race Laurie capsized forcing a gybe while approaching a mark and retired for good. There were three races before lunch and two in the afternoon. After lunch Richard suggested Michael crewed for Robert as the capsize had curtailed his sailing and then Richard crewed for Graham because Eiko had got very cold.

Thirty six starters gave a crowded start line and the short races put a premium on good starts. Robert did well to come 13th with a best result of 9th. Although we had a low attendance and far from ideal weather those who went en-

## Quiz Nite 14 September - sensational revelations! - Phil Courtney

In a knife edge contest between the finest brains of Britain – marked by the most blatant official favouritism and bias – the Retirers pulled marginally ahead in a last gasp desperate final lunge for the line, and proved finally victorious in a white knuckle photo finish. The cynics amongst us might attribute the final score more to the liberal attitudes taken by the victors to the concept of self assessment (the vanquished may in a display of community spirit report them to the tax man – be warned!).

The Big Cats – noted for their advanced concepts of British fair play – i.e. loosing with a rictus grin – attempted to bring to the organisers attention various breeches of EEC rules (didn't vote for it myself) appertaining to quiz Nites and sailing clubs – there was no protest committee!! – as is so clearly mandated in Volume 4 section 112 subsection 8 paragraph 14 of EEC directive 1999 / 124. There's no point in being in the common market if we don't follow the rules! It has subsequently emerged that the appropriate notification was sent to Brussels but not in Polish (the language of the day)

The first round consisted of deciphering words written by some graduate of modern education. All the right letters but not in the right order. It became immediately apparent the 'Bar Hoppers' had obviously bribed – not to strong a word – with over copious libations, our genial host.

Then on to the mathematical questions We were asked to do some not very sensible sums – seemingly derived from our genial hosts phoney expenses claims. We should have had sensible questions – such as 'Given that ballot papers weigh 20 grams, and waste paper fetches £30 the tonne, calculate the value of voting Conservative at the last general election?' It transpired that the 'generosity' of our bar tending colleges may have rendered our genial host incapable of working out his shopping bill.

After a sojourn for a fish supper – excellent fuel for masterminds – we entered round three – 'General Knowledge' Again the quality of the questions appeared to owe too much to Woolworth's made in Taiwan Christmas crackers. There

were some questions about America – none of which required a knowledge of the social and political inadequacies of that dissolute rabble. We were not asked for example 'list foreign countries in Xenophobic order?' Neither were there questions of social, historical and political importance – such as 'In what year did women get the vote – and why? (Note that the second half of the question is obviously a trick question).

Going into the final round the field was wide open - the perspiring teams straining at every leash in the competitive determination to gain the advantage – but DISASTER! The questions were about songs and shows and such like limp wristed stuff – thus hugely and unfairly disadvantaging those teams lacking a poofthah element. One particular team – nameless due to the strictures of the Wolfenden report did remarkably well. The Big Cats defended their heterosexuality by proudly scoring flat zero.

The eventual winners – doubtless by collusion – were the Retirers who assuaged their guilty consciences by sharing their ill gotten loot – choccies - with the vanquished valiant victims of verbose vacuous vauldevillian vicissitude.

I'm sure the attendees of what was a humorous and anodyne event will join me in thanking the organisers Joan & George Bray, and Peter & Diana Carpenter for getting the fish and chips. All the work they did to arrange a thoroughly good do was much appreciated. When things run seamlessly, it's a sure indication of the thoroughness and diligence of the organisers.

Editors note

The committee wish to explain that the EEC rules on quiz Nites were in fact deliberately flouted on this occasion. The Society of Wastepaper Reprocesses has indicated that a few goodish complaints to the Brussels commission should provide sufficient bumpf to substantially reduce next years subscriptions. Members are invited to write to their MEP's next Thursday – particularly members familiar with both Welsh and Serbo Croat. Note that the following week the language of choice is Welsh.

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## A Day at Bewl Water

Being at Bewl is always a pleasure. The scenery, clubhouse, facilities and foreshore are second to none. Even the journey to and from is easy. The sailing is usually great, given a halfway decent amount of wind. However every now and again the odds conspire against you and the conditions are less than ideal. Bank holiday Sunday was such a day.

Lyn and I arrived mid morning to be met on the launching ramp by Laurie Bridges, Richard Cannon, Mike Stevens and Robert Britton who were there for the weekend. I got Over Easy rigged in double quick time and launched straight away. That sail turned out to be the best of the day. I even managed to get her up on the plane a couple of times ! I stayed out a couple of hours and as I came back in the Beachmaster hailed me. He said a couple of folks were looking for the Aquarius crowd.

'The folks' turned out to be Phil Courtney and his girl friend Anne. While I was talking to them, another old friend from the Hawker SC turned up from Germany with his wife and kids. Things were getting crowded on the pontoon. In the

middle of everything ST368 sailed in. Problem solved ! Take experienced helm from one party and novice crew from the other, put in dinghy and shove them off. Take remaining folks from both parties and introduce to club restaurant for lunch.

I sailed in the afternoon but the wind was dropping all the time. By four o'clock most of the dinghy's were coming off the water. I packed Over Easy up and Lyn and I made our way back to The Grasshopper at Westerham for dinner. The others stayed down for the Monday racing.

I suppose some folks might say that going all the way to somewhere like Bewl Water just for a few hours sailing is too much hassle, and they might be right. I guess that if you've only ever sailed on the river then you might be satisfied, but if you've ever experienced the buzz of sailing on open water then an opportunity to sail at Bewl is just not to be missed. If you doubt me, next time we go, come down and I'll personally take you out and show you what you've been missing !

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## AQSC - the Business !

Have you ever wondered how a club like Aquarius is run ? "What's to run", I hear you say, "you just turn up on Sundays and sail right", WRONG ! The easiest way to understand Aquarius is to view it as a business. Like any enterprise AQSC requires an objective, a financial structure, operating codes, premises, management, and of course - customers (that's you by the way).

AQSC derives its operational mandate from the Annual General Meeting. Every paid up member is entitled to attend this meeting which is usually held in the clubhouse during the early part of December. That's a broad hint to those members who have never attended one. The AGM reviews 'the business', proposes and debates required amendments to its purpose and constitution and elects a management team for the coming season. It also provides an important forum for the membership to voice concerns or suggest improvements. The election of the right management team is a key element to the ongoing success of the club business.

AQSC has a traditional sailing club structure which operationally is headed by a Commodore, the equivalent to a company Managing Director. This position is responsible for the overall image, direction, annual programme and management of AQSC. The Commodore is supported in these endeavours by a Vice Commodore, two Rear Commodores, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Bosun, Harbourmaster, Sailing Secretary, Publicity Officer and a Social Secretary.

The Vice Commodore is the Commodore's direct understudy and is also the Bar Manager with responsibilities for stock ordering and organisation of the bar staff roster.

Each of the Rear Commodores have specific responsibilities for internal and external club business. Internal business covers premises and health & safety. External business covers all issues and politics having a bearing on AQSC. The Hon. Secretary is responsible for the club registers, correspondence, documents, meeting minutes and subscriptions. The Hon. Treasurer is responsible for the club finance, accounts and preparation of an annual balance sheet together with administration of the clubs insurance policies.

The Hon. Bosun and Harbourmasters are respectively responsible for maintenance of the club dinghies and allocation of berthing for the club and members craft. The Hon. Sailing Secretary is responsible for the annual sailing program, the organisation of weekly race officer duties and the calculation of race results. The Hon. Publicity Officer is responsible for the clubs external image, organisation of advertising and external events and for input to the clubs newsletter. The Hon. Social Secretary is responsible for organisation of the clubs non-sailing program. This includes internal and external events including the clubs annual dinner. The above are aided and abetted by an auditor and an executive committee drawn from the club membership.

Social and Management Committee Meetings are held each month in the clubhouse. The Social Committee reviews up and coming events, as defined on the annual club program, and allocates responsibilities for the same. This assembly is immediately followed by the clubs main management meeting. This is an informally formal meeting. The agenda covers Apologies for absence, Minutes of the last meeting, Matters arising, Commodores report, Secretary's report, Sub-committee reports, Any Other business and the Date of the next meeting.

Each discipline representative is responsible for his/her outstanding action items and matters arising. Issues are debated, actions allocated and future programme requirements reviewed. Of course, what needs to be done, doesn't end at the club. Committee members regularly attend external meetings such as River User Groups and Local Council meetings. Liaison is also maintained with the likes of Thames Water (our Landlords) and external agencies like the RYA and those organising events such as the recent Queen's Party in Bushy Park. Then there are work parties needed to trim, paint, plumb, wire and generally maintain AQSC and its grounds and Oh yes ! the preparation, editing and printing of the clubs newspaper 'The Main Sheet'.

It all takes time and commitment so that when you turn up on Sunday hopefully you can "just sail !".

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

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## Aquarius Sailing Club Domain Name [sailaquarius.org.uk](http://sailaquarius.org.uk)

With the wider spread use of the Internet it was decided that AQSC should have its own domain name. After reviewing the names of other sailing clubs sailaquarius was selected as being a good descriptive name and .org.uk is intended for clubs etc.

The web site can be accessed by <http://www.sailaquarius.org.uk>, which redirects to the existing site <http://www.aquarius.sc.ukgateway.net>

One advantage of this is that we can have many E-mail addresses that redirect to the appropriate persons so committee posts have been allocated E-mail addresses. The following is the current list of valid E-mail addresses; they all end in @sailaquarius.org.uk

bar@sailaquarius.org.uk  
boatswain  
commodore  
harbourmaster  
info  
mail  
president  
publicity  
rearcommodore  
rearcommodoreext  
rearcommodoreint  
safety  
sailing  
secretary  
social  
treasurer  
vicecommodore  
webmaster

The names will not be put on the web site as links to avoid spam.

If the person in a post doesn't have an E-mail address then it is redirected to the Webmaster (Richard Cannon) who will contact the appropriate person.

If any one has been thinking of registering a personal domain name it is very cheap and easy. We used oneandone.co.uk and the cost was around £7 for two years with instant registration giving redirection for a web site and up to 50 E-mail addresses. The ending .me.uk is intended for personal use and my preferred personal E-mail address is [richard@cannonr.me.uk](mailto:richard@cannonr.me.uk).

Around 60% of the membership have access to E-mail

## SigneT Nationals

I'm quite surprised to be writing this. A week before the Nationals, and due to a variety of circumstances, I hadn't been planning to go to Rutland Water. However, things changed and I ended up crewing for Keith Hatton in ST858. I've crewed 'Saint' in the past but never in a Nationals ... an interesting experience !

Rutland's an attractive venue, a sort of cross between Bewl Water and Ullswater. Several of the old Hawker SC crowd camped together on the field across the road from the club. Fairly basic but an ideal location. The others opted for dormitories in clubhouse or accommodation in Edith Weston, the local village.

I don't know what happened on Saturday because Keith, Madeline, Lyn and I didn't arrive until Sunday morning. By the time we got our bearings, erected the tents, rigged the dinghy and got changed, it was time for the practice race. The conditions were okay and although we didn't know it at the time they proved to be amongst the best of the week.

Rutland SC required us to run our races and Tom Field, our class captain, was going to be our OOD for the week. Monday started with a bombshell with the news that Tom's wife Mabel had died over night. A kind of shock settled over the assembled fleet. Most of us had talked to Mabel on Sunday, it just didn't seem possible that she had gone.

The Monday race was immediately cancelled as a mark of respect. It's hard to explain the position of affection that Mabel held with us all. Like Tom she has always been there. Quiet but assertive with a wicked sense of humour, often aimed at Tom. Quite simply everyone in the association had a very soft spot for Mabel and she will be sorely missed. Tom and young Tom have lost a Wife and Grandmother and we have lost someone who, with her family, was the very essence of what makes the SigneT Owners Class Association what it is.

The rest of the week was a frustrating mixture of hot/humid, wet, very wet and little or no wind, and races postponed to another day. In contrast Rutland SC was excellent. It had great facilities including a good restaurant. To ring the changes we also ate out in Stamford and at a local pub on a couple of nights. The AGM and the Prize Giving were conducted by Jenny (Secretary) and Steve (Sailing Sec.) with customary efficiency and humour. The evening entertainment at the club included a variety of quizzes and a last night Barn Dance which quickly identified the 'two left feet brigade'.

The 2002 Nationals will not be remembered for its sailing, it will, unfortunately, be remembered for the untimely loss of a friend.

**Mike (temporarily 'The Saint') Baker**

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## ... and all that Jazz

Every year, about mid August, Marble Hill at Twickenham, just across Richmond Bridge, holds a series of open air concerts. One of these is a Jazz evening. Lyn and I and a few friends usually go to this one. This year featured Humphrey Littleton, Acker Bilk & The Paramount Jazz Band and Kenny Ball & The Jazzmen.

We arrived in good time and I'd just sat down and was contemplating a rather large glass of apple schnapps that a girl friend had just handed to me when I recognised a familiar face in the group ahead of us. It was Eric Bridge-water, a fellow enthusiast. He said he'd been going to this event for ten years and how much it had changed.

This year was sponsored by Waitrose. They had a mobile supermarket on site and a small army of blondes were wandering around taking food and drinks orders. All around people were

picnicking. Many had small candle lanterns hanging on hooks. I guess there were maybe three or four thousand people. No trouble, just one happy bunch of folks enjoying a warm evening and hot jazz.

The first set started at 7:30pm with 'Humph' doing his thing. He was followed by Acker Bilk who actually has a wicked sense of humour. The third set was Kenny Ball's. He had to borrow Acker Bilk's piano player but his drummer was in rare form and had his own five minute solo.

The evening ended at about 10:30pm. If you've never been to Marble Hill I can thoroughly recommend it. All you need are tickets, the old picnic hamper, something to sit on and a chilled bottle or two. See you there next year perhaps !

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Farewell to Mabel

This story will mainly be of interest to our Signet owning members

After all the wet weather we have had recently August 14 was a beautiful summer's day. If ever there was a favourable time to celebrate a friend's life, this was it. Sunshine lifts the soul, makes colours more vibrant and in a funny way helps to mix the sadness of loss with the happiness of remembering a life well lived.

The Crematorium at Peterborough was both a peaceful place and an extremely difficult place to find. Having driven around the city a couple of times trying to find it, I feel qualified to say that. However about sixty people did find it including many from the SigneT Class Owners Association.

The service for Mabel was unhurried and peaceful. Several pieces of music were played giving everyone time for memories and contemplation. The minister gave the eulogy which was informative, compassionate and humorous and provided a fitting insight into Tom and Mabel's life together, her interests and skills as an artist.

After the ceremony we spent a short time in the gardens meeting Mabel's and Tom's family and looking at the flowers that had been sent. Everybody was then invited back to the house at Elton. It seemed strange walking into Merienda and not to be welcomed by Mabel. I've lost count of the times the SigneT crowd have camped out on Tom and Mabel's living room carpet prior to going up to Ferry Meadows. Mabel took it all in her stride and always made everybody welcome. Her breakfasts were always the best part and she thought nothing of cooking for twenty or so people.

The family had thoughtfully provided a very nice buffet at the house. The lounge doors were wide open and people spilled out into the garden. Tom somehow managed to get around and spend time with everyone although I expect all he wanted to do was sit down quietly with a cup of tea.

About three o'clock people started leaving. While Richard and I were waiting to say our goodbyes I looked around. Everywhere were reminders of Mabel, the most striking being some of her paintings. I'd like to think that having those will be a great comfort to Tom in the years to come.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## What Goes In, Is Not Necessarily What Comes Out !

As you've probably noticed I'm not averse to writing the odd article for The Main Sheet. Richard says he doesn't know where it all comes from. He's not the only one ! but when the urge to write something comes over me, my preference is for Lucida Casual at about 12 point. Sound kinky ? Not really, it's the Microsoft Word text style and size that I like to type in (but after updating my system to Windows 98, with everything re-installed, we couldn't find it any where; Richard managed to recover it from my old system files). If you want kinky I have been known to type while not wearing very much. That can cause problems because our cat, Cosworth, likes to sit on my lap and watch things change on the VDU ! It's his claws you see. What? Oh, he's called Cosworth because he's fast think about it

Anyway, once I've dumped the chaos that is Over Easy's mind onto the disk drive I email it to Richard. For instance, chaos could throw up that today is 23 August. On this day in 1984 a giant inflatable King Kong was tied to the top of Black-

pool Tower to celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (the tower's not King Kong) but I digress and you don't want to know about that. Tricky Dicky doesn't like fancy text styles, indentation or anything that messes up his nice neat newsletter columns. So everything I send him gets converted, via his PagePlus package, into what you see. Why don't you use the same type? I hear you say. Well it doesn't inspire me is the answer. Lyn says it's because I was taught to write in *Italic* (nice touch that) and, in her opinion, that is why I like Lucida Casual. Well, she might be right even though it isn't actually an *italic face*. Confused? You should worry, I have to live with it! In much the same way you could say that King Kong was inspirational. It certainly got the tower noticed, albeit possibly for the wrong reasons. Richard says he doesn't care as long as I keep churning it out. Well, if nobody else is going to contribute anything then you'll just have to put up with my ramblings who knows, eventually you might even get to like it!

*Mike (What was all that about) Baker*

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## SAILING SECRETARY REPORT - Richard Cannon

Unfortunately since the Summer newsletter generally we have had terrible sailing conditions with most Sundays having very light fluky winds; only a couple of Sundays have given a reasonable sail. We haven't been alone with poor sailing conditions because even the Bewl visit only had wind on the Monday and only one of the five Signet meetings had any wind (there even wasn't wind at Rutland Water).

A new venture for us was holding a Signet Open meeting. It was disappointing that only four of our ten Signets were sailing; we had five visitors. Although we had light wind until the last race our visitors enjoyed themselves and liked our club very much, especially the spectators.

Quoted from the SCOA newsletter. "The spectators would like to say what a lovely club Aquarius is. For those of you that were unable to come it is a very beautiful spot on the River Thames with a lovely club house, a bar and good food thanks to Madeline and all the other helpers. It is very like something out of Swallows and

Amazons or Wind in the Willows and we would strongly recommend it for next season. What ever the sailors may say. Can we also have the same weather next year?" We expect to be asked to hold it again next season.

Some of our junior sailors have reached the age of changing life style with going to College or starting work and this has had an impact on the number joining in.

As we had such a successful Jubilee Picnic in Bushy Park we held a mini open day on 28 July for those who had expressed an interest. Twelve visitors were taken out crewing in races and between races. We gained more new members from this than from our main Open Day.

A number of new members have been coming down on Wednesday afternoons and evenings to practice sailing.

After doing an excellent job at promoting Graduate, we have 7, Graham Thompson is now promoting Bosuns and we have 4 in the club.

I hope we get better sailing next season.

## Over Easy Takes a Holiday

In 1974 Turkey invaded Cypress and, a while later, established the Turkish Republic of Northern Cypress, which is a country only recognised by Turkey. To get to Northern Cypress you have to fly via the Turkish mainland where the aircraft makes a 'courtesy stopover'. Once on the island you cannot travel over the border into Southern Cypress, because of course its Greek. Greek maps simply show the north of the island as a blank, marked 'illegally occupied territory'.

Basically the Republic is somewhere Lyn & I had never been, so we decided to check it out. We had expected to land at Ercan but instead we ended up at the military air base at Gecitkale. We were told that Ercan was being refurbished and would be finished in three months. The courier then admitted that this was almost certainly going to be a year.

Lyn had booked us into 'The Dome' hotel in Kyrenia. It's an old colonial pile built in the thirties but, like an old slipper, it was comfortable. One of the attractions of Kyrenia is its castle and the tiny, horse-shoe shaped harbour which is packed with yachts and, off the water, restaurants and bars. After a day or so we hired a car and drove east to the walled city of Famagusta.

One of the things you notice about Northern Cypress is the heavy military presence. The Turkish army has bases everywhere, together with lots of signs warning you not to take photographs, they are paranoid about cameras.

Nicosia was hot, interesting and divided, in much the same way Berlin once was. The best of the north was up on the Karpas Peninsular, known locally as 'The Panhandle'. This area is very rural and still has a few Turkish & Greek families living together in villages and farming the land. At the furthest point on the Karpas we found a very small, very basic hotel located beside a small fishing harbour where we spent

a night. There wasn't a menu, you ate what they had. There was no hot water and the night was black, and I do mean black. It was great!

I liked Northern Cypress. Despite the military presence it has some unique historic treasures and a natural beauty. It is covered with pine, carob and olive-clad mountains and lush valleys growing every kind of vegetable and citrus fruit. Its beaches, especially on the peninsular, are spectacular and surprisingly empty. There are a lot of villa's being built in the Kyrenia area at some very attractive prices. £27k buys nice, £50k buys a bloody mansion! There's lots of British estate agents around to help relieve you of your money. Talking of money Turkish Lira is a nightmare (£1 equals 2,399,690.00 Lira). That means that 42p equals 1,000,000 Lira.

Both Turkey and Greece want to join the EEC. I understand that one of the prior conditions for Turkish entry, in addition to improving its human rights record, could be that the Northern Cypress situation is resolved. This means that many current land and property issues with Greece have to be settled. Add into that land and property that has been sold to foreigners since 1974 and you've got yourself a bag of worms. I guess the only worry is that after they sort that lot out, if you had bought something in Northern Cypress, it might be possible to wake up one morning to find you don't own your little bit of paradise anymore!

The only problem I had in Northern Cypress was that I couldn't find a single dinghy for hire anywhere. Considering the coast accounts for two thirds of the Republic's borders I find that a classic oversight, or a business opportunity just waiting for someone to spot it!

**Mike (Over Really Easy after a few Raki's)  
Baker**

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## SigneT Open at Littleton SC

Littleton SC is scarcely ten minutes drive from Aquarius but it is completely different. It has a spacious two story clubhouse looking out over water which is a large gravel pit alongside the M4 motorway.

On Sunday 1 September Littleton hosted the penultimate SigneT Open of 2002. The day was warm and sunny with a light breeze blowing from the NE. Nine SigneTs contested the meeting (albeit that the results recorded Ten entrants). The first race started at 11.00am and was led from start to finish by Littleton Members Paul & Alice Nicholson in ST186. They were followed in by Roy Melsom & Emma Nicholson ST761 Steve & Jonathon Leeding in ST53. Several of the dinghys fell foul of the thick Littleton weed that lurks just under the surface of the water. It can wrap itself around rudders and centre plates and bring a boat to a virtual stand still.

After a short break the second race got underway at 12:45pm. By this time the breeze was dropping and the dinghys became very spaced out. Again Paul swept all before him and romped home well ahead of the field. ST186 was followed in by Rob Britton & Richard Cannon ST386 and John Pratt and Michael Stevens in ST872.

Following lunch the last race got underway at about 3:15pm. Conditions had improved a little but, as the race wore on, the winds got lighter and lighter and very flukey. In the end the OOD decided to finish everybody as they rounded the top mark. Again Paul and Alice took the honours followed by Keith Hatton & Mike Baker in ST858 and Roy Melsom & Emma Nicholson in ST761

The prize giving was held in the clubhouse bar. Keith Hatton & Mike Baker were third in ST858, Roy Melsom & Emma Nicholson were second in ST761 and Paul & Alice Nicholson were first in ST186. Roy was also presented with the Nationals Single Handed Trophy which he won at Rutland Water back in August. Other placings were as follows. Rob Britton and Richard Cannon in ST368 4<sup>th</sup>, Steve & Jonathon Leeding in ST53 5<sup>th</sup>, John Pratt & Michael Stevens in ST872 6<sup>th</sup>, Sam Anderson Brown & Ben Mitchell in ST2 7<sup>th</sup>, Mark Cowling & Michael Overs in ST914 8<sup>th</sup>, Lizzy & Pat Overs in ST690 9<sup>th</sup> and Michael Overs & Mark Cowling in ST914 10<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks to Littleton SC for their hospitality and to Steve Leeding for organising the meeting. Hope to see you all at Ferry Meadows in October to wind-up this years open series.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## SOCIAL CALENDAR

### Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 2th November	Kempton Park Fireworks and a social with hot food provided at the Club afterwards. For cut price (£4) advance tickets contact Richard Cannon on 01932 786636; meet & park at at Richard's at 7:00pm for a short stroll to Kempton Park. For more details see: <a href="http://www.kemptonfireworks.org.uk/">http://www.kemptonfireworks.org.uk/</a>
Saturday 23th November	Annual Dinner. Please book tickets early, numbers strictly limited. See menu choice and booking arrangements with this newsletter. Book by November 5th for discounted tickets, subject to availability.
Saturday 7th December 8pm	AGM, prize giving, and end of season party.
<b>2003</b>	
Saturday 25th January 8pm	Magical Music Evening
Saturday 15th February 8pm	Valentine Evening
Saturday 29th March 8pm	Start of Season Party

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## AQUARIUS SAILING CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

### Saturday 23th November 7:30 for 8:00

The annual dinner will be held in the Clubhouse:-  
Dress: Smart/Smart casual  
Price £23 (£24 after 5 November) includes:-  
Reception drink at 7:30  
Three course meal by Professional Caterers  
Table wine  
Coffee/Tea and mints  
Candle light, soft music, and good company  
Please refrain from smoking in the Clubhouse before and during the meal  
Limited to 38 members on first come first served basis  
This is a very popular dinner so earliest booking is advised; 5 November at the latest  
To secure tickets please complete the included Dinner Menu entering:-

1. Menu selections ticked
2. Cheque payable to Aquarius SC (£23.00 per person, £24 after 5th November)
3. Stamped addressed envelope for returning your tickets  
Send to Diane Carpenter  
11 Chestnut Avenue  
EWELL, Surrey KT19 0SY  
Tel: 020 8393 8029

### PLEASE ORDER BY 5th NOVEMBER For discounted tickets

Any tickets not sold by then will be offered to guests of members. Please include a note if you wish to bring guests, they will be placed on a waiting list until 6th November when any remaining tickets will be allocated.

If anyone has items they would like to donate to the raffle would they please contact Bob Sumner. on 01895 252528.

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## Annual General Meeting, Prize Giving and End of Season Party

### Saturday 7th December 2002 - Joan Bray.

This is the last event of the season and we value your support in helping to elect the Officers and Committee for next year.

In particular, we need to appoint a new Commodore as Rodger wishes to step down after 5 successful years. As a member of AQSC it's your responsibility to help determine who should be the clubs Commodore for 2003 onwards.

It is also your opportunity to air your views on the way the club is run and what changes you might wish to see.

The proceedings normally take about an hour followed by prize giving presided over by Richard Cannon.

Then it's on to the party - a time to reminisce on the season past and plan for the season to come aided by a glass or two of our traditional mulled wine, mince pies and other goodies.

Altogether an evening not to be missed.

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### Peter Pan Pantomime at Richmond Theatre

A group of members plan to go to see the panto around the second week of January. Stall tickets are about £15 and we will be booking soon.

If you fancy this please phone Diana Carpenter on 020 8393 8029

### FOR SALE

**1976 Roswell built Smokers Satisfaction. (Merlin Rocket)** Good deck,hull,sails. ready to sail. needs minor work. Combo trailer & cover £500 no offers. Injury forces sale. John Graham 07973 814552

**Graduate 2854** Good condition & good sails. 1981, newest in club. White hull & green deck. Recently re-rigged. £600 ono, Rob Britton 07775 801879

**Leisure 17** bilge keel cruiser, easy maintenance glass fibre, £1000 ONO. John Rhodes 020 8979 1664