



**AQUARIUS S.C.**

# THE MAIN SHEET

## Summer 2004 Edition

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## COMMODORE'S REPORT

Firstly, welcome to all our new members. It's been an eventful quarter. We lost a much loved member in Maggie Rogers. Held the annual club open weekend. Went, ready to compete, in this year's Mid Thames Trophy, started a Wednesday afternoon series and our SigneTs kicked off their annual open series at Little Paxton, we sailed at Bewl Water during the late May Bank Holiday, and we held the annual regatta, Jazz night and barbecue.

The more observant of you might also have noticed that Bodgett & Son have also all but completed the extension at the upstream end of the club. Nice and homely as Aquarius SC is, it is in need of an amount of modernization, hopefully without changing its intrinsic character too much.

Last year we re-modelled the patio area, rebuilt the gallery floor, updated the bar area and addressed the club's electrical problems. Now we have a useable area which will be used purely as a storage facility to clear the rest of the club of items that are only used occasionally (i.e. stacking chairs, tables, cup-

boards, table tennis table, patio furniture, barbecue and of course sail bags, foils and clothing.) The men's changing room has also been partially refurbished as part of the job.

The cost for phase 2 development has now been approved and work commenced. The floor and toilet have been replaced, and we are about to finish panelling the walls. These improvements are not just for us. They will help with attracting new membership and be something that visitors can use.

Next year Aquarius will be expected to host the Mid-Thames Trophy. A year ago I don't think we could have provided the necessary internal facilities but now we have a plan and are pursuing it.

Alongside the internal improvements we now have a reasonably well balanced number of club dinghies supported by a reliable safety boat. We also have an excellent website and, although I say it myself, a not too shabby newsletter.

I'm proud of Aquarius; it's a great little club but it can't stand still. To secure its future we continually need to improve it and attract new members.

Certainly all the things mentioned in this article were directed toward achieving this, I hope you agree. The other thing about 'Bodgett's projects' is that they are great team builders. You start with a core team, call people in with the experience needed, add some willing hands and before you know it, job done.

I hope that all the new members, mentioned below, who have joined AQSC this year are enjoying the experience and that the club is all they'd hoped it would be. We try to meet people's expectations but we are only human and sometimes things slip through the net. So if any of you have problems, or suggestions, PLEASE talk to a member of the Management Committee and hopefully we can sort things out. From the club's point of view it's great to see so many of you sailing on a regular basis, even going down to Bewl Water over the Spring Bank Holiday. There will be another opportunity to go to Bewl over the August Bank Holiday.

**Mike (The Commodore) Baker**

## News of Members - Joan Bray

### Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:-

Anjan Basu, Mark Benning, Leo & Anne Bond, Jane Gibson, David Marshal, Damien & Lybbie Tubridy, Regina Tam & Richard Hart, and also to Stuart Schafer who is rejoining after several years absence.

Wishing you all friendship and very happy sailing.

## Start of Season Party

This year's bash was held in the clubhouse at 8:00pm on Saturday 27 March. I would like to think that the 30-35 people who attended had a good time, they certainly appeared to.

Now I have to say that the buffet supper was quite possibly one, if not the best, buffet ever put out at Aquarius. For that I have to thank everybody who contributed the food and to Diana Carpenter, Joan Bray and Joan Garrett for slaving away in the galley and serving everything up. It was a good evening.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Aquarius Website - Richard Cannon

Apart from giving information on events, the latest duty roster and race results the website is an excellent historic reference. All the newsletters from Autumn 1999, archived news items from 1999, and the race results from 2000 are online.

Following Sunday racing the result pages have normally been updated by the end of the day. The policy is not to delete any items but to leave them for reference.

## **The 2004 Dinghy Sailing Show (Alexandra Palace 5th & 6th March)**

This year the SigneT Class Owners Association had a stand in the Great Hall at the show. The dinghy on the stand was ST916, built in the Rutland Water area mid 2003 but had hardly been used since. She was a vision in blue, even the sails, just the sort of display boat I love!

Steve Leeding and I set up on Friday afternoon. We had a good 'pitch' right in amongst a number of chandlery shops. On Saturday I opened up but at 10:00am I had to go to the Commodores Conference. By the time I got back at 2:00pm the stand was heaving. Chandlery locations at the show are always high traffic areas and the SCOA position was beneficial from this.

Keith and Madeline Hatton and Steve & Jonathan Leeding were holding things down, ably assisted by Richard Cannon.

A couple of young men took more than a passing interest in ST28 which was on the second hand list. Richard subsequently informed me that one of them, a Mr. Nick Dodge, did indeed buy the boat from its owner at Aquarius SC and its new home will be Stewartby SC.

The show ended at 6:00pm and, from what I saw, was pretty well attended despite the departure this year of the Windsurfing community to Excel in Docklands.

Sunday started slowly but by midday was pretty busy. Pat & Jenny Overs and Roy Melsom were joined mid morning by ST916's owners the Page family. What is it about wooden boats; people have just got to touch them. Interestingly we now seem to be nearly the only wooden boat left at the show and definitely the only kit boat around.

During the afternoon two girls pitched up on the stand and announced they were well into building a Fyne Boats SigneT kit and how should they go about getting a registration number. Jenny's face was a picture. Fyne hadn't advised her of the sale. Needless to say she got right on the case.

Due to our position getting out at the end of the day looked like it wouldn't be easy. However in the event, while Nigel Page went to get the road trailer, we broke the stand down, loaded everything into the boat and got out while everybody else was still faffing around.

After getting Nigel away and loading up Pat's car with the display material Roy and I were enjoying the delights of the North Circular less than an hour after starting the breakdown. That's very fast! Pity the North Circular wasn't. What a team!

My thanks to everybody who worked on the stand over the weekend, to Steve, Pat and Jen for all their help before and during the show and to the Page family for donating the dinghy. 'Scarper'; a worthy representative of the class. Look out for her at the Nationals this year.

So that's it, the show will be at Ally Pally next year which I'm told is the first of a possible three year deal. I guess the only drawback is that the show always falls on my birthday. On the plus side Lyn usually buys one of my presents there, so it's not all bad! This year it was a much needed pair of wet boots.

**Mike (SCOA Stand Organiser)  
Baker**

## **A Quiz Night with a Difference**

Now I've heard of a beetle drive, a cattle drive and a recruitment drive ... but a dinghy drive? That came as a new one! Diana was quick to explain as soon as the twenty-five or so members who turned up at the club on the evening of Saturday 24 April.

Cardboard dinghies and dice were distributed and battle commenced. A six got you started with a hull. You needed a 1 (centre plate), 2 (rudder) or 5 (mast). The two sails were 3 and 4 respectively but you apparently you had to have the mast (5) before you could qualify for sails (3 or 4). Confused? You're not the only one.

The first to complete a dinghy was awarded a cardboard burgee and this

person together with the highest scorers from the other three tables all moved to another table. The winner, at the end of the evening, was the one with the most burgees.

Supper was great. Pete and Diana served up several different kinds of Pizza accompanied by various salads. But there was one more surprise to come. It turned out to be Nigel Knowles 60th birthday and he and Anne supplied some very tasty deserts and several bottles of Champagne to toast the lads birthday.

Many thanks to Diana and Peter for organizing the evening it certainly was different and very entertaining.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## **Farewell to Maggie**

Aquarius SC members came from all over to support Mike and the family at Maggie's funeral on Friday 7 May which was held at Hanworth Crematorium.

The chapel was filled to capacity with Maggie's family and friends. The service, although very sad and emotional, was also full of happy memories of Maggie's life.

After the service everybody gathered outside to talk to the family against a backdrop of flowers and wreaths. Amongst them a flower spray sent on behalf of all the members of Aquarius SC.

Afterwards we went to Brinsworth House in Twickenham, where Maggie used to work. This is a retirement home for actors and actresses which had offered to host a reception.

The rest of the afternoon was spent chatting with friends and enjoying the buffet that Mike had kindly arranged.

Maggie may no longer be with us but she will remain in our thoughts for a long time to come.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## **Thanks**

I would like to thank all the guys who helped in the construction of the new club extension.

These included Ron Mundon; Bryan Clements; Dave Jennings for his carpentry skills; Richard Cannon for his experienced roofing skills; John Neale and Margaret Tomkins for their painting skills, and finally ... BUT BY NO MEANS LAST ... Bodgett senior, a.k.a. Nigel Knowles, for his expertise in planning, procurement, building, electrics and supply of the most amazing array of power tools you could wish for. Not to mention also being a thoroughly nice guy.

Thanks everyone (including those guys who helped dig out the foundations during the last working party) an excellent job which couldn't have been done without you. (P.S. Sorry lads, no salary increases or bonuses available this time but I'd be proud to stand you a pint or two anytime!)

**Mike (Bodgett junior) Baker**

## First Sail of the Year

Sunday 28 March saw the first scheduled racing of the 2004 season at Aquarius. There was a decent breeze and the stream wasn't running too fast.

Richard was OOD, ably assisted by Laurie Bridges and Bryan Clements in the safety boat. Richard, in a fit of pique because he wasn't racing, set one of the most fiendish courses we've had at Aquarius in a long time.

I've never seen so many confused sailors. Some sailed the right course but the wrong way round. Some did double sausages not singles. Some forgot which sausage they were on so went around again, just in case. Some played pin ball with the marks. The record was by one sailor hitting every one during one race. Richard really has got a perverse sense of humour when he puts his mind to it.

Anyway a good time was had by all, nobody capsized and lunch was basically everything that didn't get eaten at the party the night before. Not a bad first sail!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

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## Trailer Park

Members are reminded that the trailer park is just that, for storage of road trailers; not as seems to be happening for long term storage of boats. These need to be removed to their moorings or off site.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## The RYA Commodores Conference

This is always held on the first morning of the Dinghy Show in the Londesborough Room. It usually starts around 10:00am with registration and coffee and kicks off an hour later.

This year John Bagnall, the RYA's Marketing Manager welcomed everybody and outlined the agenda for the conference. He was followed by Dave Ritchie (National Sailing Coach) and Alan Oliver (Coach Development Manager) with a talk on 'Your club and the RYA'.

Edmund Whelan (RYA Legal & Government Affairs Manager) was up next to cover 'Club Officials and their Legal Liabilities'. This included some useful, and worrying, information about insurance for club officials and the new liquor licensing requirements for clubs shortly being introduced. These and other items replaced the earlier agenda item concerning risk assessment.

Sources of club funding was then covered by an external sponsorship consultant. This was very interesting and focused on sponsorship and what it can do for the sponsor and the sponsored. The perception is far removed from the reality. If you ever thought it was about being given loads of money for putting a few stickers on your boat, think again. More information can be found at [www.sponsorshipadvice.org.uk](http://www.sponsorshipadvice.org.uk) and [www.ccpr.org.uk](http://www.ccpr.org.uk)

The meeting ended with Jon White (RYA Windsurfing/Onboard Manager) and Jenny Anderson (Head of the Maritime Leisure Research Group) at Southampton University talking about a national programme to recruit, retain, recognize and reward volunteers. Have a look at [www.ryavolunteering.org.uk](http://www.ryavolunteering.org.uk) for details.

John Bagnall then took questions from the floor. One item was about the RYA's growing concerns about entrapment under modern dinghies. This has resulted in fatalities because self bailing hulls have little or no air pockets when they invert and buoyancy aids make it difficult to dive down and out.

Although 'formal' by necessity these conferences are actually quite laid back and in addition to providing information to the delegates they are also a forum for Commodores from all over the country to meet and exchange experiences and ideas. Over a hundred and forty clubs were represented this year.

The RYA has worked hard to present itself as a much more user friendly organization and the success of our Olympic yachtsmen and women has helped this aim. As a result there is now a lot more Government money available to help fund many of their initiatives, such as 'Onboard'. All together a very worthwhile start to the 2004 Dinghy Show ... and the lunch wasn't bad either!

Mike (With Commodore's hat on) Baker

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## SigneT Open at Grafham Water 26 June 2004

Grafham Water can be pretty lively and is one of the largest inland sailing lakes in the UK. This open was incorporated within the Bedfordshire vs. Cambridgeshire 2004 Regatta.

Our SigneT's were entered under Paxton Lakes SC, just down the road (i.e. the A1) from Grafham. As such we sailed for the Cambridgeshire team, at least on paper, and the SigneT Open was calculated as a race within a race. Is this making sense?

Keith & Madeline Hatton and I left Stoneleigh, with Over Easy in tow, a little after 07:00 and headed off around the M25 to pick up the A1. When we arrived a couple of hours later quite a number of dinghies were already there including ST368 with Richard Cannon and his crew Robert.

For the purposes of the regatta the dinghies were split, by PYS, into fast & slow handicap fleets. The fast fleet had 33 boats while the slow had 45. Our SigneT's sail off 1265 so were of course in the slow fleet. Three one hour races were scheduled, one in the morning and a further two, back to back, in the afternoon. The fast fleet sailed well away to the left of the Grafham SC clubhouse so I'm not sure what type of course they sailed.

Our fleet sailed opposite the clubhouse around a trapezoidal course. This was made up of four marks, all to Port, plus a start and finish line set between marks four and one and formed by a committee boat and outer distance marker. This gate had to be gone through every lap; it was long for the mass start and shortened for the rest of the race.

Throughout the day I suppose the wind was 3 gusting 4. The wind, blowing from the SW, pushing up bit of a swell on the water and generally it was overcast. The course turned out to be great. Every point of sailing was covered with the use of spinnakers possible on two, sometimes three, of the course legs.

We had a great sail. The only down point of the day was ST368 being hit by a Pico which left a small hole in her Starboard side. AQSC had two boats in the top three SigneT's home with ST369 coming 3rd and ST368 1st, so not a bad day!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Wednesday afternoon 'Veterans Series' Racing

I'd had this in mind for some time but was waiting for sufficient numbers of retirees or early retirees to be available to make it worth while.

This series is primarily for our 'mature membership' cadre but we would also welcome any club member who wishes to sail mid week.

The inaugural race finally got underway at 3.15pm on the afternoon of Wednesday 7 April 2004 in very light winds. Unfortunately only Brian Clements and I raced with Richard and Dave Jennings officiating. Brian won the first half hour race. Guess who came second?

After tea and cakes (all very civilized) I offered Over Easy to Richard. He and Brian then sailed around a shortened course in failing winds to complete race two. Richard won this on the water but I've yet to see the corrected handicap score.

Hopefully as the season progresses a few more of our retirees will come out to play on a Wednesday afternoons. I have to admit it's a very enjoyable way to pass the time and it doesn't have to be exclusive.

Lyn came down with me and while we sailed she did some water colours and caught up with her reading.

Fellas, why not suggest to your better halves that they might like to come down for a very pleasant and relaxing afternoon by the river. Just think ... some couples pay hundreds of thousands of pounds to live by the Thames. You can come down to the club anytime and enjoy the river for the price of your annual membership. Why restrict yourselves to Sundays and organised social events?

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

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## Bowl Water

### Mike (Over Easy) Baker

The late May Bank Holiday at Bowl Water in Kent used to be pretty good; but that was in the days when we could camp on site and sail virtually the whole three days. Since the camping facility was severely constrained by Southern Water and camping limitations for unregistered camp sites the event has lost much of its appeal.

The water and the sailing is as good as ever but short of sleeping in the car overnight, as Richard does, there's little choice of comfortable, affordable accommodation in the area.

One day sail now seems to be the way forward; and so it was that Lyn and I towed Over Easy down to Bowl on Sunday morning where we were joined by Richard Cannon with ST368 and Aquarius new comers Regina Tam and Richard Hart.

Keith and Madeline Hatton had arrived a few minutes earlier and between us we soon had Over Easy off her road trailer, rigged and ready to launch.

There was only normal club racing on Sunday but Keith and I had a good day's sailing three sail reaching backwards and forwards across Bowl Water. If only sailing at Aquarius came anywhere near this I would be in my seventh heaven.

After lunch Richard's boat was out a long time and Keith and I commented about his new crews 'capacity' if you know what I mean? Interestingly we did

heard later that ST368 did have to make an unscheduled comfort stop somewhere on the other side of the lake.

We came off the water late in the afternoon, pretty exhausted, but very happy. A dinner stop at 'The Grasshopper' outside Westerham on the way home completed a great day. I don't know what happened on Monday, other than a whole raft of people went down from Aquarius, so again ..... Over to you again Richard?

### Richard Cannon

The weather forecast for Sunday and Monday was terrible, wet and windy, but fortunately it didn't materialise where we were.

On Sunday prospective members Regina Tam and Richard Hart came out with all three of us in Signet 368. They subsequently joined Aquarius.

At first the 10knt wind was ideal for taking novices out but as we started to go up Bowl Straight the wind was increasing so we came in for lunch.

After lunch we sailed to the extremes of the sailing area and when we reached the end of Bowl Straight the club looked to be in a mist; they were having torrential rain that never reached us, but we were a couple of miles away!!

Regina and Richard H went from no sailing experience to being competent at tacking in winds we seldom get on the river in 5 hours of sailing.

On Monday Richard C was joined by Rodger Wheeler with his Bosun, Liz Archer, Jane Gibson and Brian Clements.

Sailing was the Bowl Spring Regatta with handicap racing for the Bowl Champions (10 entries) in one start and Allcomers (25 entries) in a second start. The course was a simple trapezoid.

Again conditions were ideal with a 8 to 12 knt wind. New member Jane crewed for Richard C but as conditions were so good for training Richard handed the helm to Jane on the first run for some practice. Richard then took over for just the beat leg on each lap. On one run Richard flew the spinnaker and one reach Jane was even planning.

In the afternoon there were 2 races back to back. Richard started and helmed the beat to the first mark in each race but then left the race for Jane to get practice at tacking. She actually found it easier racing where she just had to follow instructions whereas with tacking she had to think about what she was doing.

Although there was a low turn out the sailing couldn't have been better. It shows that you shouldn't be put off by a forecast of bad weather.

## Early May Bank Holiday

It was Keith's 60th birthday over the Bank Holiday weekend. This auspicious event was suitably celebrated down at Roy Melsom's place in Kent.

On the Sunday we ended up at Chatham Naval Dockyard. A fantastic place which, if you haven't already been there, I can thoroughly recommend. Meanwhile I understand you guys moved mountains at the club on Saturday. I had a report from Nigel before he and Anne left for a well deserved holiday in the Scilly Islands. It made interesting reading and so I decided to include an edited version of it in this article ....

"To: Bodgit Senior  
From: Bodgit Junior  
Date: 01/05/04  
Subject: Work Party

We had an excellent turnout today and a lot of useful work was done despite the absence of Bodgit Senior! Bodgit Junior feels he is out of practice with organizing others and as a result of today's expansion of the workforce I think we need to give serious thought to restructuring and especially to strengthening the management team.

The following Divisions were in operation today:-

Bodgit Decorators: Diane Carpenter, Margaret Tomkins, Lynda Wheeler, Joan Bray, Pat Irving, John Neale, George Bray. This was a good team that completed all the scheduled painting, marred only by a serious incident of sexual harassment involving George

Bray and Diane. George said it was an accident that he fell off the steps and tumbled on to Diana but Joan said that George never leapt off a ladder for her! In future I think we will have to avoid mixed teams.

Bodgit Electrical: Roger Wheeler - did an excellent job tidying up and burying the electrical supply cables at the car park in preparation for the new flood lights at the gate. Essentially the difficult work is done; the new cable needs to be clipped to the fence and then connected at both ends.

Bodgit Ground Force: Gordon Courtney, Phil Courtney, Richard Cannon, Charles Dennis, Maggie Fletcher, John Tomkins strimmed and cleared the bank, car park and moorings and generally cleared up outside

Bodgit Gardening: Joan Garret, Laurie Bridges - a good team despite a little frisson over the extent of the pruning/hacking back needed for the pergola vine (egged on by some of the Bodgit decorators who were on an unofficial tea break - 1st Memo to Management - we really need to limit the number of tea breaks if we are to maintain productivity)

Bodgit Classics: Bryan Clements worked all day on repairing the Laser's bow and has done an excellent job of it. I told him we needed the boat out of the Club by Wed to give time to clear up for the open w/e and that the black cupboard needed to be relocated from the gents to the Bosun's store.

Bodgit Catering: The ladies kept us topped up with tea and coffee - the only problem was that the gents loo was inaccessible because of the presence of the ladies decorating team (2nd Memo to Management - Please supply a bucket if you insist on similar indignities in future). Linda provided some super cakes.

I think the next job is to lay the carpet in the store and then it can be properly commissioned. We left the gear, tables etc in the Clubhouse pending carpet laying - which, judging by the excellent track record of Bodgit Carpet Layers (2004) Inc., will not be a major job. However the Clubhouse is still in a bit of a state as a result.

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Thanks guys, you did a great job. The place is really starting to look pretty spiffy, ready for the open weekend and future events.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

### Signet Open at Paxton Lakes SC.

This year's Paxton Open was held on 15 and 16 May. Michael Stevens picked up Robert Briton to crew for Richard Cannon and ST368 was the sole Aquarius dinghy to go up this year and so its right and proper that he should complete this article .... Over to you Richard...

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Richard was hoping that there would be better sailing moving away from the river but no; it was still very light variable or non existent wind.

As usual Paxton had courses of many marks that changed every race. It was a lottery as to which side of the islands it was best to go.

Richard was to generally get things right and won each race. Michael helmed ST872 but couldn't make it go.

There was a very enjoyable evening at Tom Field's 18th birthday party up near Peterborough. Many of the Signet crowd were there.

As Sunday didn't count for the Annual Series Richard gave Robert ST368 to sail and Richard Sailed ST872; he couldn't make it go either.

Richard Cannon

### A tongue-in-cheek Ode to Joan Bray

If she sends a letter she's a nuisance  
If she telephones she's lazy  
If she calls a meeting she's a pest  
If she doesn't she's a slacker  
If she asks for advice she's incompetent  
If she doesn't she's a dictator  
If she asks for a subscription she's impertinent  
If she doesn't she's neglecting her duties  
If she makes a decision she's exceeding her authority  
If she doesn't she's a useless fool  
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust  
If no-one else will do it The Secretary must.

Source: YMCA journal, via Pat Irving and 'modified' by Over Easy

## Annual Open Weekend

The preparations for this years open weekend really started back at the beginning of the year when we started on the extension. Making more space and decorating the club was all aimed at presenting the club in the best light possible.

This year we also extended the advertising by using a local radio station to publicize the weekend. This seems to have worked particularly well with several of our visitors reporting that this was the way in which they had heard about the open weekend.

Saturday morning was less than encouraging. It was overcast, windy and raining with the river swollen and running at about 2-3 knots. By opening time the rain had stopped and the wind dropped a little. By late morning visitors had begun to drift in and prompted by this a number of the members boats started appearing on the moorings and our visitors, most of whom had never set foot in a dinghy, got their first taste of sailing.

Sunday looked promising. The flags on the mast fluttered strongly, the sun shone and the river was perhaps ½ a knot slower than the day before. Just proves that looks can be deceiving.

By late morning the sun was long gone, the wind dropped and making over the water was beginning to get challenging. A number of visitors did opt to sail while some settled for a ride in our safety boat. At least it didn't rain.

Our last visitor turned up at 5:30pm just as we were packing up the boats! Many of the enquiries were subsequently converted into actual membership making it a pretty successful weekend.

My thanks to everybody who helped out, especially the guys in the boats (sail and safety) for taking the visitors afloat; Joan and George for handling the membership enquiries and paperwork; Diana, Joan and Janet for cooking the lunches and handling continuous requests for teas and coffees.

The one thing that did impress me however was the easy going, friendly atmosphere that pervaded in the club right over the weekend. That is just the sort of thing that visitors immediately sense and which can put them at their ease. You can't fake that, you have it or you don't.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Aquarius SC Regatta and Barbecue

I suppose to be honest I would have to say that the turn out for the club regatta, on both Saturday and Sunday, was disappointing. I think we had six or seven boats on the water each day. We recently had more than that on a Wednesday afternoon.

By contrast the numbers present at the barbecue was the largest ever. Some seventy five members and guests attended. Says a lot about where interests really lie at Aquarius.

I've lost count of the boats along the waterfront that aren't used from one year to another. Sad really because many of them are going to rack and ruin.

However ... The racing on Saturday got off, more or less, on schedule. The wind was south west ... ish and reasonably consistent. Three races were held and supported by three Lasers, a Graduate and a SigneT.

After everyone had come off the water Bob moved 'Waterman' down from her upstream moorings and the club house was cleaned up and converted for the evening barbecue.

Around 6:30pm food started arriving closely followed by entertainers Sarah-Jane and Clinton, collectively known as "Loki" who provided a mixture of Jazz, Soul and Blues music throughout the evening.

The barbecue got underway at about 8:45pm and judging by the very little left over must have been pretty well received.

On Sunday it started with a quite lively wind that died every time anyone went near the starting box. Four Lasers, a Graduate and two SigneT's fought it out for line honors. The day also included a Ladies/beginners race.

After the last race Joan Bray provided a Regatta Tea with sandwiches, cake and strawberries & cream that went down a treat. The overall Regatta Trophy was won by Richard Cannon and the Ladies cup was won by newcomer Regina Tam Well done to them.

Many thanks to everybody who helped to make the weekend so enjoyable. Especially Diana & Peter Carpenter for all the organization in front of and behind the bar. Mike Rogers, Ron & Andrea Mundon (and helpers) for the barbecue. Joan Bray for the Regatta tea and the race and safety teams on both days.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Sailing Secretary Report

Although we have been fortunate not to have any strong current this year the wind has generally been very light and there have been few good sailing days.

The Mid Thames Trophy event at Stains SC club was abandoned because there was no wind to make way against the moderate current.

The weather forecast for the late Spring holiday at Bewl Water was terrible but luckily it was wrong and there was excellent sailing.

There is sailing with racing and training on Wednesday afternoons and evenings from 4pm targeting our increasing number of retirees but all are welcome.

At the Hampton SC regatta there was very little very fluky wind and ironically there would have been good sailing at Aquarius.

Although the weather was poor for the club open days a good proportion of the visitors joined and are joining in events.

We hope for improved conditions for the rest of the season.

Richard Cannon

## Dinghy's go walkabout

Over the last quarter two of our dinghies have been taken from the club. Luckily both have been recovered; But ... it raises a point about security.

I would suggest that Lasers and similar craft, drawn up on the bank just past the reservoir overflow sluice, really need to be chained down. Aquarius has already sunk tyres into the ground between the club Lasers and these are now chained down through their center board slots. I would urge private owners to do likewise.

Would members using club Laser's please take care when launching them over the bank. One of our recently repaired Laser's has been re-damaged because the bow overhang caught the edge of the wall and peeled the decking, in that area, off the hull. That boat cannot now be used, until it is repaired, because it's taking on water into the hull cavity.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Hampton SC Regatta

**Mike Baker - Saturday**

This year's Hampton SC's regatta was held over the weekend of 12-13 June, which also coincided with the club's 60th Anniversary celebrations.

On Saturday four AQSC boats went down to Hampton. Maggie Fitcher and her crew Pamela took their Enterprise. Richard Cannon and Damien Tubridy took ST368, Bryan Clements took his Graduate and Liz Archer and I took ST369.

We sailed in the handicap fleet along with a Solo, a Heron, Toppers, a Kinsman cruiser, and Comet Versas. Other class races were Merlin's, Lasers, GP14s, Enterprises and Thames Raters.

Five races were to be held over the two days with three to count. The conditions were far from ideal on Saturday. Even Hampton regulars said that the wind was coming from their worst direction and to make matters worse it swung through 180 degrees at the drop of a hat.

The courses were straight forward, two marks, both to port. At the end of Saturday ST368 was standing 3rd with ST369 4th.

Ironically when we got back to Aquarius the breeze was perfect and coming from 'our' ideal direction.

I didn't sail on Sunday but I understand that ST368 went back, this time with Jane Gibson as crew, Bryan Clements went in the Graduate along with Charles Dennis and Pat Halling in their Lasers.

The weather was no better and Richard later reported that at one point he and a Hampton boat, both close hauled and both on starboard tack met from opposite directions' with neither quite sure who had rights over the other in the circumstances.

**Richard Cannon - Sunday**

Maggie's crew Pamela was suffering from a very hard bang on the head by the boom yesterday so they played safe and crewed for Peter Heath in his cruiser.

After a very frustrating first race Richard and Jane decided not to sail in the second race but Richard sailed the last race single handed; coming 2nd gave him 3rd place overall. Charles Dennis did well to come 3rd in the Laser class.

Two Thames Raters were a magnificent sight with their 40' masts ideal for picking up the slightest wind. The 'new' one was 20 years old in fibre glass but the 'old' one was 101 years old in wood with their crew dressed in period costume; both had carbon fibre masts and modern high tech sails.

It was fitting that for their 60th anniversary there was a total regatta entry, including 5 visiting clubs, of 60 boats.

## Bodgett & Son Go Back To Work

After a short Spring break Bodgett & Son resumed work at Aquarius on Wednesday 23 June.

The extension has now been fitted out with hanging facilities, shelving and a new cupboard to be used to store crockery, non perishable foodstuffs and kitchen equipment.

At the last committee meeting funding was also approved to complete the work in the gents changing room. This is to include replacing a section of flooring, dry lining the northeast corner walls and providing seating around two of the walls.

This will take the form of 15" metal lockers with seating above. The lockers are provided with keys and will be available later in the year to 'rent' on an annual basis. The intention being to provide

somewhere secure for member's private possessions while they are on the water. Two lockers will also be provided in the Ladies changing room. Hopefully this work shouldn't take too long.

In parallel work is also ongoing updating our external lighting both around the club, along the waterfront and in the car park areas. Internally Pete Carpenter has proposed the installation of a Cappuccino machine behind the bar. This idea was met with enthusiasm and will go ahead as soon as space is made available.

Apart from routine maintenance that will just about complete this year's planned improvements. Future work will almost certainly include rebuilding the Bosun's store and refurbishment of the club's shower area.

## Anti-Social Behaviour Concerns

Local concerns about Anti-Social behaviour in the Hampton, Sunbury and Molesey areas were aired at a meeting at Hampton SC on the evening of 28 June.

The gathering organised and chaired by Hampton SC, included Police Inspectors and Community Officers from both the Met and Surrey forces and representatives from local clubs, businesses, and resident associations.

The purpose was to brief the Police on the problems being encountered and decide on a course of action to combat them. Each representative was given the opportunity to outline their particular troubles; many were common, while others specific.

It became apparent that Hampton SC has far worse problems than our own with groups of youths regularly getting out to the club and using its roof as a diving board. It's now got so bad that the club has recommended to its members that no one should go to the club on their own or even in groups of two or three during the week.

Their roof has been damaged and several boats vandalized, although, to date, the club itself has not actually been broken into. Stone throwing and verbal abuse was another serious concern voiced.

Several businesses in the area, including the Hampton ferry, offices, boat yards and pubs reported vandalism and minor theft. I covered AQSC problems and made a useful contact at the Millennium boathouse which has its own problems, including a little known public right of way that goes clean through their property.

The Police then outlined their current strategy concerning youth disorder on both sides of the river. They stated that a number of gangs and individuals were known to them and that intelligence was being gathered in order to do something about them.

The use of ASBO's (Anti Social Behaviour Orders) was discussed along with a range of other actions that could be taken if suitable evidence could be assembled. This, the Police advised, was the single most important activity that the local community could contribute. They highlighted a recent case where four youths had been caught and charged at Hampton because a local resident had been able to photograph them in the act of vandalizing a waterfront property.

Contact points within the Police were another area of concern discussed together with late, or no, response. It was agreed that an information sheet would be prepared jointly between Hampton SC and the Met & Surrey Police detailing Police contacts telephone numbers, email address etc, that should be used to report anti social behaviour in the area, on either side of the river.

Both forces admitted that under manning and the lack of a marine capability was a problem, but they seemed genuinely anxious to engage with the riverside problems and urged everybody to start keeping 'incident logs', and where possible take video and still photography evidence.

Further meetings are planned in the future and I have offered Aquarius SC as an alternative venue to Hampton SC if needed.

**Mike (The Commodore) Baker**

## Social Calendar

### Dates For Your Diary

Sat 17	July	London Walk, Greenwich, booking essential. Molesey Rowing Regatta, NO sailing on the Club Reach
Sat 18	July	Molesey Rowing youth/disabled event, no sailing near Platt's Eyot
Sun 29	August	Signet Open meeting at Littleton SC
Mon 30	August	Away Day Bewl Water regatta in Kent, short course racing
Sat 11	September	Mid Thames Trophy at Staines SC
Sat 09	October	Quiz with Chinese takeaway
Sat 06	November	Fireworks at Kempton Park followed by social and food at Club
Sat 20	November	Annual Dinner
Sat 04	December	AGM, Prize Giving & End of Season Party

### 2005

Sat 12	February	Rodger's Surprise
Sat 19	March	Start of Season Party

### Mid Thames Trophy

Due to adverse weather conditions this meeting at Staines SC was abandoned and will be re-run on Saturday 11 September 2004 at Staines SC. This does however clash with our planned visit to the Hendon aircraft museum which in turn will now have to be re-scheduled.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

### Virus Strikes Again

I suppose the more you use a computer 'on line' the more likely you are to contract a virus. This time 'Over Easy' was hit by the W32 Blaster E.Worm, a particularly nasty bug that even Microsoft itself is having trouble with. Not that I don't have an up-to-date anti virus system, its just that every now and again a new strain of virus appears which defies all the odds. The effect of this worm makes fixing it very difficult to sort out, if for no other reason that as soon as you go on-line to download the necessary software it shuts your system down before the fix can be imported. Very frustrating! So at times like these I do what I always do and called Richard (The PC Doctor) Cannon. He downloaded the 'removal tool' to disk from Microsoft's website and brought it over to my place. We then loaded it in to do battle with W32 Blaster E.Worm. I don't know what electronic warfare looks like, as conducted within the guts of a PC, but it seemed to work. Anyway I haven't had a re-occurrence since, so I assume 'we' won. Don't you just love the bastards who've got nothing better to do than design computer viruses? The trouble is, if you believe what you read, these are the very people that the likes of Microsoft are likely to employ ... because their geniuses. That's not what I'd call them. On the positive side I've got my own genius in the shape of 'Tricky Dicky' and I'll back him to sort out whatever nasty comes down the telephone line.

Mike (Back on line and virus free (until the next time))  
Baker

### Greenwich Walk

Diana has asked me to remind you that this walk will be held on Saturday 17 July.

We meet the guide at Tower Hill Underground Station at 11am, main exit (street level) We move down to Tower pier and a boat trip to Greenwich. At Greenwich there will be a conducted walk around the town.

After which we can please ourselves maybe have lunch in a pub or a picnic lunch. Walk round the market, visit the Cutty Sark, go to the Observatory - whatever takes your fancy.

The cost of the tour is £5.50 per person and £3 for the boat trip. If you are interested PLEASE CONTACT Diana Carpenter (dianamcarpenter@tiscali.co.uk or 020 8393 8029) to let her know how many will be going in your party.

I've done this 'London Walk' and I can thoroughly recommend it, it's fascinating, as are most of these walks. The guides are real characters and their knowledge is second to none.

In addition to the historic aspects of Greenwich it also has a good market, many restaurants & bistros and a number of 'real' pubs (i.e. the way pubs used to be).

Mike  
(Blimey the Cutty Sark's gigs are bigger than Over Easy)  
Baker

### Water-Joke (Think about it!)

A man is walking his dog by the river. All of a sudden the bank gives way and they both fall in the drink. While there struggling a German jogger comes by. He sees their predicament, jumps in and drags the man out. The rescued man is grateful but tells the jogger that his dog can't swim. The jogger jumps back in the river and rescues the dog. Once on the riverbank the dog is lifeless and limp so the German gives the dog the kiss of life and revives him. The dog's owner is amazed and asks the jogger if he's a vet. "Vet" replies the jogger "I'm bloody soaked!"

Mike (I t's the way I tell 'em)  
Baker



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