



AQUARIUS S.C.

THE MAIN SHEET

Spring 2005 Edition

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Commodores Report

Happy New Year everyone and I trust you all had a great Christmas.

Thank you for re-electing me as Commodore of AQSC for another year, I promise to give it my best shot. By the end of 2005 I will have completed a second three year term as Commodore and I will be standing down. Three years is long enough and I feel that it is important that the club should elect a new Commodore with a fresh vision and new ideas.

Under George's guidance the AGM went very smoothly. Basically the existing Management Committee was re-elected en-block. From a purely selfish point of view I was pleased about that because I know the current team works very well together.

The prize giving followed the AGM, presided over by Richard. Details of who won what can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally thanks to all the ladies who prepared supper and the mulled wine, it was much appreciated.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a pantomime. Not in vogue with the younger generation I'll grant you, but that's just something missing from their education. AQSC ensures that the generation that knows how to have fun, without getting blind drunk, gets its annual 'fix'. Diana organised our first club social event of the year on the night of 13 January. This was a trip to see Dick Whittington at Richmond Theatre, reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

By the time this news letter goes out we will have had three committee meetings during which we have thrashed out our 2005 club programme.

The Valentines dinner at the club in early February was amazing. I've attempted to do it justice with a bit of a write-up but you really had to be there to fully appreciate the evening.

This year's programme is now ready to go to the printers and reflects a number of events which the management team hopes you will find interesting. We have arranged a visit to the Hog's Back Brewery in April together with a pub skittles evening later the same month. Bookings for those are now being taken by Diana or myself.

The end of April will also see Aquarius hosting the Mid Thames Trophy. Your support both on and off the water on the day would be greatly appreciated. The open weekend is scheduled in May. There is also a quiz night planned during May which will include a take-away delivery.

The Regatta, Jazz Night & Barbecue is in June followed by a themed evening in July. We are planning a visit to Bewl Water over the August Bank Holiday weekend. September will see a musical extravaganza at the club followed by a quiz night in October.

The year ends with a trip to the Kempton Park fireworks display and the annual dinner in November followed by the club AGM in December. That lot, Bewl apart, is off the water. There is of course a full spring, summer and autumn sailing series commencing in March and a Wednesday afternoon/evening series commencing in May. There should be something there for everybody and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the water this year.

Mike (The Commodore) Baker

Pre Mid Thames Trophy Working Party

I never thought the words 'working' & 'party' went together very well. However, failing a better description, AQSC's management committee has decided to throw one at the club on Saturday 23 April.

That's one week ahead of the MTT. It will be used to 'spruce the old place up a bit', inside and out. If you can spare a few hours from 10:30 onwards it would be greatly appreciated.

The 'working' part includes all the usual stuff (mowing, washing, polishing, hoovering, weeding and whatever else Nigel & Bryan can dream up).

The 'party' bit includes a beer and something to eat. Please bring your own balloons, jelly & ice-cream and I'll get George to wear his clown's costume!
Mike (Work party on dudes) Baker

Riverside Barn Concert

Pat Halling and his quartet, Pro Musica, will be playing at the Riverside Barn Walton on Sunday 20th March at 17:00. Guest artist Colin Bradbury, ex principal clarinet BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, who is a very fine player. A varied programme includes Dvorak's String Quartet in F Major (The American) and Mozart's Clarinet Quintet. It will be a very nice evening.

Tickets £10 (Concessions £8) from the Box office on 01932 253354 or Pat on 020 8979 5707. Another opportunity to hear Pat's violin magic.

2004 Prizes - Richard Cannon

The race series matched those of last year and the same trophies were awarded. Everyone who was 1st, 2nd, or 3rd for Boat Handicap or Personal Handicap result in a main series receives a glass. Some glasses have also been awarded for amount of sailing. Charles Dennis has provided a new Trophy, Tumbling Waters, for the most improved helm.

If helm capsizes or have any other incident or breakage would they please make sure it is recorded on the race sheet so it can be include in my result records

There were a number of contenders for the Water Rat Trophy; 6 helm had a total of 40 capsizes but Charles Dennis was way in the lead with 25 capsizes.

The Young Helm Trophy wasn't awarded this year because no one has done enough races to qualify.

Although Graham Thompson often seems unbeatable it was Charles Dennis who has had an extremely successful season winning the majority of the Trophies. He was first on Boat and Personal Handicap in most series in spite of having a Personal Handicap of -13.

In 1999 Bryan Clements had gone up to a Personal handicap of 50, today it has gone down to 4 and he receives the Tumbling Waters Trophy for the most improved helm.

A printed report of each race entry, series results, summaries and other items are in the Race Result folder that is normally kept in the Club. As the race entry reports are very compact and give virtually all the information (except intermediate lap times) on the original race entry sheets these will not be retained.

TROPHIES

SERIES	TROPHY	MEMBER, Number of races H = Helm, C = Crew
Autumn PH	Cruiser Cup	Charles Dennis, 62 H + 1 C = 63 races, rank 1
SPA PH	Saturday Trophy	Charles Dennis
Spring PH	Handicap Class	Graham Thompson, 59H + 0C = 59 races, rank 2, caps 1
Sprint PH	Enterprise Cup	Rodger Wheeler, 43 H + 6 C = 49 races, rank 5
Summer PH	Laser Cup	Charles Dennis
Boat Handicap Result	Broken Boom	Charles Dennis
Long distance race	Cundy Trophy	Nigel Knowles, 62 H+ 0 C = 62 races, rank 7, caps 7
Wednesday afternoon		Bryan Clements, 51 H + 7 C = 58 races
Most improved helm	Tumbling Waters	Bryan Clements
Event	Water Rat	Charles Dennis , 25 capsizes, 20 in one race
No Other Prize		
Most races	Summer Afternoon	Mike Baker, 39 H + 2 C = 41 races, capsize 1
Most Crewed	Glass	Laurie Bridges, 8 H + 13 C = 21 races

The Mid Thames Trophy

AQSC is hosting the Mid Thames Trophy this year on Saturday 30 April. We will be having visitors from four or five other clubs and much of the improvements that have been going on at Aquarius over the last few months have been in preparation for this meeting. As in past years clubs can enter up to ten boats and I'm sure Richard will be keen to get as many of our boats on the water as possible Hopefully we can retain the Mid Thames Trophy, that's down to the team on the water; but as hosts, AQSC will be responsible for providing tea, coffee & snacks throughout the day and lunch for our visitors. The catering is in hand but help is required on the day in the galley and at the counter. So, if you can spare some time on 30 April it would be much appreciated.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Hogs Back Brewery

Have you ever been around a brewery? Would you like to go around a small local brewery? Well here's your chance. We have arranged a tour of the Hogs Back brewery at Tongham in Surrey on the morning of 16 April.

The HBB have been making traditional English Ale for a number of years. You will see the brewing process and, if you wish, get to sample several of their beers and ales. Some of their seasonal ales are outstanding. There's also a very good shop where you can buy their products and a whole range of related items.

The tour costs £6.50 and lasts a couple of hours so you will still have plenty of the day left. Even if you are not into drinking beer I think you will find this visit really interesting. To book a place please contact Diana Carpenter on 020 8393 8029

Mike (I'll drink to that) Baker

2005 Membership/Mooring Fees and Programme

Those of you that were at the AGM will know that AQSC's membership and mooring fees are to remain at 2004 levels. The 2005 programme has now been put together and, on payment of annual fees in April, a copy will be sent to you.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

FOR SALE

420 dinghy needs some TLC £???

Duckling dinghy, a little beauty, a rare example of a vintage boat, never to be repeated, they don't make them like that today £???

A big selection of windsurfer sails and board apply for details.

Pat Halling 020 8979 5707

Working Party on 27 November 2004

Late November is not, I suppose, the best time to expect folks to come down to the club and spend a day generally clearing up ... but 23 hardy souls did just that, many bringing their own tools, and fairly ripped through the work programme.

We kicked off at 11.00am although a lot of people had, I suspect, arrived a lot earlier.

While Team 1 worked behind the clubhouse clearing guttering and removing Holly tree stumps Team 2 pitched into clearing weeds from the water front ramp.

Meanwhile Team 3 set about clearing up the trailer park.

Team 4 worked on clearing and cutting up tree cuttings from behind the new extension and along the bank while Team 5 painted the concrete pilings along the front of the club.

Team 6 meanwhile, mowed and strimmed every blade of grass they could get at.

Inside Team 7 kept the tea and coffee coming and at lunchtime whizzed out to get fish and chips all round. Someone even found time to get the generator working!

By 3:30pm most things were done and everybody pitched in to clear up the site. What a difference, the old club looks so good I think we will have to up the joining fee!!!

Thank you all so much! I can't tell you how it means to be able to call on that sort of support ... and for the record my happy band of maniacs were:-

Joan, Gordon & David Courtney, Stuart Schafer, Rodger Wheeler, John Tomkins, Pat Halling, Liz Archer, Ron Mundon, Richard Cannon, Dave Jennings, Laurie Bridges, Anne & Leo Bond, Pete Carpenter, Graham Thompson, George Bray, Yvette & David Marshall, Anjan Basu, Arthur Sykes, Mark Benning and me Over Easy.

My sincere apologies if I've missed anybody but sometimes my memory just straight lets me down.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Annual Dinner Saturday 20 November

The Annual Dinner (which was a first for us as new members) was attended by over 40 members and guests and was very enjoyable.

We had a thoroughly good evening with good food, good company and good fun. After the meal the more athletic amongst us boogied on down until the early hours.

The Committee put in a sterling effort to transform the Clubhouse although we are still not quite sure how many of the rude words Joan really did understand when hanging up the flags -- despite her assurances that neither she nor George realised what she was spelling out!

The tables looked terrific and Diana's flower arrangements were lovely.

Nigel, resplendent in full "Soup & Fish" observed all of the niceties and commenced the taking of wine with various groups. Roger joined in and then Keith (who toasted absent friends) and there was much "I'd like to take wine with" which always goes down well and brought to mind a lovely recording made by Michael Bentine many years ago that still cracks us up when we hear it.

To sum up - a splendid evening was had by all. Our thanks to the Committee who did so much to make the evening a very great success for us and, we are sure, for the rest of the company.

When can we book our tickets for next year?

Anne and Leo Bond.

Sailing Down Wind Bryan Clements

Graham Thompson and I were recently sailing a Bosun downwind in a force 3-4 backing wind when we capsized. This was caused by the fact that we had the centre board fully down when we suddenly gybed, broaching the dinghy around and capsizing us.

Righting the Bosun proved very difficult. The centre board had become uncleated and came up during the capsize. To make matters worse the jib sheets were also found to be tied together. This meant that they could not be thrown over the hull to assist in righting the boat. When we capsized the mast lay down wind and we had to turn the hull 90 degrees into wind which proved to be very difficult in the strong wind.

We learnt the hard way and spent a long time in the water.

So what did we learn ----

1. Keep the centre plate up on a run, only using it sparingly to stabilise the boat if it starts rolling (death roll).

2. If you are sailing a dinghy where the centreboard is intended to be cleated ensure it is secure.

3 Don't tie the jib sheets together (usually only done when single handed, no need when dingy is crewed).

Sailing Rules & Things

Those of you that race at Aquarius SC and other away venues you need to be aware that the 2005-2008 RYA Racing Rules have been 'refined' to make them less unambiguous. In effect this means that rules governing the following need to be read very carefully to appreciate their full consequences :-

- Boats meeting on opposite tacks
- Tacking
- Avoiding contact
- Acquiring right of way
- Changing course
- Proper course
- Room at a mark or obstruction
- Opposite tacks at a windward mark
- Room to tack at an obstruction
- Turns penalties
- Propulsion
- Contesting and requesting redress
- Sportsmanship and misconduct
- Helping those in danger

You should also be aware of what constitutes 'external assistance' as applied to capsize.

Richard has bought copies of the latest rules book on behalf of the club and, if you do not have your own, you should contact him and arrange to borrow one pre season. An understanding of these refinements will be especially needed at the Mid Thames Trophy and at away venues such as Bewl Water.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Le Pré Valentin Saturday 12 February 2005

The invite read "The Gentlemen of Aquarius request the pleasure of the ladies company at Le Pré Valentin"... dress code in keeping with the Paris nightspots of 1900 (flirtatious or Parisienne).

Now if you thought that might put our ladies off you would have been very wrong. The vast majority took the opportunity to really get into character. I've never seen so many feathers, bustles, boobs, bling, fishnets, fans, feather boas and evening gloves. The colours were amazing and they flirted to the manner born!

Not to be outdone the men sported DJ's, slicked down hair, moustaches, flowery waistcoats and cravats. We had artists, onion sellers, white faced mimes and even a Toulouse Lautrec. The clubhouse was decorated in red, green and gold with coloured spots replacing the usual white lights.

The tables were laid up with flowers and candles and the whole ambience was very Parisienne.

The evening started with cocktails at 7:00pm. There was great interest as each couple arrived to reveal their costumes which just kept getting better and better. At around 7:30pm everybody sat down and the first of seven courses was served by the waiters. The overall menu was as follows:-

Le PréValentin

MENU

Hors d'Oeuvres variés

Patés, crudités, sauces divers, olives

Poitrine de poulet au vin de Mâcon

Choux de Bruxelles, Carottes, Poireaux
Gratin Dauphinois au Muscadet

Sorbet Citron

Plateau des Fromages

Gâteau aux Étinzelles (forêt noir)

La Frivolité des Bulles

Cabaret Le Bordel

Café à la mode Charpentier

Petits Coeurs, Chocolats

As dessert was finishing Cabaret Le Bordel (i.e. Pat Halling and Mike Lee) presented a selection of suitably French music; at one point they were joined by Pat's wife Anne who read a poem, in French, to a musical accompaniment.

During a short break Champagne was served and toasts proposed to the ladies. Madeline Hatton then replied, on behalf of the ladies, thanking the club for the evening and everybody involved in its preparation.

Coffee and mints were then served and Pat & Mike played for a while longer, including several encores.

Pete's coffee machine in the bar really comes into its own on occasions like this and is a very welcome addition to the clubs catering facilities.

Dancing started well after midnight and the whole evening finished in a whorl of colour, feathers and laughter.

More than most an event such as the Le Pré Valentin requires a great deal of planning and co-operation and Saturday's event was a classic example of what can be achieved when members pull together.

This was the third Valentines dinner that Aquarius has organised. The first was at a Chinese restaurant in Molesey but the last two have been self catered at the club. Rodger Wheeler has been responsible for arranging all of them and has done a fantastic job.

During the run up to and during this year's dinner Rodger was assisted by quite a number of the members. This help included purchasing, preparing the club room and bar, laying-up the dining tables on Thursday and Friday.

Help included Ron Munden, Pete Carpenter, Nigel Knowles, Richard Cannon and Bryan Clements.

On Saturday Stuart Schafer, Leo Bond, Nigel Knowles, George Bray and Richard Cannon assisted with a whole range of jobs including preparation and cooking of food.

On Saturday night Ron Munden, Nigel Knowles, John Neale, Charles Dennis, Bob Sumner, Graham Thompson and Mike Rogers all waited tables while Pete Carpenter and George Bray looked after the pre dinner drinks and bar.

Last but not least was all the clearing up on Saturday night and Sunday. Lots of people turned up to help including Linda Rowley, Eric Bridgewater, Linda Wheeler and Keith Hatton.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for contributing to the success of the evening which I believe was greatly appreciated by all the ladies whom were present.

Hopefully Richard will be able to include a few photographs of the evening in this newsletter. But for the full effect I'll get him to publish some colour pictures on the club website.

Rodger has suggested that perhaps someone else might like to organize the ladies night next year. To make it a little easier it's worth noting that we now have all the tables, chairs, linen, cutlery and crockery needed, therefore organization mainly centres around (a) Menu (b) shopping (c) entertainment (if required) and (d) organization of resources, to bring it all together on the night.

So gentlemen, if you have any good ideas and fancy taking it on, do please get in touch. A suggestion ... perhaps two or three of you might like to take it on as a joint venture! It would be a great shame if it fell by the wayside due to a lack of interest.

Rodger has asked for the following to be included:-

Le Pré Valentin

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, many exotic nightspots sprung up on what were the outskirts of Paris with names alluding to the country, several including the name "Le Pré" (the meadow).

The most famous was Le Pré Catelan in the Bois de Boulogne which still exists today.

Whereas Victorian values in England demanded a strict moral code, Paris nightspots were reputed to be sophisticated but many were also very liberal, flirtatious and sometimes outrageous.

You will excuse the intentional "double entendre" in the name.

With thanks to all of those who helped before, during and after the event, our cabaret "Le Bordel", and all who joined in the spirit of the evening with fabulous costumes and make up.

Rodger Le Roue

Mike (Over Easy) Baker



Le Pre Valentin Joan Bray

On a chilly and windy evening, I made my way to the clubhouse to be met at the door by Marcel Marceau (aka Ron Munden) with his white clown face and enormous grin.

Inside I was greeted by a colourful scene of handsome messieurs sporting curly moustaches and slicked down hair, onion sellers wearing berets, striped jumpers and baggy trousers. There was an artist complete with beret, neckerchief and paint brushes, waiters with large aprons around their waists and other various bourgeoisie with bushy beards, top hats, bowlers and a master of ceremonies (aka Rodger Wheeler) wearing a magnificent opera cloak.

The room was colourfully decorated and the tables beautifully laid with gleaming cutlery, glasses, china and flowers. The gentlemen had spared no effort to create a welcoming ambience for the ladies who were equally arrayed in imaginative dress, laced bustiers, gowns, both demure and frilly blouses, feather boas and chokers all topped with amazing millinery confections.

After Rodger had welcomed us and given each lady a spray of carnations, we sat down to a well prepared meal of crudites, dips and pate; coq au vin, sorbet, cheeses, gateau, coffee and mints served by a can can dancing garcon (aka John Neal) and his aides.

Following toasts in sparkling wine by Mike Baker and Madeline Hatton, we were treated to an entertainment of music and recitation by Pat and Anne Halling and Mike Leigh. I think everyone who was there will agree it was magical.

We ladies appreciate how much work and planning was needed to create such an enjoyable and successful evening. Merci beaucoup messieurs pour le soir parfait.



Hawker SC Before Aquarius SC Richard Cannon

In 1991-2 it was known that the BAe site at Ham would be closing at the end of 1992 and the Hawker Sailing Club would lose the use of its clubhouse and slipway. Many employees would be made redundant and others would be relocated to work at Farnborough and Dunsfold.

The committee sent a questionnaire to many clubs asking for information.

Richard Cannon was Sailing Secretary at the time and recently while sorting out some old diskettes he came across the notes he made for the Hawker Sailing Club committee after the Aquarius SC Commodore rung him. These are the notes exactly as written. Aquarius proved to be a very good choice for Hawkers to join.

AQUARIUS

Richard Cannon was rung by Malcolm Edwards, Commodore and Laser Captain, on 14Jan92. He got my works phone number from Mike Rodgers an aircraft welder (Not BAe). Commodore phone 081 979 0136, club phone 081 979 4720.

Malcolm used to live at Farnborough, Hawley Hard S.C. is very near there, but thinks it's an army club.

He was trying to sell Aquarius to us. It is situated off Lower Sunbury Rd soon after the Hampton water works. I have always thought it looked a sheltered area but he said the sailing is good because a prevailing SW wind blows straight down the reach.

Handicap Racing is on Sundays, generally 2 races with a 3rd that doesn't count for the series (not in winter, but winter sailing is available with Hampton S C. Wednesday is a club evening (Biweekly in winter). There is a training programme mainly for the kids. We could do our own things other days or evenings if we wished.

A handicap is applied to boats being sailed without a crew. It's OK to bring a guest as a crew.

They don't prohibit any types of craft. There isn't a cruising section as such but several members have cruisers.

They have good facilities. Bar (£1 Pint), electric shower(s), 2 slipways and Lasers are launched of the bank. Boat house for maintenance. Think 5 club boats (2 Mirrors, Laser, Topper and Skipper). Main fleets are Enterprise and Laser.

High security gate with electronic lock, each member has a 'key' so club can be accessed at any time. Annual subs £45 with joining fee of £40, includes boat park and racing. Membership is about 100 to 125. The season is from the end of March though to November.

There are various social activities such as Easter party, weekends away, Jazz evenings, bonfire night and theatre.

Club duties are usually only required about once a year as there enough volunteers.

We are welcome to visit them on Wednesday club nights or at the weekend.

Richard Cannon



Changes to the Licensing Act

As you may be aware the Licensing Act 2003 is due to be implemented this year. With this in mind I thought I'd try and bring you up to speed on what this means as far as AQSC is concerned.

The key date was February 7, 2005. For a period of six months after this date clubs can apply to their Licensing Authority (Local Council) to convert their existing club registration into the new Club Premises Certificate.

The government has yet to officially specify the date on which the new Licensing Act will come into force, but it will not be prior to November 2005. Until then clubs will continue to operate under their existing registration.

The RYA is very concerned about the impact of all this on non profit making sailing clubs and is already actively campaigning for changes regarding this sectors classification as compared with large commercial organizations.

A key feature of the new act is the transfer of licensing authority from The Magistrates Court to the Local Council. Our new licensing authority therefore becomes the London Borough of Richmond on Thames. They have published a policy document which defines the general principles that they will take into account for determining each license application.

One of the key objectives of the policy, and this is reflected in the license application, is for the applicant to demonstrate how it intends to meet the stated Licensing Objectives for each of the Licensable Activities for which it is applying. These include the prevention of crime & disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection from harm of children.

Activities for which a license is required include retail sale of alcohol, supply of alcohol to club members, provision of 'regulated entertainment' to members and supply of hot food and/or drinks from any premises between defined hours.

Aquarius has therefore a number of issues to resolve. Our rules and bi-laws will need to be revised to reflect specifically who may be supplied with alcohol at the club. This will need to include guests, given that under the new legislation visitors can longer be a guest of 'the club' but must be signed in as a member's guest.

The club also needs to define its 'licensable premise' because there are new rules governing alcohol consumption off-site (i.e. in our case along the waterfront). We will also need to review our current opening hours given that some premises now have 24hour licensing.

Charges to be imposed under the new legislation are high, compared with current fees, and are to be based on premises rateable value. This, we are told, is because the new scheme needs to be self financing (i.e. they must incorporate Local Authority administration charges).

For commercial operations such as

pubs, restaurants and nightclubs this can be covered by increased charging but for small, non profit, private members clubs such as Aquarius it could mean the difference between having, and not having bar facilities.

A non-domestic rateable value method of setting fees is by no means the most appropriate indicator; in effect it's the best of a bad bunch. It can be argued that the incidence of public disorder involved in private not-for-profit sports clubs is extremely low, and the sector should not be penalized due to this Government initiative.

Since February 7, 2005 a number of anomalies have started arising which highlight many of the problems with the new legislation. Not least of which being the method of charging for the new licenses.

Accordingly the AQSC management committee has decided to sit tight for the time being to see how things develop. We don't have to do anything until sometime prior to November and by then things may be a lot clearer.

This whole issue is high on the agenda at this years Commodores conference at the RYA dinghy Show in March where I expect some pretty lively discussion on the subject.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Start of Season Party Saturday 27 March 7:30pm for 8pm

Come and join all your friends in the clubhouse and help get the 2005 season off to a flying start with good food and a pint or two.

We have a guest speaking on a surprising subject you should find interesting.

This is not to be missed ! So switch off the TV, come down to the club and re-discover good old fashioned conversation.

Mike (The Commodore) Baker

Hand On Rules Evening Under the Baton of Pat Halling 8 pm Wednesday 27 April 2005

Every four years, following the Olympics, ISAF (International Sailing Federation) revise the 'Racing Rules of Sailing' that apply for the following four years. The current issue is 2005-2008.

AQSC has copies of the RYA Racing Rules of Sailing and the RYA Handy Guide to the Racing Rules for members to use; please **DO NOT** take away from the club.

Pat will be covering the basic rules, outlining the changes from the previous issue of the rules. It is intended to be an interactive session of interest to absolute beginners and experience racers.

It takes place just before the Mid Thames Trophy event, being held at AQSC, and a good knowledge of the latest rules will be very beneficial.

Pantomime - Relevant or an Outmoded Blast from the Past ?

Okay! So Pantomime is aimed at children and that's when many of us got hooked. Pantomime is a direct link to our childhoods and perhaps to the happy memories of those times.

A visit to a pantomime may be a child's first experience of live theatre. If that experience is magical enough, it can leave a lasting impression and become a catalyst. The audience of the future, not just pantomime, but live theatre.

Have you ever wondered how panto came about, its history if you like. Pantomime, as we recognize it, has its origins in Italy and began life as stories, possibly historical, told through mime.

Today's plays draw their inspiration from a variety of sources and have gradually got more sophisticated in terms of costume, lighting and the use of 'celebrity' performers whom, it is believed, will ensure greater audience numbers.

People talk about 'traditional' pantomime but to remain popular this form of theatre has had to keep its eye firmly on modern trends and by weaving these into its format remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment in this country.

To be 'traditional' a panto must begin with a strong story line with all the important elements of good battling against evil and emerging triumphant.

'Tradition' says that the pantomime villain should be the first to enter from the dark side, stage left, followed by his adversary, the good fairy, from stage right. This echoes medieval times when entrances to heaven and hell were placed on these sides.

Song and dance is very important to panto and dates back to its use by entertainers who traveled through Italy to France. These actors improvised their way through a plot involving characters such as Harlequin and Columbine. Other characters were Columbine's over protective father Pantaloon and his servant Pulchinello, the clown.

Pulchinello has long since vanished from panto but lives on as 'Mr. Punch the anti-heroic puppet together with his wife Judy.

The most famous clown was Joseph Grimaldi who made his first appearance in 1800. The public clamored to see his performances at Salders Wells and Drury Lane and he became panto's first real

star. Grimaldi also pioneered the art of cross dressing (i.e. the pantomime dame).

Often the Dame's costumes were used to comic effect by parodying the fashions of the day, in much the same way as the modern Dame does nowadays. The other element of 'traditional' pantomime is the role of the principal boy role, played by a girl.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the vogue for ladies to take on the heroic roles was beginning, and with the rise of Music Hall it became the rule. Quite simply, the Victorian male, living in a society where even the legs of the parlor piano were covered for modesty's sake, craved the vision of a well turned ankle, or shapely calf.

While women were corseted, crinolined or bustled on the street, artistic license allowed ladies upon the stage to wear costumes that revealed shapely legs in tights on condition that they played a male role.

Personally I think pantomimes still have great potential. Their time-honored stories and simple presentation is a refreshing counterpoint to the digital special effects world that we now live in.

They also invite us to participate in the performance (Oh no they don't! Oh yes they do!); and if you can still enter into the spirit of the show, there's nothing like it. That spirit links all generations and the proof is to watch the reaction of a pantomime audience. There's no cynicism just a collective childlike will to be temporarily transported to a 'feel good place'.

A group from Aquarius went to Richmond Theatre on the evening of 13 January to see Dick Whittington with John Inman. It had all the classic panto elements. Good vs. evil, pathos, comedy, loud music, chorus girls, a dame and some brilliantly designed and painted scenery.

The story had a few new twists including a galleon and a shipwreck in Morocco. Not sure what that had to do with Dick Whittington? But the underwater scene was great! ... and of course an audience, more than ready to once again return to childhood for a couple of hours and just have good old fashioned fun!

Mike (He's behind you!) Baker

Skittles Night

We have something new for the social programme this year. Lyn's Badminton Club has challenged Aquarius SC to a pub skittles night. Embercourt BC have a skittles night every year but this time decided they needed some competition. So ... we need a team of 12 - 20 people.

The game is to be held on 23 April at the Grantley Arms in Womersley. That's just the other side of Guildford near Bramley. The evening will run approximately from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. The cost is £12.00 per head which includes entry and dinner, which is served during the evening.

The Grantley is a great pub with good car parking. The food, to be advised ahead of time, includes:-

Char grilled chicken breast,
Cheese burger, plain burger,
Chicken burger,
Salsa & bean burger
(all with chips and salad).

Chicken or mushroom & vegetable
Korma with rice & poppadums.

Scampi chips & salad.

Vegetarian sausage & mash with giant yorkshire pudding and onion gravy.

Steak & kidney pie with chips & peas

Sausage & mash in a giant Yorkshire pudding with onion gravy.

Desserts are £3.00 extra if ordered ahead and includes:-

Hot chocolate fudge cake,
Hot home made apple pie,
Mixed ice-cream sundae

(all served with ice-cream, cream or custard). Should ensure no one goes hungry!

If you have never played pub skittles don't worry. It's nothing like ten-pin bowling and nobody takes it too seriously! Lyn's badminton crowd is really friendly and even has a couple of sailors in their number (so they can't be all bad).

To book a place on the AQSC team call Over Easy on 020 8393 5495 or 07713616887 (Mobile) or email mike@bakerm.me.uk. If you need a ride or are not sure how to get to Womersley fear not, I'm sure we can arrange something. I've played with Lyn's club several times and it's always been a great evening and a lot of fun.

Mike (steak & kidney for me) Baker

Sailing and Social Programme March 2005 - May 2006

Generally at 11:30 on Sundays there will be a Fun Race, Match Race or Training Session depending on conditions.

The Cundy Trophy long distance race will take place, on a day when the weather is suitable, concurrent with the scheduled Sunday afternoon race. Tea and cakes will be served at 3pm on Sunday race days.

On Saturday afternoons, from May to September, Racing and Cruising will take place according to demand.

The Wednesday afternoon Series will start on 18 May and end on 14 September. Start time will be 4pm. The bar opens at 8pm

Date	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	Duty Officers, Evening & Notes
March				
Sat 19				Start Of Season Party 7:30 for 8:00, we have a Guest speaking on a surprising subject you should find interesting. R Cannon, P Irvin, L Bridges
27	Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races, best 3 count			
April				
03	Fun Race	Spring Race 1	Spa Race 1	P Carpenter, L Bond, J Botterill
10	Fun Race	Spring Race 2	Spa Race 2	R Wheeler, L Wheeler, A Adcock
Sat 16	Visit to Hogsback Brewery			
17	Fun Race	Spring Race 3	Spa Race 3	A Allen, B Allen, R Clough, Skittles evening against Lyn Baker's Badmington Club at Grantley Arms, Womersley
Sat 23				N Knowles, D Martin, B Clements
24	Fun Race	Spring Race 4	Sprint Race 1 & 2	Hands On Rules Evening under the baton of Pat Halling. NOTE Starts at 8 pm
Wed 27				M Baker, J Neale, E Bridgewater, G Bray
Sat 30	Mid-Thames Trophy at Aquarius SC			
May				
01	Fun and training races for new members			R Cannon, A Bond, C Dennis
08	Fun Race	Spring Race 5	Spa Race 4	R Munden, D Tubridy, G Thompson
Sat 14	Club Open WEEKEND			D Jennings
15	Open day, Training and Funday Racing			R Cannon
Sat 21				Chinese Take Away and Quiz Evening.
22	Fun Race	Spring Race 6	Spa Race 5	G Bray, J Bray, A Adcock
Sat 29- Mon 30	AWAY WEEKEND			

Club Open Weekend

This year's open weekend will be over the weekend of 14th & 15th May. It's never too early to start talking about this because it's a major annual recruitment event. We really need to introduce some youngsters to Aquarius and any ideas to this end would be gratefully received. I've already been in touch with station manager at Radio Jackie who has agreed to broadcast some publicity for us in the run up to the weekend. I will also have posters and fliers available in good time, plus newspaper adverts.

What I need you guys to do is distribute this PR material in good time and talk to friends and family about the weekend. Encourage them to come down and bring their friends. Posters and hand outs should be put in your local shops, schools, libraries and anywhere else that you can think of. Scout, Sea Scout and Guide groups in your areas should specifically be targeted. Let's see if we can get a record number of people down to the club (and afloat) this year.

Mike (Publicity Mgr.) Baker

The Sailing Program Richard Cannon

The Fun race will continue to be the first race in the morning. The Fun race schedule will be flexible and there may be more than one race.

We have a growing number of retired or semi-retired members and from 18 May there will be sailing for the Wednesday series on Wednesday afternoons at 4pm.

On Saturday 30th April, the Bank Holiday weekend, Aquarius will be hosting the Mid-Thames Trophy inter club event for the first time; we will need good support from our sailors to help us retain the trophy we won last year and to help with the large number of visitors we expect. On Sunday 2nd May there will be fun and training races for newcomers.

The Aquarius Open Days are 8th and 9th May; members are asked to bring a friend along with them.

On the Late Spring Holiday, Monday 31 May, there is the Bewl Regatta with an Allcomers race although we may visit an alternative venue; does anyone have suggestions? On the Late Summer Holiday Monday 28 August we plan to visit Bewl Water for their Autumn Regatta; this year there is likely to be pursuit racing rather than short course racing.