



AQUARIUS S.C.

THE MAIN SHEET

Summer 2005 Edition

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Commodore's Report

Cor! Time for the June edition already. What can I say that's not already in the newsletter? Not a lot is the thought that springs to mind. The same old faces race on Sunday's and the Wednesday afternoon/evening racing has yet to get off the ground (or in our case 'on the water').

The Open Weekend was encouraging and over the subsequent weekends we have been working hard to accommodate the returning families and encourage them to join the club.

The first draft of the new club sail training booklet is finished and out with some of our experienced helms for comment. Once the text is edited and graphics have been added I hope to get it published so it can be used to help teach our newcomers to sail.

During June we've got our Regatta, Jazz Night & Barbecue on the 11th with the Regatta continuing on the 12th and Hampton Regatta on the 18th & 19th, I hope you will all be planning to support these events. In the mean time ... see you on the water.

Mike (The Commodore) Baker

Entrance gate Security

Some members leave the pad lock only locked to one end of the chain; this is very risky because if the Water Board decide to lock the gates they will bypass our lock and you won't be able to get out, it has happened.

The padlock **MUST ALWAYS** be locked to both ends of the chain. Also **NEVER** leave the Padlock unlocked; it can be stolen and this has also happened.

Richard Cannon

News of Members - Joan Bray

HELLO

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members and wish them many happy years with Aquarius.

Keith Bullard

David, Jane, Lucy & Bethan Godwin

Ian, Vicky, Cameron, Matthew & Oliver Harvey-Piper

AND FAREWELL TO

Bob Gloyn who is now living in foreign parts

Maggie & Dave Fitcher

David Marshall

All of whom have other commitments.

Peter Sutton now studying hard for his Masters Degree in Helsinki

We are sorry to see them go but wish them every success.

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB (OUT AND ABOUT)

are at

AQUARIUS SAILING CLUB

SATURDAY 23rd JULY at 8.00p.m
(note change of date)

“TO ENTERTAIN YOU”

**A Period Entertainment of Songs and Ditties
from the 20s to the 60s**

Audience Participation Essential

To be followed by a little nourishment

**And all for the sum of 3 GUINEAS
(£3.15)**

Ongoing Club Refurbishment

The latest phase of the club refurbishment commenced on Tuesday 8 March. Dave Jennings commenced panelling out the foyer area. Nigel replaced the shower tray and then Stuart Schafer took over with retiling the shower cubicle.

While this was going on Mike stripped out the ladies changing room and toilet. Nigel and Mike then took out the toilet and wash hand basin and ripped up the toilet floor and removed the rotten joists (they stank). The under floor area was then cleaned out, a Damp Proof Course (DPC) was laid, replacement joists and finally a new flooring was put down.

Over the next few days the shower area was finished and the ladies toilet area battened out and panelled with plywood. The toilet was reinstalled and halogen down lighters let into the ceilings.

Unfortunately on Friday 18 March we had to stop and clear up the club in readiness for the start of season party. We then had another week before the Easter egg trophy on Easter Sunday.

Bodgitt & Son used that week to continue fitting out the changing room and toilet area. Electric cabling was installed for the lights, hand dryer and extractor fan. The toilet area was then papered and the wash hand basin installed. The shower woodwork was painted and the shower curtain installed.

Attention then turned to the foyer where Dave Jennings had been plugging on alone for over two weeks. Halogen down lighters were used again to provide a bright welcoming entrance to the club and an electrical access panel constructed to the left of the security panel. The whole area was then painted, varnished and the ceiling papered. It was decided that in future the changing rooms would also be used as cloak-rooms and the foyer area kept as clear as possible.

While all that was going on Bodgitt.com (i.e. Nigel) bid on E-bay for some rather fetching carpet tiles to floor the clubroom and foyer and collected them from Watford over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Meanwhile the other half of Bodgitt & Son traveled down to Keith and Madeline's and returned with a flush panel door for the Ladies changing room. That was duly fitted and the lockers and bench seating installed. The first large mirror got broken but another was acquired and fitted.

The final job involved taking up the old floor covering; lining the flooring with hardboard and then laying the new carpet tiles from the foyer, through the club room and down the gallery.

The best of the old contract cord was then used in the changing rooms. Unfortunately during this process it was discovered that the floor in the area that the bar billiards table usually stands on was rotten. So it was all ripped out and a new floor installed. The back wall was battened out, a new DPC installed before re-wallings. The final fitting out and painting was finished on 26 April closely followed by the last of the galley re-wiring on 27 April.

That really completes Phase II, Phase I being the building of the new club extension. Everything that was originally planned, two years ago, to prepare the club for hosting the MTT has now been completed ... with two days to spare! Bodgitt & Son will now be taking a well deserved summer break!

However, Phase III, should the club wish to continue with the improvement programme, could go one of two ways? The first would be to take down the Bosun's store, rebuild its foundations and then replace the store after suitable renovation. The second would be to completely remodel the galley area to include a double sink, complying with health and safety regulations, and a new electric oven. That would also include the replacement of the floor, wall linings and ceiling. All of which are well past their sell by dates.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Mid Thames Trophy 30 April 2005

This year it was AQSC's turn to host the MTT. This event has been running for many years and after several attempts Aquarius finally won it last year at Staines SC, so it was fitting that we defended it on home water.

The MTT is traditionally contested between Desborough, Laleham, Littleton, Staines, Hampton and Aquarius sailing clubs. Unfortunately this year Littleton and Laleham did not send teams and Staines could only manage two dinghies.

Now, as you will know, all the improvements that we have been doing at Aquarius have been aimed at this event. But it wasn't just the improvements that made the difference on the day. It was our people!

Stuart Schafer in the car park; Diana Carpenter, Linda Wheeler, Linda Rowley, Joan Bray, Pat Irving, Anne Bond and Janet Edwards in the galley; Richard Cannon, Liz Archer and John Neale in the box; George Bray and Eric Bridgewater in the patrol boat; and not forgetting Pete Carpenter in the bar. Even our team on the water and our spectators.

Everybody played their part to make the day a real success. I was really proud of you all and the club. We really showed our visitors how it should be done. The appearance of fully laid up dining tables while the first race was going on really stopped everybody in their tracks! Nice one guy's.

So what of the racing itself? Well firstly the conditions weren't ideal. Although there was no stream running the wind was southerly and very light. Hampton's Merlin Rocket and Enterprises reveled in the conditions and swept all before them.

Richard had the results out very quickly and posted on the web site the very next day. Hampton SC won the Mid Thames Trophy, or rather they are just looking after it for us until we win it back next year! Nobody seemed too sure who would be hosting the next MTT but you can be sure Aquarius will be there. That trophy looked really good in our bar.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Overall Results

Aquarius, Desborough,
Hampton, Staines

- 1 **H** Phil Chambers
- 2 **H** Rob Heath
- 3 **A** Charles Dennis
- 4 **A** Graham Thompson
- 5 **H** Trevor Philips
- 6 **A** Pat Halling
- 7 **H** G Bell
- 7 **S** Gary Tompkins
- 9 **H** D May
- 9 **A** Mike Baker
- 11 **A** Nigel Knowles
- 12 **A** Keith Hatton
- 12 **S** D Miles
- 14 **A** Bryan Clements
- 15 **H** N Cooper
- 16 **S** T Tull
- 17 **D** Richard Cowlard
- 17 **A** Rodger Wheeler
- 19 **D** Mike Craker



Nigel Knowles working on the Club day before the Start of Season Party



The Mid-Thames Trophy Fleet



Phil and Jane Chambers of Hampton SC
The Winners of the Mid Thames Trophy



The Dinghy Show

The show itself appeared to be well attended. It opened at 10:00 each day and ended at 18:00 on Saturday and 17:00 on Sunday. The entrance hall was graced by a 'drop dead gorgeous' Thames Rater. I dread to think what her restoration, let alone her sails cost. All the usual clubs and classes were represented and included some new developments of existing dinghies. The chandlers and clothing firms were as crowded as ever with everybody looking for a bargain. The stage area in the West Hall was very busy. There were lectures on tactics. Virtual dinghy racing on the giant screen was great fun to watch with representatives from all the big clubs competing against each other. There were also a number of fashion shows covering both sailing and après sailing gear. The best show was last up on Sunday afternoon. The British Olympic Sailing Manager gave a view of the Athens Olympics, supported by quite a number of the team. In addition to video they had dozens of photographs taken by the competitors themselves, it was really interesting and overran its time slot ... not that anyone minded.

The Signet stand got its fair share of visitors. There seems to be a revival of interest in self build dinghies this year. The SCOA currently has three new Signets' in build and one major restoration going on. I recon I could have sold three second hand dinghies if they'd been available and I even had an offer for the show dinghy from two blokes on the Moth stand. I don't think her owner, Lizzie Overs, would have been very amused if I'd taken them up on it. Over the weekend I managed to pick up a Musto buoyancy aid and a new cover for Over Easy, always a deal to be had if you look far enough! At closing time on Sunday we were the first boat out of Ally Pally with the whole stand display piled on top of her. Less than an hour later, having dispatched ST690 back to her base at Little Paxton, yours truly was back off round the North Circular for the sixth time in three days. I wish someone would drop a bomb on Henley's Corner so they could finally rebuild a more sensible road layout.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Pat's Rules Evening

Some times the more casual, laid back, approach pays off. Some time ago Pat Halling offered to run a rules evening at the club on 27 April, ahead of the MTT. This was to ensure that everyone was up-to-speed on the new 2005 sailing rules. Pat rowed across the river in the afternoon bringing with him his 'training aids'. These turned out to be four home made model dinghy's which sailed on a Christmas tablecloth lake set up on one of our dining tables. Buoys and obstacles were added and bingo! He was ready. That evening some dozen and a half people showed up, including most of Aquarius's MTT team. Bodgitt & Son sat in the corner munching on an Indian take-away. Pat started through the new rules book illustrating some of his points with his model boats. This actually turned out to be a very informative evening with more than a few lively debates over the issues Pat was raising. Some involved getting your head around and understanding the changes, others had more to do with right or wrong issues, regardless of the rules. It was a very good, casual, evening conducted over a few drinks in a friendly atmosphere. I think evenings of this type are a very good idea. Getting things like rules issues sorted out on a table top, before going afloat, can't be anything but good. Thanks Pat, a good evening!

Mike (Nobody ever calls for water in the bar) Baker

New licensing law update

In early March the application forms for the new 'Club Certificate' tumbled through the door, all twenty pages of it, plus all the explanatory paperwork! My first thoughts were simply to ignore the whole sorry 'nanny state' release; but then I read an article in Club Mirror on the licensing act. The one thing that came out of that was "ignore this at your peril". So, Nigel's working on the plans of the club and I'm plowing through the paperwork and required revisions to the club rules & bye-laws. It all basically has to be in to Richmond Borough Council by 6 August or we cease to have a bar license.

Mike (I'd rather be sailing) Baker

Patrol Boat Service

The Aquarius safety boat had her annual service on 9 March down at Tim Barfield's. Impellers, filters and oil were all changed and a new water filter inlet pipe was fitted. The old one had a habit of kinking and restricting the amount of cooling water being pumped into the engine. Hopefully she should now be as reliable as she proved to be last year.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Start of Wednesday Evening Series

Last year we tried a Wednesday series. It proved to be unpopular and we abandoned it. However, when we came to prepare this year's programme several people thought we should run it again but at a later time.

The idea was to sail late afternoon enabling those people who couldn't get down earlier to compete. The club is always open on a Wednesday evenings anyway and it is hoped that this would encourage people to stay on, have a drink, perhaps a take away or a barbecue and enjoy an evening by the river.

It was also hoped that Wednesday sailing would provide training opportunities for new or inexperienced members, both on and off the water.

Participation in racing has been disappointing but there has been plenty of sailing, including some training. Maybe things will improve.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

"To wear, or not to wear, that is the question"

Actually the answer to this is pretty straightforward. If you are competing in a club event (i.e. racing) or if you are supporting a club event (i.e. manning the patrol boat) you **MUST** wear a buoyancy aid when afloat... them's the rules.

What you do in your own time is your business ... but wearing a buoyancy aid at any time, while on the water, makes sense and sets a good example to our younger sailors. Accidents don't just happen when you racing.

Mike (The Commodore) Baker

Easter Egg Trophy

This year's Easter Egg Trophy was the first race of the season and actually sailed on Easter Sunday. Prior to the first race there was the usual scramble to find equipment, get the dinghies out of 'mothballs' and chase out the spiders. Richard Cannon was OOD, ably assisted by Pat Irving in the box and Laurie Bridges in the patrol boat.

Four races were scheduled starting at 11:30, with three to count. The weather was fine with a fairly steady light NE wind.

In typical Aquarius fashion only 4 people made the line for the first race. Hell! We have more people than that in the bar on a Wednesday night.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

River House Barn Concert

Pat Halling and his quartet, Pro Musica staged another concert at the River-side Barn at Walton on Sunday 20 March. This time they were joined by Colin Bradbury who is the principal clarinet in the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Pro Musica played various pieces including Dvorak's string quartet in F Major and Mozart's clarinet quintet.

I was amazed how many AQSC members attended; Pat must have been really pleased. There's something very special about listening to live music of that quality, I just wish I had the gene that would enable me to play a musical instrument. Well, there's no harm in wishing and in the meantime I'll keep going to Pat's concerts.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Bewl Water

Nigel Knowles and I went down to Bewl Valley SC on the Late May Bank Holiday Monday. Nigel sailed his 'red' Laser with its multi coloured sail numbers and Keith Hatton and I sailed Over Easy. There was also our Honary member (for Bewl visits) Bill Poulton (ex Hawkers) with his Wineglass

It was cold, overcast with rain and thunder ... that I could live with ... but, there was no wind to speak of. That's soul destroying when it's the very reason you go to Bewl.

There were three races, one before ham, egg and chips and two after ham, egg and chips. Within each race there were two starts. The first for the Club Championship, and the Second for the All Comers Event. All three courses

Start of Season Party

There was a time during the week, prior to the party, when I seriously thought we might have to cancel it.

Sections of the clubhouse suspended ceiling developed an alarming habit of collapsing. The foyer area was partially paneled without any coats hooks and the ladies changing room and toilet looked like a bomb had hit them. There were piles of constructional timber and sheets of plywood everywhere. The amounts of sawdust created by the chop saw was horrendous and had been 'walked' everywhere.

Having said that some how it all got cleared towards the end of the week and by Saturday night the club looked quite tidy again and ready for yet another start of season party.

This year our guest speaker was Mr. AB Parsons. 'Bec' Parsons was a 'sparks' and worked with Barnes-Wallis during the Second World War developing the 'bouncing-bomb' that Guy Gibson and the RAF dam busters used to such great effect against the Ruhr dams. He gave a very interesting insight into the bomb's design, manufacture, testing and delivery.

After his talk the ladies served a splendid buffet supper. The rest of the evening was spent watching the Ellen McArthur round the world video that she filmed on B&Q.

My thanks to 'Bec' Parsons for his absorbing talk, to Diana for arranging the evening and to the committee members who supplied the supper.

Before he left 'Bec' was presented with a bottle of Malt Whiskey on behalf of the club and a generous donation to the Leonard Cheshire foundation from all the members present.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

were port handed trapezoidal but moved after each race as, what wind there was, shifted and eventually died.

There were eleven boats in the all comers event including four Lasers, two Flying Fifteens, Enterprise, Wineglass, SigneT, RS Vareo Asym and a Solo. Basically Keith and I came 6th and Nigel came 8th but Nigel won the Half Ton event and received an engraved goblet. Well done him!

The drive home was hot and sunny, except for the hour and a half spent in the carvery at The Grasshopper at West-erham. There, it was Beef, Pork or Turkey and all the trimmings. Luvly Jubly! Mike (I came, I saw and I drifted) Baker

Chinese Takeaway & Quiz Night 21 May 2005

Unfortunately I couldn't attend this event; however I did set some quiz questions and left them with Rodger Wheeler to torment you with on the night. I trust you found them challenging because easy is no fun! I'm hoping someone did a write-up, or is that too much to hope for?

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Signet Open at Little Paxton S.C.

Only one Aquarius Signet's (ST's 368) attended this first open of the year. Little Paxton is located just off the A1 at St. Neots in an old gravel pit. It's quite a picturesque place with a couple of islands out in the middle of the lake and a line of tall trees screening it from the main road which makes for some interesting wind shifts. We have been going to Paxton for more years than I care to remember and we always received a warm welcome whenever we go up there and we usually have good weather.

But this year it rained throughout the journey there although it was such fine rain at times I wasn't sure if it was rain. Robert Britton crewed for me; we don't see him at AQSC now because he lives at Grantham North of Peterborough.

By the time we started the first race it was raining hard with very little wind and we only did 2 laps instead of the scheduled 6. The first afternoon race was just as wet but there was more wind so we managed 6 laps. Richard was shivering so much with the cold that he couldn't sugar his coffee. The last race was much better with a reasonable wind and no rain. Richard won the first 2 races and was 2nd in the last one.

On Sunday PLSC were hosting the Branta cup event, rather like our Mid Thames Trophy, for the first time. There were 2 massive trophies, about 400mm high, with one for the morning race and one for the afternoon race, Richard wasn't eligible for a trophy because you had to be a member of a local club. There were rumours that there could be 50 boats which would have made it very crowded but we only had 18.

Conditions were much better than Saturday and it remained dry. Richard let young Tom Field helm the first race to gain practice for the Signet Nationals. Richard took Tom's crew out for the 2nd race. At one point something went wrong and they capsized with both going right in. At least it was capsizing training for Tom's crew.

Richard Cannon

Hog's Back Brewery

The HBB (www.hogsback.co.uk) was founded some 20 years ago and is located in Tongham, just off the A31 Hog's Back. It brews a variety of house beers and ales some of which are varied throughout the year according to season.

I just love some of the names that the brewery gives to their products. Name's like T.E.A. (Traditional English Ale), Rip Snorter, Old Tongham Tasty, Fuggles Nouveau, Friday 13th, Santa's Wobble, Wobble in a bottle, APB (A-Pinta-Bitter).

About a dozen of us went on the brewery tour on 16 April. After a quick look around the shop we were taken through the brewing process from a to z sampling a good cross section of their most popular falling down water along the way.

The group then moved on to the Shepard and Flock pub at Farnham for lunch. It was a hard morning but hell, someone had to do it.

The outcome was that everybody (even Richard and he doesn't drink) liked 'Hair of the Hog' so Pete arranged to pick up a pin for the Mid Thames Trophy. Rather than sail I think I'll just stay in the bar, sample the brew, and watch the MTT action in comfort.

Mike (Over Easy (nothing to do with the beer)) Baker

Skittles Night

What a great evening! Aquarius took on Lyn's Embercourt Badminton Club at the Grantley Arms, Womersley, just outside Guildford.

Pub skittles isn't like ten pin bowling and it really shouldn't be taken as seriously. Well that's the theory anyway but when you get two teams together the old competitive streak soon comes to the surface. In the event Aquarius had to lend Embercourt four of our members to balance things up.

We managed the first game before dinner was served and several more afterwards. Bowling styles varied with everything from blockbuster deliveries to all three balls at once reverse through the legs to standing on one leg!

I think everybody had a really good time. The fact that The Grantley also serves beer and ale from the Hog's Back Brewery could also have had something to do with the team's demeanour!

At 10:30 the tournament ended. Leo Bond was awarded the highest individual score of the evening and Eric Bridgewater the lowest score of the evening. Both won bottles of wine.

Embercourt beat Aquarius by 4 points, which over 3½ hours is nothing. It could have gone either way. Perhaps they would like a re-match next year!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER at 8.00 p.m.

AQUARIUS SAILING CLUB

**Relive the Golden Age at
*THE PALM COURT***

With Pat Halling's Palm Court Trio

**And a light collation
of titillating titbits
to follow**

£5.00

AQSC Open Weekend

What a weekend! By Sunday night we'd had twenty-seven individuals, couples or families through the gates!

These weekends are very important and provide a showcase for the club. They are our opportunity to promote Aquarius and attempt to increase membership. This is vital because over the years AQSC membership has been falling and this has an impact on income versus costs.

This year's open weekend was held over 14 & 15 May. Pre advertising was done via local newspapers, Radio Jackie, banners and information leaflets distributed to the members for advertising the event in their local areas.

The weather can have a direct impact on attendance. This year the forecast was sunny with intermittent cloud, wind 15 mph out of the NE on Saturday, so fairly cool, dropping to 10 on Sunday.

At one point I had a dozen boats out on the water and still had people waiting to go afloat; but it wasn't just numbers, this year there was a surprising increase in youngsters. I think something like fifteen to twenty over the weekend rang-

ing from teenage down to eight year olds. We even had a three month old baby being fed in the car park.

Saturday started slowly but eventually yielded about ten individuals, couples or families, many living in the local area. It was encouraging that many of the parents had sailed at some time or another and wanted to get their kids into the sport. The standard of sailing from some of these children was excellent and they took to the water as if to the manor born.

Sunday brought another seventeen families, couples or singles. It also included a number of people from South Africa, Germany and Italy. Again the standard of sailing displayed by some visitors was surprising with quite a number returning to the sport after long lay-offs. The wind on Sunday was disappointing. It was considerably less than the forecast but, I guess, that's one thing we couldn't control.

The main thing now is to work hard and convert as many of these visitors into members as possible. That means a lot of effort. It means that a priority

must be given to returning visitors, even over and above racing. Returning visitors mustn't be ignored and left in the clubhouse. They must be encouraged, taken afloat and generally made to feel valued. If not all the hard work put in over the open weekend will count for nothing and this is what has tended to happen in the past. If we are going to grow the club we must pay more attention to potential new members, especially the youngsters.

Finally I would like to say thank you on behalf of the club to everybody who put so much into making the open weekend such a success. That includes everybody in the clubhouse who handled the catering, the bar, greeted our visitors and provided the information they needed; those who helmed the dinghies, sailer cruisers and the patrol boat that took the visitors afloat and to those members who came down to support the weekend and often ended up involved up to their elbows. Thank you all, it was very much appreciated!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Pre MTT Work Party

Just a word of thanks to all those who made the effort and joined the club work party on Saturday 23 April. Although being on the same day as the skittles night and just prior to the MTT some twenty-one people turned-up and set about clearing up the exterior of the club.

I think we had three strimmers working on the grass areas and the trailer park. The jet-wash cleaned up the water front. Every piece of glass in the place was washed and polished. Diane and Linda provided a much appreciated lunch and by mid afternoon the club looked great and ready for the MTT.

Thanks again to Pete & Diana Carpenter, John Neale, Richard Cannon, Tony Adcock, Nigel Knowles, Stuart Schafer, Eric Bridgewater, George Bray, Graham Thompson, Liz Archer, David Grigg, Joan, Gordon, Phil & Cathy Courtney, Laurie Bridges, Brian Clements and Rodger & Linda Wheeler. Great job guys!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Notice to Club Photographers

I've decided that what the new foyer area needs are some really good photographs, probably A4 size or larger to put on the walls. They need to be dinghy sailing related.

They can be taken at the club or at away venues such as Bewl Water. They should feature AQSC dinghies and members; be action pictures rather than static pictures; and can be colour or black and white. So if you have a digital, 35mm or a box brownie get snapping. Your reward is the honour of having your picture(s) displayed in the entrance to the club.

Mike (Touch to the Litchfield's) Baker

AQSC Rules & By-laws

Under normal circumstances no changes can be made to the clubs Rules & By-laws unless ratified by an Annual General Meeting.

However in extraordinary circumstances changes can be made by the Management Committee under clause 4.2 providing they are (a) exhibited 14 days prior to the date of implementation and (b) are approved by the next AGM.

Such a set of circumstances has arisen and therefore I am taking this opportunity to advise you that the revised Rules & By-laws will be shortly available in the club house.

The need for these changes has come about as a result of meeting the requirements of the new licensing act and our new club premises certificate application.

I do not believe any of these changes effect anybody personally. They are all aimed at meeting the four licensing objectives defined by the new licensing authority.

At the next AGM I will go through these changes, explain why they had to be implemented and answer any of your questions.

Mike (The Commodore) Baker

Commodore's Conference

Every year all Commodores of RYA affiliated clubs, Aquarius included, receive an invite to the annual RYA Clubs Conference. This is held at Alexandra Palace on the first morning of the Dinghy Show. This year some 150 clubs were represented from all over the UK. After coffee & registration the meeting started at 10:30. John Bagnall the RYA Marketing Manager outlined the conference programme and introduced the first speaker.

David Ritchie the RYA National Sailing Coach presented the results of the dinghy entrapment survey and the use of patrol boats in clubs. Apparently over the last two seasons there have been some 44 incidents of entrapment under dinghies, 18 of which were regarded as serious. Despite the low statistical risk the RYA felt there was a sufficient range of incidents to suggest it is worth making sailors aware of the problem.

The biggest risk results from complete inversion of the boat with the sail or tangled or stuck underneath. The RYA concluded that incident seemed unaffected by the conditions since quite a number were recorded in light winds. The speed of inversion can increase the risk; some designs invert faster than others, but most will invert quickly if capsized to windward whilst sailing downwind.

Approximately one third of incidents involved ropes caught around the sailor. Just over one third involved other fittings or equipment, third involved trapeze equipment. A key factor seems to be that modern designs have a raised cockpit floor to enable self draining. An inverted boat of this type will therefore have a lower 'ceiling' and a smaller air void. In the case of sailors trapped in the cockpit, most self draining boats have no useful air void, though there may be an air void if the water is calm.

Sailors are advised to:-

- Keep control lines short and tidy and maintain elastic so that it does its job.
- Carry a very sharp, easily accessible serrated knife.
- Practice good housekeeping (i.e. maintain a tidy boat).

Several rescue techniques were tried out by the RYA in differing conditions and locations. For lighter boats an air gap can be created by picking up one end of boat although it is important that the rescuer knows which end to pick up, otherwise the casualty may be forced deeper. For larger boats the fastest reliable technique was found to be two heavy sailors aboard the inverted boat, pulling on the centre board. It was found nearly all boats could be righted by this method in a range of conditions.

As an aside the boats that we have that might be prone to this problem are Laser, Pico and Topper, but don't panic it's very rare and on the river the masts would probably bottom before any of those dinghies actually inverted.

Alan Olive the RYA Coach Development Manager then presented information on RYA Sail Smart coaching days and the RYA race development group.

Chris Atkins the Chairman of the RYA Racing Committee then talked about the Club Racing Charter. This proposed a new three tier approach to protest handling. I've passed this on to Richard for consideration of its use at Aquarius, should it be needed!

Peter Waring the RYA H&S consultant then gave a presentation on Licensing Act & Disability Discrimination Act. I covered the Licensing Act in the last newsletter and what Aquarius may need to do re the Disability Act is under discussion by the Management Committee.

Jon White, Jackie Bennetts and Duncan Truswell then gave a joint presentation on the roles of Regional Development Officers, Volunteer Development Officers and High Performance Managers. This includes the 'On Board' initiative that I reported on in a past newsletter.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Anti Social Behaviour

About a year ago I represented AQSC at a meeting at Hampton SC. It was attended by clubs, businesses and pubs in the area. The meeting was attended by the Surrey & Met Police and outlined a plan to combat anti social behaviour in the area.

This has proved quite effective and based on things learnt over the past year a revised ASB leaflet has been published. This details new telephone numbers and contacts etc.

There is a copy in the club house; please read it and make sure you know what action to take should you need to.

Remember also that there is still a one use camera behind the bar to record any ASB in our neck of the woods.

Mike (The Commodore) Baker

STOP PRESS UPDATE: Club premises certificate

Monday 20 June was a bit of a red letter day. I finally posted off the application for the new Club Premises Certificate. It's only taken about three months to prepare. What a bureaucratic load of old cods! And that's putting it politely.

If we were a 5,000 capacity night club in the middle of Kingston, serving drinks till god knows what time in the morning, fighting a drugs problem and viewing anti social behaviour as a way of life I could understand all the palaver concerned with getting a new bar license; but for a small, non profit making, private members club it does seem a tad OTT.

Mind you, I've got my eye on some of our senior members, too much sugar in their tea and they go berserk. Square dancing, ballroom, lace making, surfing the internet, you name it, their into it. The management committee might even have to start issuing OAP ASBO's to curb their disturbing gardening and stamp collecting fetishes, or at the very least hire door bouncers to stop illegal use of Zimmer frames.

Mike (weight off the shoulders) Baker

Website

I found that the links to the archive pages before 2003 didn't work in Firefox; OK in Internet Explorer. It has been fixed.

If anyone finds anything that doesn't work in any browser could they please let me know using the E-mail link in the Banner or ring me on 01932 786636.

Richard Cannon (Webmaster)

Social Calendar Dates For Your Diary

Sat 25 Jun	HAMPTON SC REGATTA, AQSC INVITED
Sun 26 Jun	HAMPTON SC REGATTA, NO RACING AT AQSC
Sat 23 Jul	Teddington Theatre Club "A Period Entertainment of Songs and Ditties from the 20s to the 60s" at AQSC
Mon 29 Aug	BEWL WATER SAILING CLUB REGATTA IN KENT Bank Holiday Pursuit racing
Sat 24 Sep	Palm Court in the Max Jaffa style with Pat Halling's Palm Court Trio
Sat 15 Oct	Quiz Evening with Nigel Knowles
Sat 5 Nov	Fire Works at Kempton then soup & victuals at Club
Sat 19 Nov	AQSC Annual Dinner
Sat 3 Dec	AGM, Prize Giving and End of Season Party
2006	
Sat 11 Feb	Ladies Night
Sat 18 Mar	Start of Season Party

Regatta, Jazz Night & BBQ

This year's regatta was held over the weekend of 18-19 June. During Saturday three races were run, one of which was the first trophy race. A further three were run on Sunday, two regatta trophy races and the Ladies/Novice trophies.

The weather was hot and sunny and the wind, although out of the south (veering), which is not our best position, ensured some interesting sailing. In the event Pat Halling won the regatta trophy, narrowly beating Charles Dennis and Liz Archer won the Ladies & Novice trophies.

On Saturday evening some fifty three people attended the club BBQ, again graced with incredible weather. I don't know what sold the best? The 'Hair of the Hog' or the Pimms No.1. I do know we got through a fair bit of both.

Outside Mike Rogers and Alan Tolfree donned their gas masks and flipped burgers to the manor born. Nice one guys! Just about every lady that arrived seemed to be clutching a bowl of salad. One thing though . since Saturday why have my ears started growing and getting pointy? The Jazz band was 'pretty average!', that's very good by the way! Even Pat said they were good, and he should know.

My personal highlight is always the Sunday afternoon regatta cream tea. Frightfully English don't you know and highly naughty but nice. Many thanks to Joan and George for toiling in the Garson Farm fields on a very hot Sunday morning to pick the strawberries.

The Ladies/Novice race started with every boat being helmed by a lady; the first time I can remember that happening. Some were having their first go at helming in a race.

So, that's another regatta done and dusted. Bit of a break now before we launch into the next round of social engagements. Tell you what . how about filling in the time with a bit of sailing. Rumour has it Aquarius does some of that too!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker



The BBQ nearly ready



Wet Fun and Games with Laser Hulls and Surf Boards

