



**AQUARIUS S.C.**

# THE MAIN SHEET

*Spring 2007 Edition*

Web Site: <http://www.sailaquarius.org.uk>  
Email: [mail@sailaquarius.org.uk](mailto:mail@sailaquarius.org.uk)

Editor: Richard Cannon 01932 786636  
E-mail: [editor@sailaquarius.org.uk](mailto:editor@sailaquarius.org.uk)

Publicity: Over Easy 020 8393 5495 E-mail: [publicity@sailaquarius.org.uk](mailto:publicity@sailaquarius.org.uk)

## COMMODORE'S REPORT

The winter months are usually a quiet time at the Club, but this year seems to have been an exception. As I write this, the Clubroom has just been retrieved from its medieval format as Castle Aquarius after a fantastic Ladies Night. Each year, the event seems to get more lavish and even by their own amazing standards Rodger and Mike excelled themselves this year – thanks guys! (What will you dream up next?)

The monthly Sunday lunches – enabled by the extra cooker in the partially refurbished kitchen – have also proved popular and it has been good to see a number of family groups making use of the games equipment and generally enjoying themselves.

Unfortunately the river has been running too fast to venture onto the water and the Frostbite Cruise and Commodore's Cryptic Quiz has had to be postponed on two occasions.

A new Management Committee was elected at the AGM (actually mostly the same old faces, refreshed with the welcome addition of Leo Bond, Simon Lunniss and Cath Bridger). We spent a good proportion of the first meeting considering this year's programme and discussing how we can make the Club attractive to a wider membership. Accordingly the programme contains the old favourites but in addition we will be instituting some events which are intended to appeal to those who prefer a more "recreational" type of sailing.

In recent weeks Bodgit and Co., having restored the Bosun's store and replaced the spar rack, have made a start on the new patio extension. This is likely to take some weeks and the building works and associated equipment may at times impede access to the Club. Please take care – especially in the evenings when it is dark – and do not interfere with anything. Offers of help are of course most welcome!

I conclude with a reminder that those of you with boats at the Club are responsible for maintaining the area around your berth. There are a few gardening tools available in the newly restored Bosuns Store and now is sensible time to cut back the encroaching bushes before new growth starts.

Good Sailing!

**Nigel Knowles**

## News of Members Joan Bray

We regret to announce the sad death of Leon Walkden at Christmas time. Although Leon only officially joined us last year he had been a familiar and popular figure on the moorings for several years. His cheerful and positive nature was an inspiration for all of us who knew him and he will be sadly missed. Our deepest condolences go to Joan and her family. Rock on Leon!

## Welcome

Welcome to Tony Hopkins who joined us in January. We wish him a long and happy membership at Aquarius.



## Appreciation Of Banquet

My Lords, Knights, Gentlemen and Serfs ... on behalf of the Ladies I thank thee for the magnificent banquet you gave in our honour.

The victuals were delicious, the decorations impressive and the entertainment by the minstrels excellent. 'Twas a pity that a few miscreants had to be confined to the stocks for cracking corny jokes.

Apart from them we congratulate you for restricting your intake of Mead, refraining from using lewd language, spitting or making attacks on my ladies virtue, although I had counselled them to keep both legs in one garter.

With the aid of the apothecaries my Lord George is now recovering from his attack of the vapours but regrets he will be unable to launch any vessels for the next month or so.

**The Lady Bray  
of Sunnyside.**

## AQSC Annual Dinner

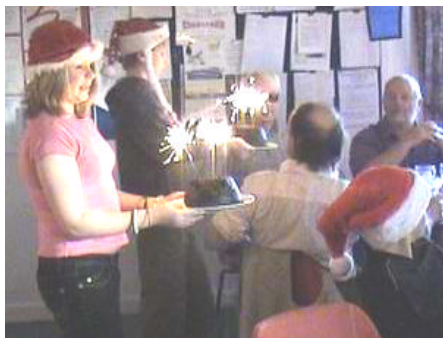
This year's dinner was held on Saturday 18 November in the clubhouse. Although Turkey was on the menu this year, these dinners have never been intended as Christmas Dinners. They are semi formal and a number of dinner jackets and 'posh frocks' are always to be seen. The evening is professionally catered and this year was handled by Sandra Watson and her company "Food for Thought".

Some 48 persons sat down at 8:00pm having been welcomed and well watered at the bar by Nigel and Rodger. From memory I think there were three or four choices of starters, main course and desert so there was plenty of variety to suit all tastes. Red and white wine was also in plentiful supply on each table.

This was followed by cheese and biscuits, coffee and mints during which Anne and Leo held a raffle for which prizes had been donated by members of the club's Management Committee. Nigel then made a short speech and presented Diana Carpenter with a bouquet of flowers by way of thanking her for organising the evening.

I think it was intended that there would be dancing afterwards but everybody seemed very content to sit and chat. Time certainly flashed by and I think it was nearly 2:00am by the time my group finally got back to Epsom. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and many thanks go to everybody involved in its success.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker



The Junior members didn't have a 'free lunch' they were doing the serving

## Cheats Xmas Lunch 17 December 2006

A great time was had by all and the Cheats Christmas Party included everything from great food, a fun atmosphere and an opportunity for a bit of out of season competitive spirit.

Thirty six Aquarius SC members, including 10 juniors, arrived at lunch-time for what was to be a very enjoyable afternoon. The clubhouse looked particularly jolly having been decorated for the event with maritime flags. Nigel Knowles' culinary skills were put to the test when he expertly cooked a superb four course meal for everybody (Jamie Oliver look out!).

The lunch was followed by a games tournament including darts, bar billiards and table tennis. Six teams of four were put together, and all of the games were played in the most sportsmanly way.

The darts match was particularly closely fought with Bryan Clements adjudicating expertly to achieve a very fair result.

The table tennis table held together in the end, despite some late adjustments. Most of the adults seemed to surprise themselves with their latent table tennis skills, and the ping-pong ball was only seen flying out of the clubhouse door once or twice.

As usual the bar billiards was particularly popular, but it was obvious which players had been practicing their skills for the tournament. Again, a very fair result was marked up on the scoreboard.

Tommy Winchester led his team to overall victory in the tournament. The winning team were awarded a big box of chocolates for their sporting efforts, and they generously shared them around.

### Rose Downes

I should have added the many youngsters who acted as waiters plus all those who helped setting up.

Serving: Helen Barnet and Linda Wheeler

Washing Up:

in the kitchen - Gordon, Maureen and Linda

in the bar - Stuart and Mandy

Cakes: - Rose

Helen & Don Barnet plus Stuart laid the tables

Restored and moved Bosun Store.  
Note the old step position compared to the new door position

## The Bosun's Store

It used to lean drunkenly against the clubhouse and was full of things that 'might be useful one day' but never were. Finding anything in it was a nightmare and it had become an absolute shambles. It was of course our Bosun's Store.

Then mid January Bodgitt & Son set about its refurbishment and replacement of the foundations. A good percentage of its contents went straight to the tip.

Concrete pads were set under each corner of the building with steel legs set into the forward pads and cemented in. A cross beam was bolted across the top of the legs. "I" beams were passed over the cross beam and under the building from front to back. Using these beams the building was then jacked up and slid forward approximately 20 inches. The actual support beams were then slid in to rest on the rear concrete pads and welded to the front cross beam. The building was then lowered onto its new foundation.

The store was diagonally strapped and tightened to pull the structure upright. Held like this, the interior was then panelled out with plywood so the building could not revert to its usual leaning posture. The upstream end was repaired and strengthened together with a reinforced door. A bulkhead light was also installed to illuminate the door area. The front of the store, below floor level was panelled in.

The next job was to reposition the entry steps and erect a guard rail around the open river end. This involved a lot of welding and concrete work. While this was going on new shiplap was applied to the front exterior to bridge the gap between the existing building and the bottom panelling which covers the new steelwork. Bryan Clements is now working on reinstalling the work bench and Nigel's carefully monitoring everything that goes back into our Bosun's store to ensure it never reverts to the 'hell-hole' it once was.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker



## Bodgitt & Son Site Clearance Division

9:30am, Monday 20 November 2006 was when I seriously thought that Bodgitt & Son had finally bitten off more than they could chew.

I had just walked into a light engineering factory around the back of Surbiton with Nigel and Rodger. The factory was scheduled for demolition and we were there to remove a mezzanine floor which is going to form the base of a new club patio extension.

This was serious stuff; 16ft wide, 24ft long and 8ft up in the air. The steel work was several different sizes of 'I' beam's, some as much as three men could lift. So, as the song goes "we had a cup of tea" and discussed removal tactics.

Basically the whole thing was a giant Meccano kit held together with a lot of large bolts, some welding and topped off with very heavy 8 x 4 boards. The main problem was that one false move could have brought a ton of steel crashing down. Hard hats, overalls, boots and riggers gloves were a definite given to ensure we left with all the bits we arrived with.

First up was the factory strip lighting most of which was suspended from the structure we were about to dismantle and was still 'live'. We were confronted by a mass of redundant wiring which was connected to circuit breakers but nobody knew which one. The next thing was to remove some of the mezzanine flooring (a) to lighten the load and (b) to let some light in.

After angle grinding away a hoist we discovered that another big beam that we were going to unbolt and remove appeared to be supporting part of the roof, the truss at this point having been cut away for some reason. Dismantling dramatically stopped and construction started on reinstating the truss to ensure the roof didn't collapse on top of us.

Finally, about 2:00pm we started removing the mezzanine girders. Each one was numbered and lowered down to the factory floor. In order to miss lights and trunking each girder had to be carefully suspended by ropes, rotated, tilted and lowered. As I said before some of these were a three man lift. You didn't want to drop one of these babies on your toe. Monday finished about 5:00ish with perhaps a little more than half the job done.

8:00a.m., Tuesday 21 November 2006. Back to work and more steel-work to be dismantled. The work progressed quickly. Monday had been a steep learning curve but on Tuesday we knew how to handle the girders and apart from some less than co-operative fixing bolts we were ready to start transferring the material back to Aquarius by early afternoon. 'Bodgitt Site Clearance Division' had borrowed Kwahu's road trailer from Charles Dennis for this job. It's the large trailer that lives on the grass in the AQSC car park. Even with this it took two trips and a lot of heavy lifting to get all the steel back to the club.

Once there we still had to move best part of 3½ tons of girders from the car park down to the club, the trailer being too big to go down the ramp. I think it fair to say we were pretty knackered by this time and coffee in the clubhouse really hit the spot before any of us was in a fit state to drive home.

We now have the material, all we've got to do is erect it in reverse order and convert it into a patio extension. This will be the job of the 'Bodgitt Construction Division' which actually is the same as the 'Site Clearance Division' and just means that the socket set wrenches have to be turned the other way round.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Going the extra mile

When details of the annual dinner arrived on our doorstep in Norfolk, it was a foregone conclusion that Bob and myself would attend. We duly sent our menu choice and cheque back and arranged our accommodation for the weekend.

We actually decided to travel down on Thursday as we had people to see and places to go. Our local radio informed us that there had been a major accident on the A11, so out came the map book and plan B came into operation. As we started our journey which took us 25 miles out of our way, we were quite astounded at the beautiful colours of the autumn and although the weather threw it's worst at us the reds and browns shone through.

Saturday and we arrived at the sailing club to a wonderful welcome and the sight of the club so beautifully decorated, which again surprised us. Dianne had done a wonderful job and her organisation and attention to detail are worthy of a medal, well, at least a vote of thanks.

After catching up with friends we took our places at the tables. Two people were missing from our table and after much concern Charles managed to contact Graham, who eventually arrived to cheering crowds

We enjoyed a wonderful three course meal finishing with coffee and mints. Amongst various toasts to bodgitt but not leggit, ladies and gents, capsizing, and all that goes with sailing. We purchased raffle tickets, the prizes looked delightful all wrapped up in blue on the bar waiting to be won. Sitting with friends, catching up on news and enjoying lots of chit chat, it was truly a memorable evening, It was indeed worth going that extra mile from Norfolk.

Janet and Bob



## Dinghy Word Search

Find 16 different types of sailing dinghy  
Cath Bridger

b	o	s	u	n	a	w	a	r	l
t	s	i	m	i	t	p	o	e	a
r	e	g	e	c	e	d	n	p	s
e	t	n	r	o	e	r	o	p	e
r	a	e	l	m	i	r	r	o	r
e	u	t	i	e	r	e	m	t	i
d	d	a	n	t	c	g	u	l	l
n	a	p	h	a	n	t	o	m	e
a	r	c	p	h	e	r	o	n	r
w	g	w	a	y	f	a	r	e	r



## New Spar Storage

You may have noticed that Bodgitt & Son have also installed new spar storage racks in the club. The old ones had become a bit of a safety issue, so new ones were made up and the club contractors installed them on 24 January.

Short spars (i.e. booms) are on the lowest, short, rack. Club boat spars next up. Private owners next up and 'not used much' on the top rack.

Please ensure the new racks stay reasonably neat and tidy as you use them during the coming season or your Management Committee will unleash Bryan Clements to come and sort you out. You have been warned!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Medieval Banquet - Tony Hopkins

Being a new member to Aquarius I wondered what to expect for the measly sum of £12 for a Medieval Banquet. The inside of the club house had been transformed into a medieval setting with some fantastic backdrops, as guests arrived it was clear that Aquarius do not do things by half, there were Lords and Ladies, knights, wenches and even Gandalf made an appearance and he must have had a hand in summoning up such fine fare which included, wine, champagne and 7 courses of marvellous food! There was music of the period on violin, harpsichord and recitals that made for such a great evening, only 2 people were put into the stocks and no one was beheaded, well done Aquarius and many thanks to all those behind the scenes.



Mike Baker's drawings transformed the clubhouse

## Ladies Night

This years Ladies Night was held in the clubhouse on 17 February and took the form of a Medieval Banquet; 46 places were booked. Costume was optional but just about everybody turned up in something medieval-ish. Joan and George Bray presided as Lord and Lady of the Castle ably supported by Sir Nigel - Lord of Anglesey "Master of the Privy", Gandalf of Amberley "Keeper of the Salt" and Sir Rodger of Malsey "Master of just about everything else".

The clubhouse had undergone a make-over to convert it into a medieval castle complete with backdrops, shields, armaments, thrones, stocks and dungeons. Guests were greeted by Sir Rodger with complimentary drinks and carnations for the ladies.

At the appropriate moment and having been heralded by Keith on his bugle the Lord and Lady were seated and the feast got underway. The meal consisted of

1) Ye Grande Broth - Root vegetable soup.

As the soup was being served Sir Rodger said a little about etiquette. This included the correct way to request use of the Lords salt and privy. He also drew the companies attention to other points listed on the back of the menu cards and the dire consequences of transgression. These included not spitting across the table, wiping mouths on sleeves and biting the trencher. Lewd or licentious behaviour or using profane words and slurping broth, belching or picking any orifice was also strongly discouraged.

- 2) Ye Fiske - Smoked Salmon
- 3) Ye Roaste - Honey Roast Gammon carved at each table.
- 4) Sorbet
- 5) Ye Pudding (adorned with sparklers)

At this point there was a Musical Interlude performed by Castle Bray's strolling troubadours Mike Lee and Pat Halling with poetry and song from Ann Halling and Mandy Lee.

6) Toast to the Ladies with Bubbly Wine (Cava)

7) Cheese (with biscuits and grapes)

8) Coffee (cafetière with appropriate titbits)

The evening was a great success. Several people ended up in the stocks. Nobody was beheaded and nobody was flung in the rather fast flowing moat. It now only remains to convert my Lord Bray riverside residence back into a sailing club before the start of the sailing season.

Mike (Gandalf of Amberley) Baker



Anne Bond

## A Salcombe Sojourn (part 2)

In response to an appeal made at the last A.G.M by Mike Baker for more article donors to "The Main Sheet" to relieve his over-heated pen, and as Mike is an irresistible pleader, I thought I would assist by continuing with the story of a sailing weekend at Salcombe over the August Bank Holiday 2005, memory permitting.

You may recall that having had a super sail on the 1st Sept we had resolved to get up earlyish (7am) the next day to try and repeat the experience before the ebbing tide prevented us getting back to our drying mooring. All went well to begin with, we rose at the appointed hour, had a quick cuppa, conned Annie in to driving us down to the quayside where we once again went through the ritual of un-knitting our RIB painter from all the others.

We then scrambled aboard and motored to our dinghy which was moored about half a mile or so away up one of the fingers of the main estuary just beyond the Island Sailing Club vessel, on a drying buoy, hence our being limited to a couple of hours either side of high tide, which by now it had already started to ebb.

Again it was a lovely clear morning but as yet without a hint of wind, that most essential ingredient for a good sail. In fact as we looked at the flag on the Church tower it was fondly embracing its pole like a tango dancer does her partner. "Never mind", I said, "I expect a breeze will get up as the Sun rises and starts to warm up the land surrounding this sheltered harbour". This statement being made more in hope than knowledge.

We slipped along the glassy and almost deserted waterway until we reached our 16ft Salcombe Yawl and determinedly set about preparing and rigging her - still no wind. Nothing daunted us as we cast off from the buoy which seemed strangely reluctant to let us go, but after some severe tiller wagging we eased painfully slowly out in to the main stream which carried us sedately along on the ebbing tide past lots of lovely yachts which we now had plenty of time to inspect and "ooh" and "aah" at.

By now there were more folk about going to and fro in tenders or other motorised craft and like the boating fraternity generally would give us a friendly wave or some form of greeting. Some gave us that sort of wry smile which said "you'll not be sailing far today shipmates!". And so it proved to be, for by the time we reached the main lane leading though the harbour to the sea with still no sign of breeze let alone wind, it was obvious we weren't going to be able to do any sailing this morning.

It was also very obvious that we wouldn't be able to get back to our mooring against the ever increasing ebb tide armed only with a paddle. So, we steered to and grabbed hold of a yacht's mooring line and waited until a tender came putting along going in our direction. We hailed him and asked for a tow which he readily gave (without penalty or salvage rights) though it was a bit of a struggle for his small engine.

With profuse thanks we bade our rescuer goodbye as he deposited us back at our mooring buoy where we hastily put our dinghy to bed and clambered in to the RIB. And not a moment too soon, for already we could see ominous mounds of mud appearing just beneath the surface which caused us to pick a route around them and along the valleys until we reached the deeper water of mid channel where we were able to breath a sigh of relief and head back to the town quay.

There we were met by our dutiful wives who insisted that we all go and have a sinfully large fry-up brunch (well, it was now gone 10am) at the nearby Quay Café. As you can imagine both Rod's and my howls of protests were inaudible. Having sated ourselves on a heap of health threatening cholesterol we wandered on to the quayside and caught the ferry back to South Sands enjoying the sunshine, views and bustling harbour activities that are Salcombe, feeling at peace with the World but sorry to have to leave the area.

What lessons did we learn from the morning's activities? Well, perhaps not to let hope overrule reality and have a reliable outboard as a standby when like most of us today you're governed by a timetable. However, at no time were we in any danger, only perhaps from that breakfast! And lastly, not to be too disappointed if one good sail is not followed by another, something which we Aquarians have plenty of practice at. Nevertheless, we won't give up trying 'cos that's what it's all about 'aint it?! Happy sailing in 2007.

Note: to all our regular readers - may I remind you that the first part of the article can be found on page 5 of the autumn 2005 edition.

John R. Neale

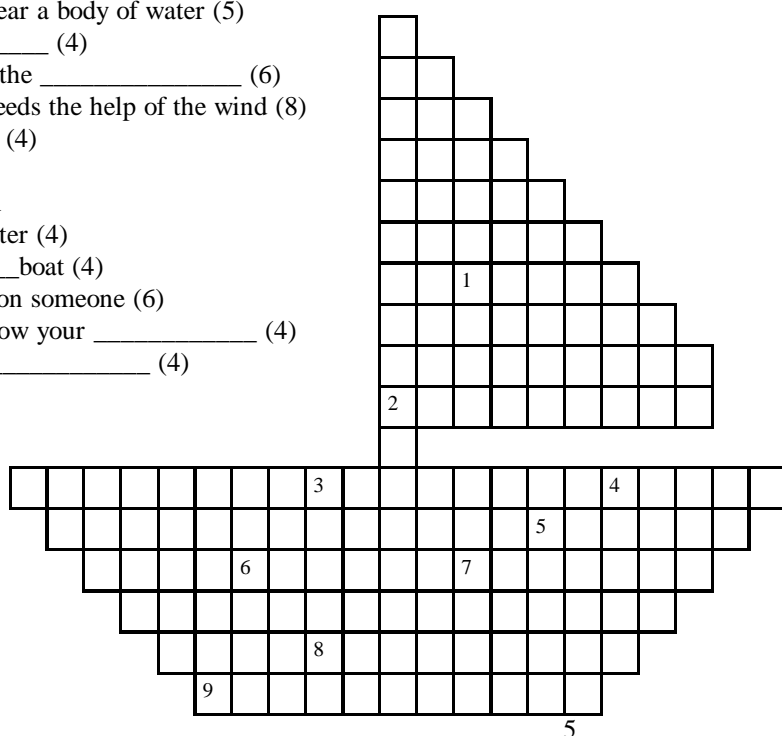
### Sailing Crossword Cath Bridger

#### Clues Across

- 2 Sounds like sea, spelled differently (5)
- 3 play in the water (4)
- 4 sandy area near a body of water (5)
- 6 beach \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
- 7 gently down the \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
- 8 a boat that needs the help of the wind (8)
- 9 water animal (4)

#### Clues Down

- 1 a body of water (4)
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ boat (4)
- 3 throw water on someone (6)
- 4 Row Row, Row your \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
- 5 life is but a \_\_\_\_\_ (4)



## Farewell to Leon

I didn't know Leon that well. He was Joan's (previously Garrett) husband and on his occasional visits to AQSC it was obvious that he made her very happy. I knew he was a doctor, a swimmer and was well respected in rugby circles. I was therefore totally unprepared for the size of congregation and depth of their affection at his 'Celebration of Life' service held at St. Augustine of Canterbury, Whitton on Thursday 11 January 2007.

Many members of Leon's family either gave readings or spoke about his life. Colleagues from his practice and friends from both his swimming and rugby connections related both moving and often very funny anecdotes about his unique way of referring to things and about varying incidents that had happened during his illustrious career. Funerals are at best sad and sometimes awkward events but Leon's was truly a celebration of his life. I have rarely heard congregations spontaneously burst into laughter but some of Leon's activities, related by his family and friends achieved just that. I think we all left St. Augustine's a little happier than when we arrived.

Leon's after service reception was held at RFU Twickenham in the ERIC room.

I'll miss Leon he was an interesting chap to talk to and always had a story to tell. Our love and support goes to Joan with the hope that in time she will overcome her grief. When that time comes Joan, Aquarius is waiting to welcome you back.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Tom Field

It is with great sadness that we note the death the SigneT Class Owners Association Class Captain Mr. Tom Field who died on 12 February of a heart attack following a bout of pneumonia. Tom worked tirelessly for both the SigneT class and fund raising for the RNLI.

He was a great character and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. We offer his family our love & condolences.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Extension Patio & Disabled Access

You can't have failed to notice the building materials piling up on the waterfront at the club. These are to be used by Bodgitt & Son to construct the new patio extension and disabled access ramp to the club. Could we please ask parents, that in the interests of Health & Safety, they ensure that their children are instructed not to play on or amongst these materials, most of which are very heavy.

AQSC Management Committee

## Additional Patrol Boat

On one or two occasions last season our existing safety boat was hard pressed to 'cover' the racing fleet and some of our newcomers sail training above the upstream mark. This was raised in committee and the decision was made to look for another suitable boat.

After looking at one or two 'maybes' Graham found a Dory over at Ashted that seemed to fit the bill. Because yours truly lives in Epsom I was asked to go and take a look.

It turned out to be a 13ft. Dell Quay Dory powered by a 35hp. Johnson Seahorse. The boat had its own road trailer complete with a winch. The next day I bought it and towed it back to the club. It needs a good clean up and a paint job but basically it's a sound boat that will be used as a backup to our existing boat.

There are training issues involved with the use of this craft and its helms are likely to be restricted to certain individuals.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Website

The website is the best place to find the latest information on things like news, activities, duties, programme, committee members, rules & bylaws. The race results are normally available late on the day of racing.

It is also excellent for looking up historic data with 7+ years of newsletters, race results, and news available.

Please let the webmaster know if you have problems or something doesn't work; if I don't know something doesn't work I can't correct it.

## The RYA Racing Rules Of Sailing And Racing Charter - Richard Cannon

When I started sailing the International Yacht Racing Rules were extremely harsh and unfriendly; if you infringed a yacht on the start line and you were protested the only options were to retire immediately or at the end of the race have a long and adversarial protest hearing where you would probably be disqualified. If you touched a mark you had to retire immediately.

Now days things are very different; we don't have Yachts (too elitist), we have two turn penalties for infringing a boat, and one turn penalty for touching a mark. There are much more friendly alternatives to a full protest hearing.

I have sailed at AQSC since 1993 and during that time we have never had a protest hearing; this gives an easy life but isn't good for improving the knowledge of the rules.

The rules and using them to one's advantage is a very big and enjoyable part of sailing. We don't have referees so we are responsible for obeying the rule and taking penalties where necessary. There is a great deal to learn and often quick decisions must be made and they won't always be correct.

The latest rules allow advisory hearings where the parties to a protest present their case to a 'Rules Advisor' who decides the facts and who is at fault; there are no penalties unless a helm decides to take a voluntary penalty. This can be very educational, improves every body's understanding of the rules and improves the fairness of racing.

I hope we start getting some protests and advisory hearings.

## RYA Racing Charter Objectives

To provide the framework for everyone to enjoy the sport of sailboat racing in whatever capacity and to whatever level the individual desires.

To ensure that the sport of sailboat racing welcomes people and treats them equally.

To ensure that those who experience sailboat racing are encouraged to continue.

## Sunday Winter Lunches

Although we weren't in the sailing season there has been plenty going on in addition to our major events like the Annual dinner and the AGM/Prize giving.

Because the weather had been so good we extended the sailing season but then the rains came. The 19 November was the first and last Sunday of the extended season and although there was a strong current it was a very enjoyable and productive day. The wind was a fairly steady SW force 1-2, but it was difficult to sail upstream so the patrol boat towed dinghies up to the channel marker. Recent members had very useful practice at driving the patrol boat.

On Sunday 14 January there was extremely good support for the first event of 2007 by 41 members. There was far too much current for the scheduled cruise so after the sausage and mash lunch Nigel Knowles presented a quiz on the sailing rules using his projector to display pictures showing racing situations with very good effect; he asked who had right of way.

Bar billiards, darts and table tennis games were played after the quiz.

The cruise had been postponed until Sunday 25 February but it has been very wet since November and the current was still much too strong for a cruise. 24 members had a great Indian buffet lunch from the Riverside Indian restaurant at Hampton; very much easier than members preparing the food. Nigel Knowles provided a projector to show videos. Also various games were available. The first video was of the 2004 AQSC Valetine's Musical Diner Dansant; the first of our annual February ladies nights. This particularly brought back memories to Bodgit and Sons.

## A Surprise Party

On Saturday 2 December Mick Rogers thought he was going to the AQSC AGM but found he was at a surprise 65th birthday party for him.

Are your boats securely tied down? The season of high winds has started. On Saturday night two trees in the car park blew down; thanks to Bryan Clements and others for moving them to give room for the AGM car parking.

## Working Party 4 November 2006

The weekend 4-5 November was extremely busy and successful for the club. There was a working party with lunch on Saturday; a great deal was achieved by 30 members. There was a visit to the Kempton Park fireworks display in the evening; 35 members enjoyed a great display in perfect conditions and then went to the club for a hot supper and social evening. On Sunday there were excellent conditions for a good sail.

### Rose Downes

Saturday's working party at the club was an opportunity to give the banks of the river Thames a short back and sides before the end of the season.

On arriving at the club early afternoon with various garden tools (some of which were appropriate for the job in hand and some a little bit more suitable for the flower beds in my back garden), I realised I had got my timing almost perfect: everyone was just sitting down to their pudding of crumble and custard. As you can imagine with the normal generous Aquarius SC hospitality I was offered a dessert and coffee before I had even done any work!

Quite a few people had really cracked on in the morning and the grassy slopes had been cleared and strimmed. It seemed as though there was no stopping some people as everyone cleared the decks after lunch and continued with the good work.

As a new member it was a good opportunity to have a bit of a social and spend time on the banks of the river in the fresh air with a bit of gardening thrown in for good measure.



## The 2007 Dinghy Show

This year's show at Alexandra Palace was held on 3rd & 4th March. As usual the SigneT Class Owners Association had a stand to promote the boat and class. Keith Hatton's boat ST858 'The Saint' was chosen for display having just completed a back to the woodwork paint and varnish refurb, inside and out.

The stand was erected and the boat rigged on Friday afternoon. This was closely followed by a quick dash around the North Circular to get home before the rush hour started. Getting caught in the rush hour on the NS is pretty near the top of my 'not recommended' list.

The show was all hustle-bustle. Dame Ellen MacArthur gave an interview and went walkabout. There were the usual stands, competitions and teach-ins. The bacon butties were up to standard and the beer was cold.

Sunday night arrived in no time at all and another dinghy show was over. As Alexandra Palace faded in the rear view mirror I mused as to whether, vis-à-vis the cost, if it was all worth it. Cost is increasing at 10 to 30% per year, over £520 this year which is double what it was in 2001.

The answer I suppose is witnessed by those classes that did give up, and subsequently died. Hey Ho! Time to start thinking about the 2008 Dinghy Show, or shall I jack it in; I thought about that last year too.

Mike (The SigneT Stand Manager) Baker



Trees blown down in the car park

## Sailing and Social Programme March 2007 - May 2007

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

The Wednesday afternoon Series will start on 16 May and end on 12 September. Start time will be 4 p.m. The bar opens at 8 p.m.

The Cundy Trophy long distance race will take place, on a day when the weather is suitable, concurrent with the scheduled Sunday afternoon race.

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

The OOD is responsible for organising the provision of cakes and milk for the afternoon tea at 3 p.m. on race days.

The Aquarius Open Days are 12th and 13th May; members are asked to bring friends and neighbours who might be tempted to sail.

On the Late Spring Holiday, Sunday and Monday 27-28 May, we visit the Bewl Spring Regatta with Allcomers handicap races on Sunday and pursuit races Monday

On the Late Summer Holiday Monday 28 August we visit Bewl Water for their Autumn Regatta with pursuit races.

Date	11:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Duty Officers, Evening & Notes
<b>March</b>				
Sat 17				A Start of Season party 8pm
25	Fun Race	Spring Race 1	Spa Race 1	Richard Cannon, Pat Irving, Laurie Bridges
<b>April</b>				
01	Fun Race	Spring Race 2	Spa Race 2	Peter Carpenter, Sarah Herbert, John Botterill
08	Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races, best 3 count			Nigel Knowles, Rose Downes, Tony Adcock
15	Fun Race	Spring Race 3	Spa Race 3	Eric Bridgewater, Cath Bridger, Roy Clough
Sat 21				Indoor Olympics
22	Fun Race	Spring Race 4	Sprint Races	Rodger Wheeler, Linda Wheeler, Brian Clements
Sat 28	Mid-Thames Trophy at Desborough SC			Bank Holiday weekend
29	Fun and training races for new members			Richard Cannon, Anne Bond, Eric Bridgewater
<b>May</b>				
06	Fun Race	Spring Race 5	Spa Race 4	Richard Cannon, Mandy Grace, Charles Dennis
Sat 12	Aquarius Sailing Club Open WEEKEND			Rodger Wheeler, Linda Wheeler, John Botterill
13	Open day, Training and Funday Racing			George Bray, Joan Bray, Mike Baker
20	Fun Race	Spring Race 6	Spa Race 5	T Allen, B Allen /Liz Archer, G Thompson SCOA Paxton
Sun 27	BEWL VALLEY SAILING CLUB Spring Open Regatta, Allcomers Handicap Races			
Mon 28	BEWL VALLEY SAILING CLUB Spring Open Regatta, Pursuit Races			

### AQUARIUS SAILING CLUB

## Start of Season Party

**Saturday 17 March**  
**8.00pm till late**

*cold buffet*

*cash bar*

*mystery video presentation*

*music*

*good company*

*dancing*

??????

Note: Sailing starts Sunday 25 March – conditions permitting

### Club Open Weekend

This year's open weekend will be over the weekend of 12th & 13th May. It's never too early to start talking about this because it's a major annual recruitment event. We really need to introduce more 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, neighbours 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**