



AQUARIUS S.C.

THE MAIN SHEET

Autumn 2007 Edition

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The Commodore writes.....

In recent years the Club has acquired a good number of dinghies with a range of sizes and sailing performances. The latest addition to the fleet is an Escape Cascade - obtained through the good offices of Graham Thompson (thanks Graham!) which is a real fun boat and hopefully will prove popular with our younger members.

The principal purpose of the Club boats is to enable members to experience a variety of boats on the river and to facilitate a more informed decision when it comes to buying a boat of their own. However, old salts also have a range of boats available to select from according to the weather (and their inclinations) and many of us have made good use of them over the summer when conditions have been very "variable" (i.e. generally pretty awful!). By using a boat attuned to the prevailing conditions, sailing has been made more interesting; thus for example on Sunday 23 Sept we had all four Bosuns on the water and some amazingly close racing with the lead changing constantly and only a few seconds between 5 boats at the finish of the last race. One week later conditions favoured lasers and 4 of them were out.

By common consent this has been a disappointing summer; we lost 2 weeks sailing because of the exceptional current following the torrential rains in

July and August and at other times winds have been very fluky. Nonetheless two events stand out in my mind:

The Midsummer Madness Cruise, carefully scheduled for the full moon on 27 June, was sailed in virtually no wind and moderate rain. (We got most lift from the rain impinging on the sails!) Tony Hopkins and I were dressed accordingly and the drift back from Sunbury on the current in the twilight was a surreal but hugely enjoyable experience.

Conditions were quite different when the Club hosted the Signet Open meeting on 2 September: Visitors saw Aquarius at its best. The wind was from the west so the downstream leg was a reach and some boats even tried their spinnakers! The new patio really came into its own, with spectators lining the rails to observe some quite eventful and close racing.

As the sailing season draws to an end our thoughts move to planning for next year (the racing programme continues to 11 November, but we will continue informal sailing and aim to provide safety boat cover on Sundays for as long as conditions allow.

Note also that the "once a month" Sunday lunches will also continue as last year). In this regard please note the AGM on Sat. 1 December. This is when the Officers and Management Committee are elected (for which there

are always vacancies!), but just as importantly it is an opportunity for the membership at large to have their say and to discuss what you want of your Club. There is always a tendency for things to continue unchanged because "we always do that", so please think what you like about the Club and what you don't like, what we do and what we might do, what we could do better or more/less etc. and then air your views at the meeting.

Next year is an important milestone in the development of the Club with the 60th anniversary of our founding in March 1948. We plan to mark the occasion with a birthday dinner at the Club on Sat 15 March. Details are still being worked out, but note the date. Because of this event, the format of Ladies Night in February will change - but never fear Ladies- we will still look after you!

This being the last newsletter of the year, I conclude by thanking everyone who has contributed to the Club's activities this season and in particular the Management Committee whose stewardship ensures a (generally) happy Club.

May I also remind boat owners to ensure that their boats are secure against winter winds and possible floods, with bows up and bungs out!

Nigel Knowles

Raffle Donations

There will be a raffle at the Annual Dinner. If anyone has items they could donate to swell the prizes it would be very helpful. Please give them to Anne Bond, or leave them with a note behind the bar, by Sat 10 Nov.

Homes wanted

Most reluctantly, and after much bullying by the Commodore, your Bo'sun Bryan (Squirrel) Clements has agreed to part with some redundant Club property which has lain unused for several years.

We have available
1 Seagull long shaft outboard
1 Sea Bee outboard
3 glassfibre single kayaks

If anyone can make use of them, please speak to Bryan or Nigel Knowles

Hampton Sailing Club Regatta 30 June/1 July 2007

By Richard Cannon

The Hampton Regatta had a terrible weather forecast; very wet. Fortunately, although there was some rain, it didn't spoil the event.

On Saturday Richard Cannon in his Signet with crew Rodger Wheeler, and Bryan Clements in his Graduate entered. The 5-10 knot South wind although shifty wasn't fluky like at Aquarius and the sailing was good, although at times it was difficult to make way against the 1-2 knot current.

Sunday was very different; the 15 to 25 knot (force 4 to 6) SW wind was extremely gusty and fluky.

Rodger took his Bosun and Tony Hopkins crewed for Richard. In the morning a HSC junior member crewed for Rodger and Bryan retired. In the afternoon Bryan crewed for Rodger.

The handicap fleet of 11 boats included 3 Comet Versas, 2 Lasers, a Solo and 2 Toppers plus our Bosun, Signet and Graduate. The other class starts were GP14 (7 boats), Merlin (8) and Enterprise (11), a total of 37 boats gave a very crowded reach.

Sailing was very exciting with many capsizes, but none for Aquarius boats. In the handicap fleet Richard and Tony won the 1st afternoon race and were 3rd overall, Rodger and Bryan were 5th overall.

By Tony Hopkins

Richard, Rodger and Bryan had sailed at the regatta on Saturday and Bryan had towed the 2 dinghies back to the club in the evening with the Aquarius patrol boat.

On Sunday morning bright and early Roger set off in his Bosun and Bryan towed his Graduate while Richard and I sailed Richard's Signet downstream to Hampton, conditions then were very varied.

After tying up at Hampton we had free coffee and biscuits and waited for our start. There were separate starts, at 10 minute intervals, for four classes. The 3 Aquarius boats were in the handicap class which was the third start.

We got off to a reasonable start and very soon there were boats capsizing all over the course and the sailing was fun! Richard and I managed a 5th place. Bryan retired as lack of buoyancy in his Graduate made him fear the worst. Roger had a very young Hampton novice for crew in this race.

After a rest and very nice lunch we were back on the river for the start of the second race, Richard got a great start and timed it perfectly as we were first across the line, conditions were very blustery making the race very hard work; we had a very good race and managed a first place.

After a short break for tea and biscuits we were back on the water for the last race of the day. Conditions were just as hectic and after some harrowing moments we finished in third place. Bryan crewed for Roger in the Bosun and ended up with some water in the bottom of the dinghy and a fifth place; Bryan had wet feet!

After a splendid tea of sandwiches and cake it was time for the prize giving and thanks to Richard we were third overall in the handicap class and first visitor for which we received engraved glass tankards. Roger and Bryan were fifth overall.

As we departed with the club patrol boat towing the 3 Aquarius boats the Hampton contingent gave us a good cheer and waved us off. A great days sailing!

09 July 2007 Handicap Class Results For Hampton SC Regatta 2007 AQSC entries Only. PL race column gives overall Regatta places

			AQSC entries only						
5 for Series Sailed 3 to Count for Series			OOD	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton
			AOD	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton
			Rescue	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton	Hampton
			Notes	s1-2 1knt ppps	s1-2 1knt ppps	sw4g6 Vflky pp	sw4g6 1knt fp ip	sw4g5 1knt Vflky fp ip	Regatt a place s
			Starters	3	3	4	3	3	4
			Date	30Jun	30Jun	01Jul	01Jul	01Jul	01Jul
HELM	BOAT	Races	01	02	03	04	05	PL	
Cannon RC	ST368	5	3	d4	d5	1	3	3	
Clements B	Grad2141	3	8	6	11			9	
Wheeler R	Bos 485	3			6	3	4	5	
~Starters	Starters	5	d7	6	d10	5	5	11	

Lord of the Rings Stage Show at Drury Lane Theatre

Tolkien's classic story has now taken to the stage and Lyn and I went to see it, pre-release, in June. The staging, set design and lighting were amazing. Special effects have come a long way and this show really pushes the boundaries. The proscenium arch was a giant vine that could be climbed on. The stage was round and divided in three moveable circular parts. Each of these parts was divided into several segments which could be raised or lowered together with or independently of each other. The lighting, costumes and special effects together with a really good cast made for a highly entertaining evening. Peter Jackson took nine hours to put Tolkiens epic on VT but the stage show took just 2½ and in many ways was a more honest depiction. If you liked the books and like live theatre and you enjoy something a little bit different, go see this, you'll love it.
Mike (Gandalf's the man)
Baker

27 June 2007 Mid Summer Madness – Twilight Cruise

Nigel's plan was for as many dinghy's as possible to sail up to The Magpie, accompanied by the patrol boats, have a couple of bevs and a bite to eat and then sail back to the club.

I guess the regatta weekends weather, only three days earlier, and the weather on the 27th did little to encourage people that this was a good idea, but, in the end six people did turn up.

Nigel and Tony sailed in a pair of Lasers accompanied by Rodger Wheeler, Joan Walkden, Richard Cannon and yours truly in the patrol boat.

There was a three knot stream running and the Lasers progress was painfully slow. Eventually and because everybody in the patrol boat was getting hungry we took them in tow and 75 minutes later we arrived at The Magpie.

By now it was raining and Joan's novel answer to this was to vanish inside a rather large bin bag. Richard took a more conventional approach and sheltered under a rather fetching brolly with his video camera.

Mooring at the pub was challenging for the Lasers given the strength of the stream but they managed to manhandle themselves in and we duly trooped into the pub led by Joan who by now was probably wishing she'd stayed at home.

Now six soggy souls arriving off the river doesn't faze the Magpie's staff one bit, I guess they're used to it and we soon found Joan and Lyn, who had driven up, parked in a corner.

Drinks and food were quickly ordered and conversation virtually stopped as everybody 'got stuck in'.



Over coffee Joan announced she would not be making the return trip with us as she was going back to Aquarius in the comfort of Lyn's car! We just couldn't understand her reasoning. Why wouldn't you want to go back in an open, wet and cold boat? Most strange!

It took 40 minutes to get back but the Lasers sailed all the way despite at one point getting themselves in an eddy that first sucked them backwards and then spun them through 360°.

Having dropped Rodger back across the river the evening ended in the Aquarius bar with Pete Carpenter who was looking very lonely all on his own as we moored up.

... And finally. The evening was actually very enjoyable although somewhat under attended. The food at The Magpie isn't 5 star but was very acceptable and we will no doubt do it all again sometime in the future. I conclude that you don't have to be mad to do this sort of thing ... but it definitely helps.

Mike (Over Easy)
Baker

Use of Club Safety Boats - Nigel Knowles

Now that we have two safety boats, the Management Committee has reviewed and revised the Club's policy for the use of the boats. The updated policy formalises what has been accepted practice for some time and will be enshrined in a new by-law.

The prime purpose of the two safety boats is to afford safety cover for members whilst sailing and to lay marks for racing.

The Committee recognises that effective safety cover relies on the boats being handled with the requisite degree of skill and seamanship and it therefore seeks to encourage members to develop their boat handling skills. To this end the key principle of the policy is that on Sundays, and at other times when racing is scheduled, members may only use the boats with the express permission of the Officer of the Day.

Members are allowed and indeed encouraged, to make use of them at other times, provided they have been "checked

out" on the boat by either Richard Cannon, Rodger Wheeler or Laurie Bridges and that boats are not taken away from the immediate vicinity of the Club.

The full terms of the new By-law is set out below

9.12 Club Safety Boats

Club Safety boats may be used only subject to the following conditions

a) The person in charge of the boat must have demonstrated his competence and familiarity with the boat and its equipment to the satisfaction of the Bosun or his designate (as appointed from time to time). A list of such authorized users will be posted in the Clubhouse.

b) On days when organized racing is scheduled, boats may only be used with the express permission of the Officer of the Day.

c) Safety boats must not normally be taken downstream of the top of Platts Eyot nor beyond the upstream end of the Club moorings. If, exceptionally, it is desired to take a boat further afield, ap-

proval must be obtained in advance. On race days the Officer of the Day may sanction such use; at other times approval must be granted by a Flag Officer.

d) Safety boats must be handled at all times with proper regard to other river users and in compliance with EA navigation rules. Except in emergencies speed should be kept below walking pace.

e) Buoyancy aids or life jackets must be worn by everyone aboard.

f) The boat's ancilliary equipment must be carried at all times. This includes walkie talkies (turned on, one in the boat and one left with a responsible person ashore), fire extinguisher, boat bag, first aid kit, throw bag, boat hook and paddles.

g) After use the person in charge must ensure that the boat is securely moored and all its equipment is returned to its store or alternatively that responsibility for the boat has been expressly accepted by another authorised user.

Laugh at the Really Serious

Thought you might like this ...

One of our greatest gifts is our ability to laugh in the face of adversity. The following did the rounds on the Internet just after the Glasgow airport bombing.

... Apparently, the maniac who set fire to himself after failing to blow up Glasgow airport was complaining about the food he was being served in Glasgow Hospital. He said he was sick of a diet of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. The hospital argued 'What did he expect? ... he was in the Burns Unit.

Mike (Well I thought it was funny) Baker

July 2007 - Water, Water Everywhere ...

Aquarius members watched anxiously as The Thames turned into a raging torrent fed by the devastating rainfall in the head water counties. Environment Agency navigation warnings flashed across the internet and news programmes where dominated by the weather.

On the weekend 21-22 July, and because of the weather, the Molesey Regatta was cancelled. I can't remember that ever happening before. Rodger reported that their upstream mark, which was placed opposite our clubhouse, was physically dragged downstream by the flow, its grapple anchor having lost the battle with the onslaught.

On Wednesday 25 & Friday 27 July Nigel and I were at the club and although the river was in full spate the level was only a little higher than normal. The major difference was that our Dory was floating in the lower slip, safely tethered and held off the wall by an enormous buoy that Bryan had rescued from the river.

Everything else was pretty normal. Lots of people phoned in to enquire if they should be getting worried about their boats. The answer to that is if your boat is properly picketed, bows up and the bungs out it should be fine. Trouble is there are a number of boats that aren't. Picketing isn't just for the winter, it's a sensible all year round precaution.

Mike (Water) Baker

Skittles Night – 8 September

This event has become an annual feature of AQSC's social programme. It first came about when Lyn Baker's Embercourt Badminton Club (EBC), who had been playing for a number of years, challenged AQSC to a match. That match proved so successful that it was AQSC that issued the challenge the next year and so it has continued.

We usually have to 'lend' the EBC a few players to balance the teams but this is good natured and over the years has helped to strengthen the camaraderie that has grown up between the two clubs. Don't get me wrong, each club plays to win and healthy bit of rivalry adds a little piquancy to the evening.

The food at The Grantley Arms is not bad although it helps if you read the small print before ordering. I'll remember that next year before embarrassing myself again and having to phone people to get their orders changed; my sincere apologies for that.

The evening started at about 18:30 with early arrivals gathering in the bar for a livener and then drifting into the skittles alley for some practice.

The first game finally got underway at 19:00. Allison couldn't make it this year so Lyn took over the scoring. The four games were quite noisy but by contrast the whole place went very quiet during supper.

The results frankly aren't that important. The key thing is that everybody had a good time. However for the statisticians amongst you Aquarius were the winning team this year. Highest male scorer was Embercourt's John Florea and highest female scorer was Aquarius's Anne Bond. My personal thanks go to Lyn who organised the games and kept the scores. See you all again for next years game.

And finally ... During the evening the manager told us that the pub was only open that night because of our function. Apparently at 5:30 that morning a group of teenagers in a van had failed to negotiate the bend outside the pub, which is a listed building, had careered across the road and hit the entrance porch. This had skewed the porch, dislodging a large amount of brickwork and cracking the front wall. This crack had extended down into the beer cellar and the owners had contemplated closing the place.

Lyn and I actually went back to Womersley the next day to have lunch at a friend's house and as we passed The Grantley we noted that it was still open for business but I dread to think what the value of the insurance claim will be.

Mike (Not the lowest scorer this year) Baker

Working Party 29 July and Club Improvement Update.

With the river still in flood and sailing not possible the 29th was used as an impromptu working party day.

We worked along the upper fence line removing brambles and trimming the trees. A surprising amount of material was removed and taken up to the back of the car area for composting.

The wild flowers which at the time covered the bank were left untouched. Thanks to everybody who helped, it was much appreciated.

The handrail alongside the patio steps has now been fitted and varnished. All the modified garage doors have been fitted below the patio effectively enclosing the space under the decking.

The low wall at the back of the patio has still to be finished to provide additional seating similar to that on the top patio.

The enclosed area under the patio will be used for storage. Some of the equipment (e.g. the safety boat gear and the racing marker buoys) will be transferred so that they are adjacent to the boats rather than having to be brought along the water front every time from their present location.

Another, external, job that needs to be done before more heavy rain will be to complete the concrete culvert that runs along behind the clubhouse and channels rainwater away. The water damage in the club foyer was partly caused because this culvert only reaches halfway across the back of the club.

Outstanding jobs include re-marking out the car park bays, galley refurbishment and replacement of the lounge riverside windows.

Mike (Bodgit & Son) Baker

Bowl Water – Late August Bank Holiday

This was undoubtedly the best visit to Bowl Water that Aquarius SC has ever made, and it was totally unexpected.

The wind forecast was not good and we expected a bit of a drifter. On arrival we were told that all racing had been cancelled as of Saturday. Something was not right and the duty officials seem to think the problem lay with the club's current management committee.

However the OOD, who had nothing to do other than provide safety boat cover was really accommodating and offered to put some buoys out for us to race around. We decided that because the wind was actually pretty good we would just go out onto the water and enjoy ourselves. Imagine having the club and Bowl Water to virtually to ourselves.

By now everybody had arrived. This included Nigel with his son Andrew and Andrew's girlfriend Rachel. Richard and Rodger, Tony Hopkins, Alex Seaman, Roy Melsom, Keith and Madeline, Lyn and I. There was also our old Hawker friend Bill Poulton, Between us we had two SignET's, a Graduate, Enterprise and three Lasers; a total of 14 people.

The OOD suggested that we if we sailed across Chingley Deep and down the Bowl Straight to Dunsters Bay we could beach there and walk up to the Bull Inn at Three Leg Cross for lunch.

Keith and I however were unhappy about leaving Madeline and Lyn at the club. No problem, and obviously because he hadn't got anything better to

do, the OOD arranged to run them across in one of the club's ribs. He even provided them with a telephone number to call and be picked up afterwards.

Talk about service!

Keith and I spent an hour or so playing with the spinnaker gybing 'Saint' back and forth across the lake before turning down Bowl Straight and beaching with Roy and Alex in the Grad at Dunsters Bay. On the way down a very fast moving rib with Lyn and Madeline hanging on for grim death went hurtling passed us.

The Bull was about half a mile up the lane but was worth going to. We decided on a liquid lunch during which we were joined by the others. It turned out that the pub also does bed and breakfast so we duly noted that for the future.

When we got back to the beach Maddy called up the clubhouse and the rib was dispatched to bring them back to the club. Keith and I were halfway back up Bowl Straight when we were 'buzzed' by the rib. The girls had told the driver to get us wet and he did just that to the accompanying screams of laughter from Lyn and Maddy. We determined to get them back.

During the afternoon Lyn suddenly announced that she fancied a sail. Now any of you that know Lyn will be shocked by this. Lyn's happy in power boats, her father used to have a large cruiser, but generally she'd rather have

her teeth pulled out than get in a racing dinghy. Keith was so surprised that he offered to take her out before she could change her mind.

So, toggled up in my wet boots and buoyancy aid and less rings and watches, she went afloat. Maddy and I watched with interest and forty minutes later she was back having, in truth, thoroughly enjoyed herself.

Lyn never ceases to amaze me, a few years ago I watched her snorkelling and diving on a coral reef off Lombok. This is a girl who can't stand getting her face under the water but she just decided to learn and do it.

I then took Maddy out; or rather Maddy took me because she is actually a very good helm in her own right. By about 16:00 the wind was dropping but Keith went back out for a final solo sail and within the hour everybody was coming ashore.

It was a great day in scorching sunshine and a breeze just right for care-free sailing., 10 to 15 knots.

Over packing up it was agreed to meet at The Grasshopper, just outside Westerham on the A25, for dinner. This pub has a large car park which can easily accommodate all the boat road trailers.

I think the restaurant were a bit surprised when we all trooped in but recovered quickly and provided us with our own seating area so we could all be together. A perfect end to a perfect day!

Mike (back in Saint again)
Baker

'Long John' Neale's Musical Quiz - 13 October 2007

We've had a number of quiz nights at the club over the last few years but this one was the first musical quiz which actually involved listening to music. It must have taken John ages to put together.

John had arranged the evening into classical, shows/films, jazz/big bands & memory lane sections. Four teams called A Minors, B Sharps, Top C's and D Lites competed.

After the first two sections Diana Carpenter provided a delicious buffet ably assisted by Linda and Anne; there was a very different selection of food. Pete and Nigel manned the bar dispensing the all important brain stimulants.

The last two sections were then fought out with 'Long John' manning the tape deck and insisting that every-

body was bound to know the answer to the next question.

In the end the A Minors won with 68 points, the D Lites were 2nd with 63 points, Top C's were third with 50 points and the B Sharps, who all claimed they were far too young to know the answers to most of the questions, came 4th with 38 points.

Many thanks to John for putting the whole evening together, and to Annie, who's home decorating programme was severely impaired while John enjoyed himself dusting off the vinyl and recording the music used on the evening.

Mike (Child of the Sixties)
Baker



John having fun
presenting the music quiz

SigneT Open Meeting at AQSC – 2 September 2007

I think this was the third SigneT Open to be run at AQSC. The three qualifying races were run alongside our normal Sunday racing with the SigneT results being extracted from the overall placings.

Three visitor dinghies joined three AQSC SigneT's for this the penultimate open of the year. The last will be at Ferry Meadows later this month.

AQSC boats included ST858 (The Saint) helmed by Roy Melsom and crewed by Madeline Hatton, ST368 (June) helmed by Richard Cannon and crewed by Rob Britton and ST369 (Over Easy) helmed by Mike Baker and crewed by Keith Hatton.

The visitor boats were ST192 helmed by Simon Mann and crewed by Stephen Whiteside, ST914 Helmed by Pat Overs and crewed by Johnathan Leeding and ST690 helmed by Lizzie Overs and crewed by Hanna Whiteside.

The weather was a mixture of sun and cloud with the wind from the West at typically 3 occasionally gusting 4. The OOD was Nigel Knowles, AOD was Anne Bond and patrol boat was Pete Carpenter. The course was an upstream start to the Port upstream windward mark then a long run, with or without spinnaker, to the Port downstream mark then back up to a Port and Stbd dog leg set across the river at 25 yards downstream of the start line. Virtually the entire course was visible from the club's patio which was appreciated by the 'non sailing' contingent made up of both SigneT and AQSC folks.

Richard Cannon gave the briefing just prior to the first race stressing, to the visitors, some of the peculiarities of sailing on the river; the amount of non-sailing traffic being of particular concern for those not used to it. He also explained that AQSC boats would also be competing over the same course with the same start.

Race 1 - Started at 11:30 and ST368, ST858 and ST369 quickly established a significant lead over the other boats. Indeed by the end of the race, an hour later, some had been lapped by the leading dinghies. The finishing order was ST368, ST858, ST369, ST914, ST192 and ST690

A lunch BBQ was well underway by the time the crews came ashore provided by Nigel, Pat Shore and Liz Archer. Pete opened up the bar and there was quite a bit of discussion on how river sailing differed from our visitors usual venues.

Race 2 – Started at 13:30 and was a virtual re-run of Race 1 with the addition of a ST690 capsize. The finishing order was ST368, ST858, ST369, ST914, ST192 and ST690

Signet Open Meeting - preparing
to start the first race



Race 3 – Started at 15:15 but this time Simon Mann in ST192 had a good start and was first around the windward mark. Gradually however Richard Cannon in ST368 and Roy Melsom in ST858 had overhauled him by lap two; then started a battle royal between Simon in ST192 and yours truly in ST369. Over several laps the boats were never more than a few yards apart.

The lead between these two changed hands several times but was finally sorted when the boats came together on opposite tacks right in front of the clubhouse. Simon called Starboard and ST369 failed to turn fast enough. The two boats were locked together for a moment before ST192 managed to brake free. ST369 executed the required two turned penalty and set off in pursuit.

Meanwhile ST690 capsized yet again as the result of a violent gybe. At the final mark ST192 and ST369 were neck and neck but as they approached the line ST192 had established a boat lengths lead which was all he needed to take third place. It was a great sail and enjoyed by both crews. The finishing order was ST368, ST858, ST192, ST369, ST690 and ST914

Tea and cakes were served after the last race and while the visitors started to pack-up Richard and Liz worked out the final results. The prize giving was held on the patio. Nigel Knowles (AQSC Commodore) thanked everybody for coming and invited Richard to announce the results which were as follows:-

6th ST690	Welsh Lady	Paxton Lakes SC	11 pts.
5th ST914	Plop	Paxton Lakes SC	8 pts.
4th ST192	Bobbadee	Royal Eng YC	8 pts.
3rd ST369	Over Easy	Aquarius SC	6 pts.
2nd ST858	The Saint	Aquarius SC	4 pts.
1st ST368	June	Aquarius SC	2 pts.

Congratulations to Richard and Rob who won all three races and the Hawker Hunter Aileron Bracket (a throwback to Hawker SC days) which was presented by AQSC Presidents wife Joan Bray.

Before everybody drifted away Pat reminded the 'SigneT's' that the last open of the year would be on 16 September at Ferry Meadows preceded by a committee meeting, the afternoon before, at Chez Overs.

I thought the day was a great success. Past opens at AQSC have been blighted by indifferent conditions to the point where Richard and I were quite concerned about even holding the event on our patch. We needn't have worried, it was as near perfect as you can get for sailing on the river and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, which, at the end of the day is what it's all about.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

The Bodgit Gondola was built for the 2006 Ladies Night (Mascheranda) for transporting the Bodgit Ballet team



Working Party - 6 October

On Saturday there was very good support for the working party. Around 23 members achieved a great deal and were rewarded by an excellent lunch and tea prepared by Joan Bray and helpers. Fortunately the weather was ideal for all the outside work.

Following the very heavy rain this summer there was dampness in the foyer. The source of water ingress was identified as rain overflowing the "damp proof" course behind the clubhouse. A channel was dug out and it was lined with paving stones to give much better drainage for water running off the roof. Nigel continued work on Sunday lining it with cement instead of sailing.



The trailer park is a problem with stinging nettles and this has been reduced by laying paving stone over a big area of the entrance; this was very hard heavy work. Another large area was covered with carpet and some surplus decking.

Apart from these major tasks there was strimming of the banks, car park, trailer park, and boat berths.

Dinghy Show 2008

The arrangements for the 2008 Dinghy Show, which is to be held at Alexandra Palace on the 1st & 2nd March, are well underway.

Application and deposit for the SigneT stand has already been made and at Ferry Meadows Chris Whiteside agreed that his dinghy ST522 (Joker) would be our featured boat. This is no small undertaking because it commits the owner to a lot of work to prep the boat to exhibition standards.

The class looks forward to welcoming AQSC members to the show. If you've never been to Alexandra Palace put those dates in your diary now, its well worth a visit.

Mike
(SigneT Stand Manager)
Baker

Dominic Lunniss paddling the Gondola at the 2007 Regatta



Members Trailers in the Trailer Park

All trailers kept in the trailer park must be identified with the owner and boat they belong to. There are a large number of trailers and many are not identified, don't appear to have been used for a long time, and are in bad condition.

Some members have even forgotten which is their trailer. The owners of some trailers may no longer be members.

If you have a trailer please ensure it is identified else during a clear up it may be considered to have been abandoned and disposed off.

Bodgit Gondola

Mike Baker presented the Gondola to the Mead Play Group in Ewell where the children are having great fun with it



Publishing Newsletters

Since Spring 2005 the newsletters have been put on the website in 2 formats:

1 As HTML pages with a contents pane listing all the stories. A story is selected for viewing by clicking on it in the contents pane.

2 As a PDF (Portable Document Format) file that opens in Adobe Acrobat and prints identical to the paper copy of the newsletter you receive, except that pictures have the bonus of being in colour. Size is 100 to 500 kb depending on the number of pictures.

It has been suggested that many members with Internet access would be willing to download the newsletter instead of receiving a paper copy. An e-mail would be sent saying a newsletter was available on line. Only around 18 members don't have email.

It is much easier and cheaper for the Club to distribute newsletters in electronic format. In future we intend to give members this option (hard copy will still be available if requested).

Please have a look at the newsletters on the website and see if this is agreeable to you. The online version should be available within a week of you receiving this newsletter.

Richard Cannon

Social Calendar - Dates For Your Diary

Sat 27 Oct	Kempton Park Fireworks and a social with hot food at the Club afterwards. Note change of date. For cut price (£5.50 instead of £8) advance tickets contact Richard Cannon on 01932 786636 by Wednesday 24 October; meet & park at Richard's at 7:00 pm for a short stroll to Kempton Park
Sat 17 Nov	AQSC Annual Dinner starting at 7:30 pm.
Sat 1 Dec	AGM, Prize Giving and End of Season Party starting at 7:30 pm..
Sun 16 Dec	Cheats Christmas lunch and bar billiards/games tournament.
2008	
Sun 13 Jan	Lunch and sailing rules quiz
Sun 10 Feb	Ladies Day, NOTE: change from Saturday night to Sunday day
Sun 17 Feb	Lunch and frostbite cruise/scavenger hunt
Sat 15 Mar	60th Anniversary dinner 8pm. NOTE: change from Start of Season Party
Sun 23 Mar	Start of sailing, Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races, best 3 count, Monday is Bank Holiday

Aquarius Sailing Club Annual Dinner Saturday 17 November 7:30 for 8:00

The annual dinner will be held in the Clubhouse:-

Dress: Smart

Price £24 includes:-

Reception drink at 7:30

Four course meal by Professional Caterers

Table wine

Coffee/Tea and mints

Candle light, soft music, and good company

Limited to 45 members on first come first served basis

This is a very popular dinner so earliest booking is advised; 10 November at the latest.

To secure tickets please complete the included Dinner

Menu entering:-

1. Menu selections for each person ticked.
2. Cheque, £24 per person, payable to Aquarius SC
3. Stamped addressed envelope for returning your tickets
4. Note that Phone bookings will **NOT** be accepted.

Send to Diana Carpenter

11 Chestnut Avenue

EWELL, Surrey KT19 0SY

PLEASE ORDER BY 10 NOVEMBER

Any tickets not sold by then will be offered to guests of members. Please include (G) against guests, they will be placed on a waiting list until 10 November when any remaining tickets will be allocated.

If anyone has items they would like to donate to the raffle would they please leave them at the club, by the 10th November, for Anne Bond to wrap.

Kempton Park Fireworks Saturday 27 October (Note change in date) Richard Cannon

This year the Kempton Park fireworks display is earlier than usual due to the availability of the venue. It is the largest display in Greater London; afterwards we will return to the clubhouse for soup & victuals.

Tickets in advance can be obtained from

<http://www.kemptonfireworks.org.uk>, up to 23 Oct, for £5.50 avoiding queuing on the night and. saving £2.50 over the 'on the night' price of £8.

Alternatively Richard Cannon can obtain advance tickets for members from a local shop for £5.50; please ring him on 01932 786636 by 23 Oct if you would like him to buy you tickets.

Members can meet and park at Richard's house, 77 Saxonbury Avenue, Lower Sunbury, by 7:00pm, for a short stroll to Kempton Park.

Annual General Meeting, Prize Giving and End of Season Party Saturday 1st December at 7:30 pm for 8 pm

Your presence is requested for the Annual General Meeting, the most important meeting of the year where the future administration of the club will be decided for the coming year.

Matters for discussion include elections for Commodore, Flag Officers and Committee, the club's finances and future plans.

Also included this year will be ratification of amendments to the Club Rules and Byelaws regarding Honorary members and their voting rights.

The Annual Prize Giving and End of Season Party will follow including our traditional mulled wine, mince pies and other tasty fare.

Joan Bray



Sailing Beyond the End of Season

The last scheduled racing for this year is on the 11 November but if the weather and river conditions are suitable for sailing then safety boat cover will be provided beyond this date. Members will be informed of intentions by e-mail.