



**AQUARIUS S.C.**

# THE MAIN SHEET

*Spring 2008 Edition*

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## The Commodore Writes

At one time the Start of Season Party really did mark the renewal of life at the Club; members emerged from winter hibernation, removed storm covers from their boats, dusted off the cobwebs and renewed their friendships. In recent years however we have had a winter program and at times the Club has been quite buzzing with activity.

This year has been no exception: As I write this we have just finished putting the Clubhouse back to "normal" following the hugely enjoyable 60th Anniversary Party which replaced the usual start of season party. Mike (trusty correspondent) Baker describes this elsewhere, but I add my congratulations and thanks to Diana and her team for a magnificent "do".

The programme of monthly Sunday lunches have been well supported, culminating in the Ladies Lunch on 17 February, when the Ladies were able to enjoy their aperitifs outside on the quarter deck in sunshine!

This year's Programme is being distributed with this newsletter and contains the usual old favourites together with some innovations. In particular Richard is planning more pursuit races on Sundays where circumstances allow. He has also made arrangements for an additional "away week" to Chichester Harbour, courtesy of Chichester Yacht Club. This coincides with the Signet Nationals and also Chichester YC's own family week, so we will be able to enjoy one or more day's sailing in good company.

As weather allows, we will be arranging impromptu events, for example BYO barbeques on Wednesday evenings and we will also schedule the "Midsummer Madness Cruise" to the pub (date currently secret in order not to tempt the rain gods!)

On the domestic front, plans are in place to replace the windows in the Clubroom, which are now in a somewhat sorry state. It is anticipated that some strengthening will also be necessary to the frontage, and hopefully the "dip" in the roof will be corrected. This will be followed, as time and finances allow, by refurbishment of the galley.

I conclude by drawing your attention to the work party on 26 April. As always there is always a lot of work to do to keep the common areas of moorings neat and tidy (individual berths are of course the occupier's own responsibility). In addition this year we are intending to take the patrol boat out of the water and start its refurbishment. Please note the date and do come along if you can.

Enjoy the season and good sailing!  
**Nigel Knowles**

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## 1 December - AQSC AGM and Prize Giving

The AGM is every full club member's opportunity to have their say about the way the club is run, what they want from the club, who they want to run it, or even, to be nominated and get involved with its management.

Over the last few years the management committee has been pretty proactive in the development of Aquarius but that's an ongoing business and the club is always looking for positive people who can contribute to its future plans.

The meeting, which started at 20:00, was chaired by our President George Bray. Following Apologies for Absence, Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising Nigel Knowles presented his Commodore's Report which is a sort of 'state of the union' address. He used his laptop and a screen projector but unfortunately this year some of the

graphics he planned to use decided they didn't want to work. Despite this Nigel gave a very good presentation which was warmly received.

The club's auditor, Graham Thompson, then presented the accounts and took questions arising.

The Commodore then stood down and George Bray presided over the election of club officers, management committee and auditor. Basically this was a re-election of the existing cadre.

The Commodore then presented proposed changes the club's rules concerned with Honorary Membership and use of the club's safety boats. He outlined the reasons for the proposed changes and requested a show of hands from eligible members for their acceptance.

Following "Any other Business" the meeting was closed and a buffet supper, arranged by the Aquarius ladies was served. Following supper the annual prize giving got underway presided over by our Sailing Secretary Richard Cannon. A listing of the winners can be found on the AQSC Website.

Following the prizegiving the evening ended with music and socialising in the club lounge.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

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## Enterprise and Trailer Free of Charge

Eric Bridgewater has an old Enterprise and Trailer that are available free to a member who is prepared to do them up.

See Bryan Clements for details.

## Frostbite Cruise Hanna Lunniss

The third Sunday lunch of the winter was held on 10th February and followed by a Frostbite Cruise in the afternoon. The weather was unusually summery for the time of year and the day started with many members sitting out on the decking area enjoying the sun before lunch, which was provided by Nigel Knowles with help from Pat Irving.

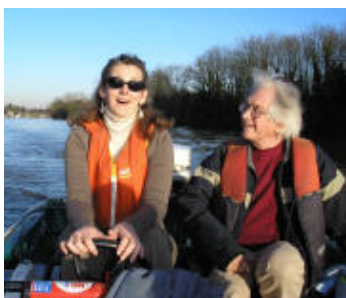
After excellent sausages and mash (with baked beans and red cabbage as well), followed by a delicious apple crumble, the assembled crowd drifted onto the riverbank for the start of the Frostbite Cruise - though someone had forgotten to order the frost!

A motley group of boats set off from the club just after three o'clock, consisting of the dory, the old rescue boat, Don Barnett's cruiser, a canoe and Graham Thompson's rowing boat. The course of the cruise was from Platt's Eyot to Sunbury lock and everyone had a cryptic quiz to complete using clues along the route.

There were also extra points on offer for the most interesting pieces of flotsam. Ben Chips and Robbie & Dominic Lunniss found an old buoy; Lydia and Julia Iremonger retrieved a selection of dog toys and my dad and I found an old piece of fence post with a precarious number of iron nails sticking out of it along the way, as well as several 'interesting' pieces of drift wood collected by various members.

It was very quiet on the river, despite the weather, and everyone had lots of fun trying to spot the clues and exploring the various side channels in search of items to salvage. There was much doubling back and friendly banter along the way as well, and the journey was enjoyed by all.

The boats arrived back at Aquarius just in time for tea, after which the answers to the quiz were given out and the team in the dory (Richard Cannon, Stuart and Mike & Jean Hendra) were declared the winners, though the chocolate prize was shared by all.



## Christmas 2007

Well there went another one. I do hope yours was all you hoped it would be and that the season of good cheer didn't become something you'd rather forget. Apparently nearly two million people spent Christmas abroad this year. I wonder what they knew that we didn't, maybe that this year the airport baggage handlers had other things on their minds and had forgotten to strike. The best silly story I heard went as follows:-

Santa Claus, like all aviators, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the FAA examiner arrived last week for the pre-Christmas flight check.

In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. He knew they would examine all his equipment and truly put Santa's flying skills to the test.

The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and even Rudolph's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the check ride.

Santa got in and fastened his seat belt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun. "What's that for!?" asked Santa incredulously. The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this ahead of time," as he leaned over to whisper in Santa's ear, "but you're going to lose an engine on takeoff."

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## News of Members Joan Bray

We warmly welcome the following new members and wish them fair winds and a happy future with Aquarius; Ken Ayres, Tim Golding, and Peter & Georgina Clayton.

We also wish Jeremy Baverstock and Marie France best wishes for the future at their new club.

Jean Hendra and  
Richard Cannon  
Picture by Mike Hendra

## 11 November - Last Scheduled Racing Day of the 2007 Season

Where did the 2007 season go? It only seems like yesterday, actually 25 March, that we chased the creepy crawlies out of the boats and started sailing and here we are finished again!

Firstly I must say a big thanks to Richard for organising the years racing and, of course, to everyone for turning up and doing their OOD, AOD and Safety Boat duties. Without all that the annual racing program would be in a lot of trouble.

The Dory has proved to be a real asset, especially after the work that Pete, Laurie and Bryan have put into sorting out problems with her hull and engine. Well done guys!

Unusually the 11th was a halfway decent day with only the last of the three races failing to deliver a sailable wind.

Activities will continue on Sundays for as long as conditions allow so just because there's no scheduled racing don't let it stop you coming down and getting afloat.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Christmas Serenade

This year's run-up to Christmas provided a little gem thankfully not missed by a dozen or so AQSC members.

It was, as the title suggests, a musical serenade given by Pat Halling's Leonardo String Quartet on 22 December at the Riverside Arts Centre in Lower Sunbury.

The programme included the music of Vivaldi, Dvorak, Strauss, Gershwin and also introduced Ann Halling who read "Christmas" by John Betjeman.

The morning started with mulled wine and mince pies before the quartet including Pat, Claire Griffin, Nigel Rowlands and Anne Lynes took their places.

The mini concert lasted about an hour and a half and was enchanting, a far cry from the commercial Christmas mayhem going on outside.

On behalf of Lyn & I, Richard, Nigel, Liz, Graham & Eiko, Rodger & Linda and George & Joan I would once again like to thank Anne & Pat and the members of the quartet for taking the time to provide such an enjoyable and unexpected diversion on a cold pre-Christmas morning.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Tales From The Norfolk Broads

### Bob Sumners

Looking at the card we enclose reminded us of a true story which happened during the summer of 2007.

A group of young people hired a cruiser for the week, stocked it with food and drink. They set off full of enthusiasm determined to have a good time. Not long into their week of fun, one of the group was suddenly awakened by, well what only could be described as feeling of being decidedly wet.

As panic set in amongst the group, one of them had the idea of phoning 999. The cruiser was sinking and when asked 'where are you' the reply came back 'not sure'. The only clue the group could give was that they were

somewhere between Acle and Great Yarmouth a river distance of some 6 miles.

Bearing in mind this was in the middle of the night, the rescue boat had a task on their hands. It took some while before they were found and with a happy ending the group were saved. This story made the local news on television.

The moral of this is, that there may be 250 miles of safe waterway but make sure you know where you are and don't drink too much.

Regards to all at the Aquarius

From Bob Janet who would like to wish the Club and its members a Happy 2008, with plenty of nice wind making good sailing.



## 17 November - AQSC Annual Dinner

Over the last few years the annual dinner has been held in the clubhouse and has proved very popular so it was a little disappointing that attendance at this year's dinner was down a bit at thirty-nine. Nigel had a family commitment so our Vice Commodore Graham Thompson stepped in to host the evening despite being in the early stages of a really nasty cold.

Diana Carpenter had chosen a blue and silver theme for the tables which was also used for the raffle prizes. For the first time the clubhouse sported a very fetching Xmas tree as part of the decorations and together with the effect lighting and candles the whole place looked really welcoming.

The dinner itself was a choice from three starters (tomato & basil soup or avocado, mango & smoked chicken salad or Ardennes pate with plum chutney), three main courses (breast of chicken filled with brie & cranberry wrapped in smoked bacon and served with mushroom sauce or lamb shank with red wine & rosemary gravy or roast vegetable stroganoff) and three

deserts (lemon tart with red fruit coulis or vanilla crème brulee or white chocolate & raspberry roulade) followed by a cheese course and coffee with mints. Pre dinner drinks were served from the bar by Peter and Rodger.

Place cards with names and personal menu choices were already on the tables, which this year were reduced to four, reflecting the lower numbers. Wine was included with the meal, bottles of which were already on the tables by the time members & guests were invited to be seated. Graham then invited Keith Hatton to say grace and things got underway.

I thought the dinner itself was a great success, well cooked, hot, and efficiently served. Although traditionally there are no speeches, because of the close proximity to the AGM, there were plenty of toasts, some formal and some, let's say, not so formal.

Following dinner Anne & Leo Bond sold tickets for, and held the raffle, which always proves very popular. During coffee Graham thanked "Food for Thought" for the catering and Anne

## 2008 RYA Dinghy Show

This year's show was held at Alexandra Palace on the 1st & 2nd March. Chris Whiteside, Steve Leeding and I set up the SigneT stand on the prior Friday afternoon.

Chris's dinghy 'Joker' was on display this year and looked very smart in its red, white and varnish livery. The stand had all its usual display boards with pictures and class information and was located in the west hall just to the right of the main stage area.

Quite a few class and businesses didn't get stand allocations this year because of late application. Amongst them was the Allen half of Holt-Allen who parted company in January of this year.

I didn't think the show was very crowded and the people who were there seemed to already be in the sport. There didn't seem to be many new people around, which was disappointing.

There were plenty of events with presentations on cruising, sailing photography, dinghy design, the road to the Beijing Olympics, clothing, recovery etc. Etc.

The show finished at 5:00pm on Sunday and because of our stand location, right in front of the main West Hall doors, we had priority exit passes. Everything was broken down and loaded into Joker and we were out through those doors at 5:15pm, an all time record.

The show itself is very expensive for small class like SigneT relative to what we get out of it. Costs have been rising 15% year on year for some time. I fear we may be approaching the time when these costs become unsustainable and we have to give serious consideration to the shows worth, from a class point of view.

**Mike (SigneT Stand Manager) Baker**

& Leo for managing the raffle. He then presented Diana with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for organising the evening.

Although Lyn and I left shortly after dinner because I was still getting over a bout of Flu; we thoroughly enjoyed the evening which was obviously far from over with tables being moved back for dancing. Well done Diana, another great success.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**



## Club Improvements Update

Nigel installed a new Belling double oven in the galley prior to the annual dinner. Last year our caterers were less than impressed with one of the old cookers and had 'suggested' that we did something about it.

All the doors have now been fitted to the underside of the new quarterdeck (i.e. the patio) and Stuart has done a great job painting them white.

A better, larger drainage gully has been dug along the back of the club and this has now been concreted. Hopefully this will drain all the rainwater from the rear facing part of the roof and solve the damp problems we were suffering during the later part of summer 2007 (picture on the website).

The rear quarterdeck wall has been raised and seating installed. This included the installation of low level lighting along the back of the quarterdeck and on the rear wall the quarterdeck steps. These are controlled by the same PIR that operates the existing waterfront and car park lighting.

The riverside benches at the bottom of the quarterdeck steps, which were removed during construction work, have also been replaced.

The trailer park has been greatly improved following the laying of paving slabs over a good proportion of its area.

During November we discovered that the small bore sewage pipe that runs from the clubhouse was compromised and was leaking through Sunnyside banking onto the entrance lane. Because of the location we were pretty sure that nothing we had done had caused this. Nigel contacted Mike Mason, a member who works for Thames Water, and he agreed to have it taken care of. Mike is very good and in the past arranged for the new gates at the road entrance to discourage fly-tipping.

This occurrence was coincidental with Aquarius recently publishing its 'Pollution Control Plan' as required by the Environment Agency. The PCP is on the club website.

I'm pleased to announce that the changing rooms shower is working again

after various bits of its inner workings were replaced by Rodger Wheeler in December.

Planned improvements during 2008 include replacement of the lounge riverside windows and refurbishment of the entire galley area. The existing window frames are in a desperate state and beyond the 'filler and paint' stage. They have to be replaced. The galley, although still useable, needs a new floor and a total revamp to cope with its increasing usage. The kitchen units for this work have already been acquired.

The old waterfront lockers are also gradually being cleared out to free up storage space. Bodgit & Son officially went back to work on 18 February 2008 and warmed up by installing a double glazed window in the starter hut. It's so big we wondered if we should fit it with windscreen wipers. This was followed by side windows and a new door. Just needs a coat of paint and some electrics and we will have one spiffy looking race box.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Club Open Weekend

This year's open weekend will be over the weekend of 10th & 11th 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

## December 16 - Cheats Xmas Lunch

This years CXL was prepared by our recently re-elected Commodore Nigel Knowles. He's actually not a bad cook, comes from being in the Boy Scouts I think.

When Lyn & I arrived at 11:00 to open the bar Nigel, ably assisted by Stuart, Don and Helen were already peeling spuds. Lyn set about laying up the tables while I got the bar sorted out. By about 12:30 some thirty people had arrived and the bar was heaving.

Just before 13:00 Nigel called for some 'Junior' volunteers to help serve lunch. This included Tomato vegetable soup, roast chicken, roast & boiled potatoes and a medley of vegetables. Desert was Xmas pudding with brandy sauce and ice cream. This was followed by coffee and mints. The meal was great. Well done Nigel. Thanks also to everybody who helped serve-up and or wash-up and a special thanks to all the youngsters who acted as waiters and waitresses. Good job guys!

After lunch the room was cleared, four teams selected and battle commenced with darts, bar billiards and table tennis competitions being hotly contested.

The afternoon was interesting, a bar billiards ball jumped the table and a ping-pong ball nearly got skewered by a dart. Nobody seem to know which team they belonged to but this didn't seem to matter and in the end three teams were declared joint winners.

The prize was sweets all round with extra goodies going to the younger members as a thank you for their lunch time duties. The afternoon ended with tea and hot mince pies.

Further lunches are planned for the New Year, the first I think being linked with a sailing rules quiz. The last time we had one of those it proved very interesting. Nobody seemed to know anything but everybody had an opinion. Let's hope some RYA racing rules reading has been done since then.



Dominic Lunniss  
Near Capsize  
Picture by Mike Hendra

## 15 March - 60th Anniversary Celebrations

The last such celebration was the club's 50th back in 1998. Then every living AQSC Commodore was assembled together with surviving founder members and the Major of Richmond and Flag Officers of all the surrounding sailing clubs. It was a great evening and such a success that, ten years on, it was decided to organise something to mark our 60th birthday. The social committee, lead by Diana, settled on a 'posh' buffet. Linda Rowley volunteered to make the anniversary cake.

On the Wednesday before a final meeting was held to ensure nothing had been missed. On the morning of the party a marquee was erected over the whole quarterdeck. This had been especially bought from E-bay because it was exactly the right size for the job.

Food tables were laid up on the quarterdeck, display boards erected and tables and chairs scattered around while Nigel set up his ceiling hung digital projector to run a continuous slide display.

By 6:30pm the food that had been placed in the large glass fronted chiller cabinet that Pete had delivered earlier

in the day was transferred to the serving tables. It looked a real picture and at its centre Linda's Anniversary cake looked too good to cut, let alone eat.

Shortly after 7:00pm members started arriving including representatives who had been invited from Hampton, Desborough, Staines and Littleton Sailing Clubs. In the event some 80 people attended the event which was hosted by our Commodore Nigel Knowles. Several of our past Commodores had been invited including Nigel Richards (1988-1990) and his wife Lesley and Ron Simmons (1973-1975). I don't know what the collective is for Commodores but a picture of them all, and their ladies, appears in this issue.

Following an hour of reminiscing in the bar the buffet was served. It was quite a spread with something for everyone and every taste. After the buffet Nigel thanked everybody involved in the evening's organisation with special thanks going to Diana, Linda and Joan Bray who were all presented with bouquets of flowers. He then asked each of the past Commodores to speak, about their time as 'boss'.

John Botterill's part was of special interest. Ahead of this anniversary John had been preparing a history of the club from 1948 to 2008. During his bit he distributed a number of copies. Since that evening I have had a chance to read the booklet I have to tell you it's quite something and required reading for anybody who wants to know about the history of AQSC. Following the speeches glasses of Champagne were distributed and a toast to the club was followed by the cutting of Linda's beautiful cake.

The evening went on late into the night with everyone agreeing it was one of the best functions ever put on at Aquarius. The quarterdeck and marquee really came into their own virtually doubling the available space at the club and enable room for plenty of seating to be provided.

Well done Aquarius and here's to your Centennial in 2048.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Commodores past and present, picture by Frank Rainsborough



Mike & Lyn  
Baker  
1995-7  
2003-5

John  
Botterill  
1998-90

Nigel & Lesley  
Richards  
1985-87

Nigel & Anne  
Knowles  
2006-9

George & Joan  
Bray  
1979-81

Ron  
Simmons  
1973-5

Linda & Rodger  
Wheeler  
1998-2002

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## Electronic Newsletter Publishing

Newsletters have been on the website as web pages for 9 years and as PDF documents, which are identical to the printed newsletter except for having colour pictures, for 3 years.

For this issue members were given the option of receiving the the newsletter by email; 30% of members have agreed to this. Thanks to everyone who responded as electronic publishing is a considerable benefit to the club and those involved in distributing the newsletters.

# Events On And Off The Water That You Won't Want To Miss During 2008

## 10 & 11 May - AQSC Open Weekend

How about bringing a friend or two along to the club for a coffee and a sail. If everybody brought one or two people down over the weekend we wouldn't need to advertise. How about some of our younger members, you must have some friends who would like a day messing about in boats.

## 28 & 29 June - AQSC Regatta and BBQ

A not to be missed weekend. Last years regatta and Saturday night 'hog roast' was the best ever. The Sunday afternoon strawberry tea is also 'a must'. The emphasis is on fun and we still need to beat the record for how many people can be got on a Laser.

## Saturday 19 July - Skittles Night at The Grantley Arms, Womersley

The annual challenge to Lyn's Embercourt Badminton Club has been issued and accepted. This really is a fun evening. Good company, good beer and good food. Sure, the skittles are 'competitive' it's just that we don't take it that seriously. Don't take my word for it just ask any of the Aquarius members who have been coming along over the last four or five years. The maximum number of places available (for both clubs) is forty. Early booking is advised and will be taken on a first come first served basis.

The cost this year remains the same as last year at £15.00 per head. This includes the use of the skittles lane from 6:00pm to 11:00pm and a main course. Deserts are extra at £3.75 per head, but need to be ordered with your main meal. Coffee is also available and can be ordered over the bar on the evening. The price also includes prizes for the winning team and highest scoring lady and gentleman.

This year's menu is as follows and contains something for everybody. Please choose a main course and desert, if required, and send me your order which I must have at the absolute latest by 11 July 2008. This can be done via the telephone (020 8393 5495 there is an answerphone) or via email at mail@bakerm.me.uk or by post to 80, Amberley Gardens, Stoneleigh, Epsom, Surrey KT19 0NG. Bookings will not be accepted after 11 July 2008.

### Main Course:

1. Chargrilled Chicken Beast (with garlic & herb seasoning) with Chips & Salad.
2. Cheese Burger with Chips & Salad
3. Plain Burger with Chips & Salad
4. Chicken Burger with Chips & Salad
5. Salsa and Bean Burger with Chips & Salad (V)
6. Chicken Korma with Rice & Poppadums
7. Scampi with Chips & Salad
8. Mushroom and Vegetable Korma with Rice & Poppadums (V)
9. Vegetarian Sausages and Mash in a giant Yorkshire Pudding with Onion Gravy (V)
10. Steak and Kidney Pie with Chips and Peas
11. Sausage and Mash in a giant Yorkshire Pudding with Onion Gravy

### Deserts:

- a. Hot Chocolate Fudge Cake
- b. Hot home made Apple Pie
- c. Lemon Sorbet
- d. Orange Sorbet

The above served with Ice-Cream, Cream or Custard (please specify)

I do not require any money to be sent to me at this time. That will be collected at the pub on the night. However be warned, if you order food and do not turn up, you will still be charged.

## Monday 26 May and Monday 25 August Bowl Valley SC

BVSC have decided that Bank Holiday Regattas don't really work and this year Family Sailing is planned rather than Regatta racing. It will give a good opportunity to explore Bowl Water at your leisure without the pressures of racing. Last year there wasn't racing and we had a smashing time.

Mike (Skittles) Baker



Glorious weather for Ladies Day

## Pursuit Races

Up to the end of the last millennium one of the series was run as a pursuit race. This year pursuit races have been re-introduced for the Summer Series.

With pursuit races the start time for a boat depends on its handicap so if boats sailed to their handicap all the boats would finish at the same time.

The start times will be based on the boat handicap + the personal handicaps to give inexperience helm a chance to be at the front. This means that in a race lasting 70 minutes for a novice helm in a Mirror a top helm in a Laser would start around 30 minutes after the Mirror; Although this seems an impossible time to make up we used to get some very close finishes.

The Race Officers have a much harder tasks managing pursuit races, especially at the start when the start times must be evaluated. The finish is at a fixed time and may be anywhere on the course; at the finish the winner is the leading boat on the water and the places of other boats is their place on the water at the finish time.



## 13 January - Lunch and Sailing Rules Quiz

An excellent Lunch was organised by Liz Archer, Joan & Gordon Courtney.

The sailing rules quiz was set by Graham Thompson but unfortunately he was struck down by a lurgy and Pat Halling filled the breach at the last minute.

By way of an introduction Richard Cannon gave a short presentation on the RYA Sailing Charter, that we comply with, using Nigel Knowles projector and RYA slides. The Charter enables much less formal protest procedures to be used.

Rather than the planned quiz the rest of the afternoon took the form of an interactive session between Pat and the members on aspects of the rules.

The afternoon finished with tea and cakes.

## 17 February - Ladies (Valentines) Day Lunch

For the organisers of this event it has become something of a nightmare. The reason is that it has become a victim of its own success and every year expectations get higher and higher. The Venetian Ball turned the clubhouse into a little bit of Venice. The Medieval dinner turned the clubhouse into a castle and the Moulin Rouge evening converted the clubhouse into a Paris nightclub.

Salvation presented itself when it was decided to hold a formal 60th Anniversary bash at the club. This was going to be too close to the Ladies Dinner. However there was no way that the Ladies occasion was going to get overlooked or worse overshadowed. It just required some innovative thinking.

Nigel then had a Eureka moment (he gets these from time to time). These are like senior moments but a whole lot more constructive. Apparently one of Bodgits neighbours owns and runs a Thai Restaurant and it was thought she might be persuaded to supply the food for an Aquarius Ladies Lunch at the club. You've got to hand it to him Nigel's a smooth operator (nothing to do with the fact he absolutely adores Thai food of course). The lady in question was contacted and agreed to provide everything required if the gentlemen (I use that term loosely) would provide the waiters etc.

Weather wise the morning of the lunch was absolutely glorious. So much so that as people arrived they opted to sit out on the quarterdeck to enjoy a pre lunch drink. Meanwhile inside the tables had been laid up, the bar opened and the kitchen was a hive of activity.

Lunch was catered by 'Simply Thai'. Starters included crispy minced pork & prawns on toast, mini vegetable spring rolls, prawns and smoked salmon salad laced with fresh lemon grass and coriander dressing. The main course consisted of steamed salmon with asparagus with tomato and lemon grass sauce; Braised lamb with Thai herbs, ginger and orange flavoured with a light soy sauce; Spicy sweet pork with fine beans; Steamed Thai jasmine rice. Desert was fresh fruit salad topped with vanilla ice-cream. The meal was rounded off with coffee and mints.

Forty people had booked for the lunch and before it started several of the Ladies suggested that we move the tables out onto the quarterdeck. Now I know this is a great addition to the club but we did think it was a little early in the year to use it. Certainly it will come into its own in the warmer weather.

Over drinks Nigel welcomed everybody and distributed carnations to each of the Ladies. The meal itself was excellent, hot, not too spicy and plenty of it. The wine flowed and conversation rippled around the clubhouse totally drowning out the background music. Nigel proposed the toast to the Ladies to which Anne Bond responded thanking the club for the lunch and flowers. The afternoon passed incredibly quickly, a sure sign that people were having a good time.

Thanks go to 'Simply Thai' for the food, Nigel for organising, Rodger for looking after the pre lunch drinks and flowers and to all the gentlemen who assist before, during and after to make the event a resounding success.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## 10 January - AQSC's Annual Visit To The Panto

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a Panto. This year's was Peter Pan at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking. A reduced number of Aquarius 'panto groupies' turned up including George & Joan, Pete & Diana, Eiko & Graham and Lyn & I. Nigel & Anne were away skiing, which I guess is the next best thing and Leo & Anne went down with a bug and couldn't make it.

There seem to be a lot of Australian & American soap stars moonlighting in our panto's over the last few years and this year was no exception with Henry Winkler 'The Fonz' from Happy Days playing Captain Hook. There can't be a person alive that doesn't know the story of Peter Pan, so I'll skip that. The cast also included Clare Buckley (Holby City & Dancing on Ice) as Peter Pan and Andy Collins (BBC1 Garden SOS & Family Fortunes) as Smee.

I thought the show was a little tired with no one strong, usually comedy character, to carry it. Winkler relied heavily on his 'Happy Days' acting and, at times, had trouble handling the boisterous comments from the younger audience. The staging was very good with all the usual flying effects. The use of computer projected images to enhance the flying sequences during the flight to Never-Never Land was especially good.

Not a bad show with plenty of audience participation, loud music and colour. I'm glad to say that a very British Christmas institution appears to be alive and well. We shall certainly be along next year for our annual Panto fix.

Mike (He's behind you) Baker

## Safety Boat Service

Our Yanmar engined safety boat went down to Tim Barfields in early March for its annual service. Not an earth shattering piece of news but something many of us feel is one of the most important things we get done during the year. Its got to be good to know that each time you turn that key the engine is going to fire first time, every time. A will it or won't it rescue boat about as much use as a chocolate teapot. It's not cheap but what cost do you put on H&S and peace of mind?

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

## Sailing and Social Programme March - May 2008

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

The Summer Series will be Pursuit races with each boat's start time based on Boat plus Personal Handicap.

The Wednesday afternoon Series will start on 14 May and end on 10 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 10th and 11th May; members are asked to bring friends and neighbours who might be tempted to sail.

On the Late Spring Holiday Monday 28 May, and the Late Summer Holiday Monday 28 August we visit the Bewl Valley SC; this year they are having family sailing days and not open racing days.

New this year is a visit to the Chichester YC from Saturday 2nd to Friday 8th August; their family week starts on Monday 4th. A number of AQSC members will be there for the Signet National Championships from Saturday to Friday.

Date	11:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Duty Officers, Evening & Notes
<b>March</b>				
23	Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races best 3 to count			Richard Cannon, Tony Hopkins, David Jennings
30	Fun Race	Spring Race 1	Spa Race 1	Peter Carpenter, Grace Family, Roy Clough
<b>April</b>				
06	Fun Race	Spring Race 2	Spa Race 2	John Botterill, Downes family, Tony Adcock
Sat 12	<b>Indoor Olympics</b>			
13	Fun Race	Spring Race3	Spa Race 3	Eric Bridgewater, Cath Bridger, Roy Clough
Sat 19	Mid-Thames Trophy at Desborough SC			
20	Fun and training races for new members			Rodger Wheeler, Leo Bond, Mick Rogers
27	Fun Race	Spring Race 4	Sprint 1 & 2	Richard Cannon, Lunniss family, Don Barnett
<b>May</b>				
04	Fun Race	Spring Race 5	Spa Race 4	Leo Bond, Anne Bond, Graham Thompson
Sat 10	Aquarius Sailing Club Open Weekend			Laurie Bridges, Sarah Herbert, Mike Baker
11	Open day, Training and Funday Racing			George Bray, Joan Bray, John Botterill
18	Fun Race	Spring Race 6	Spa Race 5	T Allen, B Allen/L Archer, B Clements. SCOA Paxton
Mon 26	Bewl Valley SC visit, Family Sailing			

## Opportunity to sail at Chichester YC 2-8 August 2008

This years Signet Nationals are being held at Chichester YC (CYC <http://www.cyc.co.uk/>) between the above dates. Several AQSC members will be competing in this annual event which also coincides with CYC Open Family Week which runs from Monday 4th to Friday 9th.

It has been arranged with CYC that if any AQSC members would like the opportunity to experience tidal salt water sailing they would be welcome to join in the family week sailing. Also members can visit on Saturday 2nd and

Sunday 3rd for great cruising.

Although not actually open sea sailing the water is tidal with sailing possible for about two hours either side of high tide which varies from 13:20 on Saturday to 17:14 on Friday.

CYC is a large friendly club with excellent facilities. The club has a licensed bar and a great restaurant.

Entry fees for the week range from £30 for (Senior) two handed to £7.50 for (Junior) single handers with single day entry at £7 for Seniors and £3.50 for Juniors plus harbour dues.

Generally there are two races a day.

Apart from the sailing programme there will also be many family and evening social activities.

Because this is a popular area overnight accommodation should be booked as early as possible. The Chichester tourist board website (<http://www.visitichichester.org/stay.asp>) lists most availability in the area. Camping local to CYC is also available at the Ellscott campsite (Tel 01243 51200)

Picture from CYC website

