



AQUARIUS S.C.

THE MAIN SHEET

Spring 2009 Edition

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Commodore's Report

Not much is going on at the club at present sailing wise, plenty of current and no sailing, plenty of snow and no sailing.

Bodgit and Co are busy as usual, aren't they always! There are endless jobs that require their attention. The safety boat repairs are causing a bit of a headache as sourcing a suitable propeller is not as easy as one would have thought, Bodgit and Co will prevail (I hope).

The Winter lunches are well attended and fun. Nigel is still the main driving force in this area probably because he is good at it and we need to make sure that he continues.

How many of you have made new year's resolutions? And kept them? One that I have made is to see a day when Aquarius has all sailable dinghies on the water! What a sight that would be! No reason why it couldn't happen is there? To that end we are going to have an "All on the water day", probably the open day to show prospective members that Aquarius has a lot to offer! Please do make the effort to get your dinghy in the water and sailing! What other use is there for a dinghy? There are a few that seem to be used as water butts!

I have come to realise that there is a lot of talent at Aquarius, not just in sailing although we can hold our own when required but also in a vast array of other areas, Bodgit and Co are just the tip of the iceberg.

I have no real grand plans for the club but just wish to see it grow steadily and give pleasure to new members who discover sailing the way I did just over 2 years ago. I have also discovered what a great crowd you all are and that together most things are possible.

Youth is important to the club as it is our way forward to bigger and better things but what is also very crucial is the dedication of the stalwarts that have made the club what it is and who keep the everyday running of the club seamless and I thank them.

As Commodore I will do my bit to steer the club forward the way members see fit but in the end it is up to you!

Great sailing for 2009.

Tony Hopkins

Commodore, Aquarius Sailing Club

Security Tony Hopkins

With the recent incident at the club moorings where one of the wet berth yachts was cut adrift it maybe be prudent for all wet births to be secured by padlock and chain. This to some degree is borne out by the fact that the 2 rescue boats having had their painters untied but were left secured by their security chains.

Something To Think About

What word looks the same upside down and backwards? (Answer in the next issue).

Subscriptions Joan Bray

Hi Folks!

It's that time for paying up again ! Subscription forms will be sent to you shortly and prompt payment will be appreciated.

As well as helping with administration costs your money is put towards projects to improve the Club's facilities several of which are planned for this year.

Wishing you all a very happy and successful season.

Newsletter Printing

The printing and paper costs of this Newsletter were met in full by JDC Independent Financial Advisers
69 The Green Twickenham
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We thank Frank Rainsborough for setting this up. Apart from the cost saving it makes it much easier.

News of Members Joan Bray

Welcome

We give a warm welcome to Paul Bryan, Andrew Morris & family also to Louisa Spawls & Tim Hollands and their family; wishing them a very happy membership of Aquarius.

AGM, Prizegiving and End of Season Party - John Neale

Some 40 stalwarts turned out on a very crisp evening to attend the Club's most important business meeting of the year and were rewarded upon entry to the delicious & heart warming aromas of mulled wine & goodies being prepared in the kitchen.

Our President George Bray, impressively attired in blazer & flannels, chaired the meeting which he opened at 20:00 with a welcoming address, followed by the Commodore, Nigel Knowles presenting his report in his usual efficient manner aided by computer controlled graphics projected onto a large screen to emphasise & support the various points he was making, oh, the wonders of modern technology !

Nigel was pleased to report that the Club is in good shape both numerically & physically, the latter following sustained efforts by Bodgit & Co in replacing the frontage windows, which necessitated much structural work, also refurbishment of the Start Hut and Safety Boat plus numerous smaller D.I.Y. Jobs. The regular work parties which are very well attended do much to keep the Clubhouse & surrounds in good shape.

Thanks to the influx of new & family members the club boats have been widely used with "senior" members providing support & tuition. Nigel said he was heartened by this & hopes the trend continues & expands, particularly among the young ones (cue for song). We now have 130 members comprising 68 Full members, 62 Family & Junior members, so we would like to see more on the water please! Shouts of Hear! Hear! were heard from Richard at this point.

On a down note, we had a burglary in November which caused damage to the Bosuns Hut & both the Bar & back doors plus loss of money & bar stocks. They even smashed open the pay phone in the lobby would you believe? This of course required repair work to be done, the installation of a new alarm & lighting system, and the introduction of a revised policy in the amounts of money left overnight on the premises.

On a happier note, we've had a good social year with several notable events including a live musical evening with Pat Halling & friends, a quiz night, a bowls tournament, a ladies night & the highlight of our "special year" the 60th anniversary party, concluding the years festivities with the Xmas dinner. Sincere thanks to all concerned in this most important aspect of Club life.

A word of warning however to all of us never to leave food & scraps around encouraging our little furry friends to come & party when we've gone home - please take heed!

Thus ended the Commodores Report, his last alas, for he is standing down having served us outstandingly well for the last 3 years, a point emphasised by the Chairman in his thanks to Nigel on his report & work for the Club, in recognition of which he (George) proposed that he (Nigel) be made an Honorary Member, which was approved wholeheartedly.

The next report was that of the Treasurer presented by Graham Thompson who supplied us all with 2 sheets of accounts & a sheet of multi coloured graphs which had us all spellbound.

However after explanations & words of wisdom he managed to convince us that whilst we were not yet broke, if we carried on with our intended "necessary works" spending spree (c/o Bodgit & Co) in order to support our ambitions & remain solvent, it would be necessary to have a small increase in fees.

As we haven't had any increases since 1997 & then only in berth fees it seems quite remarkable that we've managed to do so much without increases. This of course has only been achieved by Members D.I.Y. & prudent fiscal policies (Government please note!) and we are still the cheapest (& happiest) club in the area.

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers, always a tense part of the proceedings, especially when some of the major players are standing down. It's then that people start to nervously look around stare intently at the floor for objects imagined dropped. However, I'm pleased to report that none of these tactics were necessary as Tony Hopkins valiantly stepped forward to offer himself as candidate for the office of Commodore & there being no others (surprise, surprise) was gratefully & swiftly voted & installed as such.

In his acceptance address, Tony said what a hard act Nigel would be to follow but with our support & forbearance he would endeavour to do so to which we all acclaimed Hear! Hear!

Another major office - that of Social Secretary was also up for grabs, unfortunately no one wanted to, so it was held over to be solved at a later date. Diane Carpenter was warmly thanked for all her work in this office during the last 5 years & will be sorely missed; another hard act to follow.

The rest of the existing officers were re-elected with the exception of Mike Chipps, who being both a T.W.A. & a keen new member was voted onto the Management Committee. See what happens when you don't attend!

There being no AOB. that completed the official business of the meeting so next came the "fun part". This started with the prize giving which as always was handled by our veteran Sailing Secretary Richard Cannon.

Richard was assisted by Cassie our new Commodores wife. Despite Richards best efforts at rigging & fixing, Graham Thompson still managed to haul in 4 trophies from 61 races which gave him 1st position. Next was Charles Dennis with just 1 trophy from 41 races & Roger Wheeler came 3rd, collecting 1 trophy from 50 races.

Hanna Lunniss did well to collect the Young Helm Cup and the Cundy Trophy (long distance race). Our past Commodore, Nigel Knowles also received 2 trophies, one of which, would you believe, was for the most improved helm, which just shows what perseverance can do and must give us all hope. This result came from 41 races & earned him 4th place.

Our new Commodore Tony Hopkins won the Laser Cup after 33 races & gained him 7th place. Mike Chipps was awarded the Water Rat trophy for most capsizes in the regatta whilst Bryan Clements, Richard Cannon, Peter Carpenter, Pat Halling, Cathy Bridger & Sarah Herbert each received an award of a Crystal Glass for various results / places over the year.

Richard was applauded for all the work he puts into the Club, not only as Sailing Secretary but for the many other duties he performs which are vital to its smooth running. The meeting heartily endorsed this vote of thanks.

Last but by no means least came the invitation to indulge ourselves---- in refreshments of course. The attendees, having sat patiently thro' the proceedings, whilst being assailed with lovely odours wafting from the kitchen, needed no second prompting to fall upon the tables laden with home made mince pies & many finger lickin goodies washed down with glasses of mulled wine all prepared by the lovely ladies of the kitchen (Joan Walkden, Mary Dennis, Linda Wheeler) with others helping ad hoc. Having sated ourselves & stripped the plates clean we bade one another farewell etc, etc & stepped out into a very cold night to make homeward tracks. Thus ended the 60th A.G.M. & well done to all who attended.

Club Boats - New Berth arrangements

Bryan Clements

Through the good offices of Graham Thompson the Club has purchased another Laser Pico dinghy. This means that we now have two 2-person dinghies particularly suited for youngsters.

The hull to one of the original Club lasers, which was damaged at the end of last season, was judged beyond economic repair and has been replaced with one donated by Nigel Knowles. The Committee have also decided to sell the Escape Fusion, which has not been very much used.

All the Club boats - and indeed all boats on berths A -O - are now secured via their bow fitting to a rail running along the bank. (thanks to Messrs Bodgit & Co for procuring and installing the rail).

Each boat has a wire strop and associated combination padlock attached to the rail which should be passed through the boat's bow fitting and secured back on itself with the associated combination padlock. All boats are also tied down to tyres buried in the bank.

The rail and tyre arrangement removes the need for any pickets or metal spikes on the bank in this area and these are now banned. (Rusty metal half hidden in undergrowth is a hazard to bare legs to say nothing for what it does to trimmer cord!).

As a safety measure there is an additional rope for each boat, attached permanently to the rail, which is intended to provide security when working around the boat

In the near future we intend to provide additional timbers along the river frontage to enable boats on berths A - O to be launched directly from their berths into the river.

Club Valentines Lunch

Okay, so it was actually held the day after Valentines Day but I think I can safely say that the six couples who attended had an extremely pleasant lunch.

Tony Hopkins arranged it at the 'Golden Wok' Chinese restaurant in Surbiton who arranged for everyone to sit at a large circular table. That shape is very social and makes for easy conversation. The meal itself was varied and first-rate.

On behalf of Lyn and I, Nigel and Ann, Joan and George, Keith and Madeline and Gordon and Joan I'd like to thank Tony and Cassie once again for organising everything. Nice one guy's!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker



Picture by Tony Hopkins

Trivia Corner

Nigel Knowles

If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle "Take two Aspirin" and "Keep away from children"

This is claimed to be the actual radio conversation of a US Naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995, as released by the Chief of Naval Operations October 10 1995:

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again - divert your course.

Canadians: No, I say again you divert your course.

Americans: This is the Aircraft Carrier USS LINCOLN, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three Destroyers, three Cruisers and numerous support vessels. I DEMAND that you change your course 15 degrees North or counter measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call!!!

Language

The Management Committee has asked that certain members 'moderate' their tendency to swear, or tell risqué jokes, at the club. This is because we now have quite a number of younger members and such language around them is unacceptable. This also applies to crews on the water where what is said actually carries quite a long way. We are trying to attract a younger membership and this kind of behaviour is undermining those efforts. We really shouldn't have to mention this but in future, and to those concerned, please engage brain before opening mouth.

Goodbye to a bit of Club History.

This year the club will say goodbye to an old friend. Bob Sumner's 'De Waterman' has been sold to a club member and TW employee Tim Golding. Bob built De Waterman himself and she has been a familiar site along the waterfront at Aquarius for many years. I understand she isn't going far so we hope, after some refurbishment, we will see her occasionally. Our good wishes go with her and to her new owner.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Fee Increases For 2009

Status	Was	Now
T.W.A. Boat Owners	£24	£27
T.W.A. Non Boat Owners	£11	£13
Full Members (non T.W.A.)	£48	£55
Family Members	£6(max £12)	No change
Junior Members		
under 18 / 18 to 21	£10 / 14	No change
Social Members	£11	£13
Berth Fees:-		
1st Dinghy	£22	£25
Each additional Dinghy	£35	£40
Wet Berths (per foot)	£8.50	£9.50

I have to say John that if you ever want my job, writing for The Mainsheet, just say the word. You have 'the touch' my friend.

Mike Baker Editor

Places of Interest.

Following my request for articles in the last newsletter I felt that I should take my own advice and maybe describe a few places of interest that Lyn and I have experienced since my last 'Mainsheet' ramblings.

Carcassonne in France - About an hour and a half's drive SW of Toulouse and home to the most spectacular and best preserved medieval castle fortress in France. Look it up on the internet, it is truly amazing or better still go there for a weekend break. You will not be disappointed.

London Dinner/Dance Cruise - On board a very large imported French Bateau boat called 'The Symphony' for a three hour evening dinner cruise on The Thames past an illuminated London. We boarded at The Embankment Pier at 7:15 and got back at 10:45. The menu and food was superb, service attentive and the dancing to a live combo very enjoyable.

Communications

Please note that AQSC has a new telephone number. This is 07795 991519 the phone is located in the clubroom adjacent to the bar door. Please note that this is provided for emergencies and to receive incoming calls. There is usually no one at the club to answer it.

London from the river at night is spectacular and given that the boat is totally glass topped, the view, unrestricted. It's definitely something to think about for that special occasion. Amberley Castle - Lunch or afternoon tea will give you a chance to have a look at this very exclusive hotel which is actually a castle/fortified manor house in the heart of W.Sussex. It has been beautifully partially restored and decorated in keeping with its illustrious past. However for dinner, bed and breakfast you had better have won the lottery before you even think about booking, unless you want to splurge big time! They even lower the two ton portcullis at the end of the evening!

Amberley Working Museum - This place is for Dad's and Son's (but Mum's will also find loads of interesting things). It's an amazing place just a few minutes from the aforementioned castle. If you are into trains, buses, wood working, engineering, printing, pottery and a host of old crafts this is for you. I spent a long time just watching a wheelwright make a 4ft diameter spoked cart wheel. One entrance price and the rest is free, well apart from the 'Lime Burners Restaurant', but you don't have to go in there. This place delivers, give it a try sometime.

Mike (Dam! You did it again. That was to encourage other people to write something. not you) Baker

Fireworks Night

What can I say about this annual event? Well there were hardly any bonfires for a start; local government legislation has taken care of that, unless of course you can prove your bonfire will be smokeless. Loads more fireworks but no doubt the H&S brigade is working on a way around that as well.

Diana nearly had forty fits when she learned that she would be catering for the 39 people who had applied to Richard for tickets. In the event 36 people turned up whom, having laid waste to Richard's house, made their way up to the racecourse.

The display was very good with hundreds, if not thousands of pounds going up in smoke, albeit very colourful smoke. Afterwards team AQSC retired to the club house for a bonfire night supper of soup, French bread and cheese.

On the whole it was not a bad evening; our thanks to Richard for buying the advance tickets and to Diana, Peter and Eiko for a tasty supper.

As a footnote I was talking to the bloke next door about Guy Fawkes and after a general chat about the history of it all he went off muttering something about "Where's bloody Guy Fawkes nowadays when you really need him". Anybody know where you can buy 60 barrels of gunpowder?

Mike (Sparklers) Baker

Indian Lunch - 18 January

This lunchtime event was the club's first social get together of 2009 and proved very popular. From an initial take-up of 28 it escalated to nearly 40 on the day requiring an extra table to be laid up. Joan Courtney and Liz Archer organised everything and were ably assisted before and on the day by Gordon Courtney, Pat Irving, Tony Hopkins and Rodger Wheeler. Richard Cannon suggested the dishes and quantities to get; he was very relieved when the only complaints were of having over eaten.

By 12:30am the bar was crowded and working overtime. Seventeen large bowls of food arrived from the 'Riverside' Indian restaurant at Hampton around the same time and were taken into the galley to be divided between the 4 tables.

The selection was enough for the most discerning palate. The meal started with Poppadums, pickles and chutneys. This was followed by Chicken Korma, Chicken Rogan, Chicken Kashmiri, Chicken Madras, Lamb Dupiza, Mixed vegetable curry, Bombay Aloo, Sag Aloo, Basamati Rice, Naan bread, Onion Bhaji and Pakora.



A desert of fruit and ice-cream was served next followed by coffee. Even the weather played its part with blue skies and bright sunshine to set-off the view across the river.

After lunch the tables were cleared away and a variety of games commenced mostly pitting the youngsters against the oldies. The younger element took this very seriously; the same cannot

be said of the 'mature' team; but before things got totally out of control Joan, Liz and Pat served tea and an amazing variety of Joan's home made cakes.

It was a highly successful afternoon and our thanks go to Joan and Liz for all their hard worked. Nice one girls! There was even a small profit made for the club.

Mike (Mad Madras) Baker



The AQSC Annual Dinner

Lay-up for the annual dinner was on the afternoon of Wednesday 12 November. The clubhouse was spruced up, the tables laid, glasses and cutlery polished and the bar made ready for Saturday night. For the table decorations Diana had opted for a red and gold theme which gave the clubhouse a regal glow under the coloured spotlights.

Anne and Leo wrapped the last of the raffle prizes and the kitchen was scrubbed from top to bottom in preparation for the caterers. Many thanks to Nigel, Diana, Anne & Leo, Joan & George, Eiko Edwards and Gordon Courtney for all their hard work.

The tickets advised 7:30 for 8:00pm but people started arriving shortly after 7:00pm. Rodger greeted everyone with pre dinner drinks and the bar area was soon filled with conversation and laughter. Everybody looked very smart with the ladies in their 'posh frocks' and the gentlemen in suits or dinner jackets.

At 8:00ish everybody was invited to be seated and the first course was served. This year's menu offered something for everyone. Starters included avocado & prawn Marie Rose, home made leek & potato soup or chicken Caesar salad.

The main course consisted of chicken supreme in a wild mushroom sauce stuffed with smoked ham and mushrooms, salmon fillet with a white wine and chive sauce, pork loin served with caramelised apples in a Calvados sauce or roasted butternut squash filo tarts with walnuts and spinach; all served with potato's and seasonal vegetables.

The deserts were chocolate and hazelnut profiteroles, lime and lemon Bavarrois, raspberry crème brulee followed by cheese and biscuits, coffee and mints.

Rodger had ensured that enough wine was laid in to meet demand and the whole atmosphere was friendly and relaxed with conversation ranging not only around but across the tables. It was unfortunate that some people were late in applying for tickets and were consequently disappointed. The truth is that the clubhouse and the caterers can only cope with just so many people and we reached that limit quite quickly this year.

The Annual Dinner is very popular and its date was published on the AQSC programme way back at the beginning of the season and has been advertised several times since then. We hate to turn people away but, as with all club social activities, they are managed on a first come, first served basis.

The evening was a great success and over coffee Nigel first thanked the caterers 'Food for Thought' for the dinner, Leo and Anne for running the raffle and then presented Diana with a bouquet of flowers for all the work she had put in to ensure everything went well. The evening ended after midnight with some hardier souls still chatting well after most people had gone.

A good size team turned up on Sunday morning to help clear up and put the clubhouse back to rights. If I tried to name everybody I'd be bound to forget someone so I'll just say you know who you were and add many thanks for all your hard work. It was most appreciated. See you all at the annual dinner 2009.

Mike (Can still get into my DJ) Baker

Members Please Note!

Sail Numbers

Our Sailing Sec. Richard Cannon has asked that all members ensure that they clearly mark their sail numbers on their sails by the commencement of the 2009 season. He has noted that several dinghies do not have any sail numbers at all and this makes the OOD's job extremely difficult when trying to manage club racing.

Outer Road Gates

Thames Water have requested that the large outer green gates are closed when the last member leaves the club. This is to deter or stop fly-tipping that started reoccurring at the beginning of this year. This nuisance is very expensive to remove and Thames Water would like to put more emphasis on prevention. Accordingly if you are last out, day or night, please ensure that you close the outer road gates and also ensure that the two inner gates are locked.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Aquarius SC (as in our Safety Boat)

The sailors amongst you will undoubtedly be aware that our safety boat went 'hors de combat' towards the end of last season. The prop shaft was badly distorted when a mooring rope became entangled around the shaft and finally jammed it, stalling the engine. The shaft just ahead of the propeller actually twisted under the strain and the shaft bearings suffered as a result.

Tim Barfield Marine was asked to estimate for the repair and the result was several hundred pounds at which point it was decided to take another look at what was required with a view to possibly doing it ourselves. The boat was slipped and the prop safety cage, propeller, shaft and rear bearings were removed.

Various solutions were proposed including the need for a new, larger and better pitched prop, a totally enclosed prop shaft and a two rather than three bearing prop shaft system. Alternative drives systems were considered and finally, after much discussion over a number of pints on Wednesday nights, it was decided to see if a new

propeller could be obtained. A new shaft together with suitable bearings would also be required; plus a rope cutter and a sleeve to encase the shaft to stop any future repetition of fouling the prop shaft.

Mike (Bodgit & Son Marine Division) Baker

Christmas Cheats Lunch - Sunday 14 December

This was the first of the club's winter activities aimed at maintaining contact between the members over the closed season. Judging by Frank Rainsborough's write-up and the accompanying photographs, published on the club's website, it was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Well done to everybody who cooked the lunch and organised the games afterwards.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Commodore's Cruise, Sunday 22nd February - Frank Rainsborough

Again, another clearly popular event! Thirty eight diners sat down to a 3 course lunch of soup, "posh bangers and mash" and "Mrs Bodgit's" apple crumble namely (in strict alphabetical order of surname!):- Liz Archer, Ken Ayers, Lyn and Mike Baker, Laurie Bridges, Richard Cannon, Peter and Georgina Clayton and two guests, Bryan Clements, Jean and Mike Hendra, Tony Hopkins, Pat Irving, Dave Jennings, Anne and Nigel Knowles, Ann and Frank Rainsborough with junior members Noah and Millie and another 9 of their family, Stuart Schafer, Louisa Spawls with Tim, Daniel and Mathew Hollands and Joan Walkden.

MasterChef Nigel 'Wallace' Knowles officiated in the galley, accompanied by galley slaves Anne 'Delia' Knowles, Pat 'Nigella' Irving and Ken 'Ramsey' Ayers, with further willing assistants who served, cleared up and washed up, namely, Joan Walkden, Jean Hendra and Liz Archer.

Well done all of you, it was an excellent three course meal, there was even a choice of items that could be chosen to make up the main course! Special thanks to Pat who also baked some splendid cakes for tea.

The Commodore Tony Hopkins thanked Nigel and his Team for the hard work that they had put in to prepare and present this excellent meal.



Tony went on to thank the Rainsborough Family, a contingent numbering 13, who'd arrived en masse for the event, but also to celebrate Ann Rainsborough's Birthday. A surprise cake was presented, and the traditional song was sung, but Ann is not saying how many times in her life so far, that it had applied to her!! In terms of numbers, the other family contingent, the Lunniss's of Simon & Oonie, Hanna, Robbie and Dominic, also deserves a mention, and particularly so because of their vital contribution to the day, about which, there is more below.

Bryan Clements then assembled the competitors for the 'Frostbite Cruise Treasure Hunt' event that was about to commence. Peter Clayton, with eight on board his cruiser 'Cirrhosis of the River 11', and Stuart Schafer, with 6 youths and 2 adults on board his cruiser 'Cavatina', together with the two club patrol boats skippered by Tony Hopkins and Bryan Clements, took some 30 young and not-so-young passengers to the downstream end of Taggs Island and back looking for the answers to a set of questions devised and set by Junior Quizmaster Hanna Lunniss, and helpers Simon and Dominic.

It was appropriate that Louisa Spawls' team in the Club Patrol Boat, skippered by Tony, won that quiz. (Appropriate because it's the Commodore's Cruise, remember?)

All having safely returned back to the warm Clubhouse, into which Gordon and Joan Courtney and visitors Jessica Ashworth and boy-friend Chris had since arrived, Senior Quizmaster 'Bamber' Baker had another quiz lined up.

Mike's 12 question quiz was 'How Well Do You Know Your River' and he had unearthed many items of interest, three of which I've extracted below, all relating to famous personalities connected to our stretch of the river.

Q5. Fred Wescott, by what more widely recognised name was he known by ?? A: **Fred Karno**.

Q6. Owner of 'Astoria' ?? A: **David Gilmour**. (Any AQSC Members not Pink Floyd fans?).

Q8. Who built a tunnel from Garrick's Villa (David Garrick, 18th century playwright, theatre manager and producer) A: **Capability Brown**.

Modesty forbids me from announcing the winning table!

For the earlier River Quiz, Hanna and her helpers had also set some very interesting questions, and on the upriver section, towards the finish, I was getting the hang of it! Feeling proud of myself that I also saw the the required answers, I've extracted below question numbers 28, 29 and 30, and the answers, that also appealed to my sense of humour!

Q: A clubhouse you wouldn't want to bank on A: **The HSBC boathouse**.

Q: Can you spy this boat? A: **'Cagey Bee'**,

Q: Pizza boat, **'Margherita'** (both moored just downstream of AQSC Clubhouse).

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable day, and it ended by Tony thanking everybody who had made it a success, to all Members and all Guests, he said, 'Thank You All!'

Slogans On Christmas T Shirts

This must have been 'the year' for them. Here's a few I spotted over the festive period.

- a. I'm up and dressed, what more do you want?
- b. If you're not embarrassing your children you're not enjoying yourself.
- c. The four stages of life .
You believe in Santa
You don't believe in Santa
You are Santa
You look like Santa
- d. I see a light at the end of the tunnel . I hope it's the gents
- e. Sometimes I wake up grumpy, other times I let her sleep.
- f. I don't want to,
I don't have to,
You can't make me,
I'M RETIRED
Do it yourself !!!

- g. I can only please one person each day .
TODAY IS NOT YOUR DAY
Tomorrow doesn't look good either.
 - h. I'm not 60. I'm 18 with a lot of experience.
 - i. Reduce your carbon footprint - stay in bed.
 - j. Exercise is highly addictive - don't start.
 - k. I love vegetarians - more meat for me.
 - l. Only left handed people are in their right minds.
 - m. Hand me the chocolate and no-one gets hurt.
 - n. So many men - So few who can afford me.
 - o. Do you want to speak to the man in charge or the woman who knows what's going on?
 - p. Like my horse -
have great legs,
A fit body
And occasionally need a good whipping.
- Mike (Been there, got the T-shirt) Baker*



Tony and Cassie at the 2008 Prize Giving picture by Frank Rainsborough

Boat Use Records

Richard Cannon

When race results are processed most of the data on the race result sheets is recorded in a database; records go back to 1993. It is fairly easy to create reports to see how often and which club boats are used to help plan club resources.

We don't have any record of club boats used for cruising or training or of other boats used except when racing. It would be easy to create a 'series' to enable non racing use to be recorded in the database if non racing use is recorded.

There is little use of boats except on race days and probably the easiest way of recording it is for the OOD to make entries at the bottom of the race sheet of boats that are sailing but not racing.. Similar records could be made for sailing on Wednesday afternoons..

On race days the OOD should record, at the bottom of the race sheet, the sail number, helm and crew of any boats that are not racing but are sailing; no laps or times need be recorded. A race sheet will be left on the notice board for records of boats sailing at other times.

One for your Diary

The 2009 Skittles night at The Grantley Arms, Womersley, outside Guildford has been booked for the evening of 18 July. Price, as last year £15.

I will choose two meat and one vegetarian meal to be served on the evening. That will be accompanied by the usual Rice, Salad, French Bread or Poppadums and Tortilla Chips.

This is a very popular evening and once again we will be playing against Lyn's Embrocourt Badminton Club. More details nearer the time.

Mike (Knock'em Down) Baker

Commodore's Profile

Tony Hopkins

Age: 61. Married to Cassie for 41 years, 4 children (3 boys and a girl), 2 grandchildren.

Apprenticed as a centre lathe turner moved into mechanical inspection then saw the light when computing took off in the early eighties and have worked in this area for the last 27 years.

Occupation: Technical manager in computing at Kingston University for the last 22 years. I will be taking VER (Voluntary Early Retirement in June 2009, Yipee).

I have lived in Chiswick and Brentford for most of my life apart from a short spell when we lived in Heston and Bletchley.

Hobbies: non active radio ham, woodwork, hashing. I will have a go at most things. I was heavily involved in model boats when I was first married and attended the first ever British all electric regatta at Tannhouse pits, Colnbrook and raced in the 100 watt class.

Passions: running, I still run around 5 times per week, although I do not race now I have run 33 Marathons and a few ultras (further than a marathon), my only claim to fame was winning a 5k and coming 4th in an off road marathon and now obviously my other passion is sailing.

First tried my hand at sailing on the Med in September 2006 and was immediately hooked, joined Aquarius in December 2006, soon found out that sailing was not a black art (except for race rules) and have not looked back since.

Before joining Aquarius I searched the web in the Thames valley area for potential clubs and none had the friendliness of Aquarius, my first contact was Nigel, he immediately said that I looked like a sailor (in the nautical sense) and I attended the Cheats Christmas lunch that year and have never looked back. I do feel honoured to now be the Aquarius current Commodore and will do my utmost to push the club forward in the area that best suits it's members.

Working Parties

Working parties are scheduled for 15 March and 25 April at the club. Lunch will be provided for those people volunteering for these events. The 15 March date will involve some pretty strenuous activities ... you have been warned!

AQSC Website

Webmaster

Richard Cannon

This year is the 10th anniversary of the website. It was announced in the Summer newsletter that was published on 30 June 1999 and the earliest event on the website is the 1999 Regatta on 3 July.

At that time the web address was <http://www.aquarius.sc.ukgateway.net/> and it is still hosted there. This is the free web space I received when I had a Gateway PC and it is still free with no advertising pop-ups. It is now part of Tiscali.co.uk but retains its ukgateway address.

On 16 August 2002 the domain name sailaquarius.org.uk was registered using 1&1; it only costs around £3 per year and is the website's only cost I think it is extremely good value.

The objective of the website was to provide easily accessible information to members at high speed in the days of only dial up access. It isn't flashy because that would slow it down and I am not artistic.

It is very good for looking up historic data because pages aren't deleted; most things including news pages, newsletters, programs, and race results go back to 1999 and can still be viewed. Race results are normally available on the website the day following racing.

There are over 800 pages, 400 pictures, and 1900 files; 37mb of the 50mb quota is used.

In 1999 20% of members had access to email, now it is about 70%.

I hope members are finding it useful. I receive very few comments or reports of problems of things not working. It is very important I am told of things that don't work else I never know and can't correct them.

Hygiene

The Management Committee has asked me to remind members that no personal food or drink is to be left in the galley fridge. We have recently had to remove some foul smelling articles from this fridge which is not only unpleasant but is an open invitation to our smaller 'rodent members'.

Sailing and Social Programme March - May 2009

There is a change in format this year. The 11:30 am race will generally be a Spring or Autumn Series race and will start on time; races will not be delayed because competitors are not ready; race officers please note.

The 2:00pm event will be Training, a Fun Race, or Cruising (TFC) with emphasis on giving less experienced members a better sailing experience.

The 3:30pm race will generally be a Spring/Autumn, a Summer or 2 Sprint Series races.

The Wednesday afternoon Series will start on 13 May and end on 9 September; start time will be 4pm.

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

There will be six special youth training events on the following Saturday afternoons: 9 May, 23 May, 30 May, 6 June, 13 June, 27 June, starting at 1pm and finish at 5pm. Members needing help with rigging etc or who wish to crew need to arrive at least 45 minutes before the start of an event.

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

The Aquarius Open Days are 16th and 17th May; members are asked to bring friends and neighbours who might be tempted to sail. Make this the day you get afloat.

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.

Date	11:30am	2:00pm	3:30pm	Duty Officers, Evening & Notes
March				
15	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools and clothes. Lunch will be provided			Start of Season Party 7:30pm for 8 pm
Sat 21				Richard Cannon, Frank Rainsborough, David Jennings
29	Spring Race 1	TFC	Spa Race 1	
April				
5	Spring Race 2	TFC	Spa Race 2	Mike Baker, Nick Hornsey, Tony Adcock
Sat 11				Indoor Olympics - Mike Baker
12	Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races, best 3 count			Cath Bridger, Sarah Herbert, Laurie Bridges
19	Spring Race 3	TFC	Spa Race 3	Tony Hopkins, Family Downes, Stuart Schafer
Sat 25	Working party 10:30am' Come along with gardening tools and clothes. Lunch will be provided			
26	Spring Race 4	TFC	Sprint Race 1 & 2	Frank Rainsborough, Derek Brown, Graham Thompson
MAY				
Sat 2	Mid-Thames Trophy at Staines SC			
3	TFC			Leo Bond, Anne Bond, Richard Cannon
Mon 4	Minima SC, Kingston, RNLI Round the Island (Ravens Ait) and May Merrie Cup Open			
10	Spring Race 5	TFC	Spa Race 4	Laurie Bridges, Frank Addouche, Don Barnett
Sat 16	AQSC Club Open Weekend			Peter Carpenter, Family Grace, Rodger Wheeler
17	Open day, "All on the Water",			Mike Baker, Family Guildford, John Botterill
24	Training for new members and fun Sailing			Brian Clements, Kate Valentine, Richard Cannon
Mon 25	Visit to Bewl Valley Sailing Club Family sailing			
31	Spring Race 6	TFC	Sprint Race 3 & 4	George Bray, Joan Bray, David Jennings

Race Start Times *Sailing Secretary*

Race start times are scheduled for 11:30pm for the first morning event, 2:00pm for the first afternoon event and 3:30pm for the second afternoon event.

Some competitors have become very poor at being ready to race at these times and the Race Officer has often delayed starting a race to allow them to start with the others, this causing unnecessary waiting around.

It is the responsibility of competitors to be ready at the prescribed times and Race Officers should start races at the prescribed time even if it means a competitor starts late.

Club Open Weekend 16th/17th May *Tony Hopkins Commodore*

This weekend is very important to the club, it is our one chance to show the club off to potential new members.

With this in mind I would like to invite **ALL** members with sailable dinghies to **get them on the water**, not only to show the public what we have but also to encourage existing members to try other classes, we have a fair selection of classes and it would be nice to see them on the water, so please bear with your new Commodore and let's get **Aquarius on the water!**

2009 Sailing Programme

A new format is to be introduced to Sunday sailing/racing this year, to give new members and trainees a better sailing experience, as follows:-

11:30am Series race *
14.00pm Training/Fun/Cruising (TFC)
15.30pm Series race *

* Would members please note that the Management Committee has determined that from now on races **WILL** start at the published times (OOD's please note and arrive early enough).

There will be no exceptions. Please ensure that if you intend to compete in the series racing that you allow enough time to arrive, rig and be on the start line by the above times.