



**AQUARIUS S.C.**

# THE MAIN SHEET

## Summer 2009 Edition

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### Commodore's Bit

We have had our fair share of bad weather this year as far sailing is concerned with little or no wind, but over the last month conditions have improved with some good sailing.

The youth events were very successful with good attendance and good conditions for novices. The sessions culminated with the Club Regatta and the presentation of certificates. Three students completed all parts of the course and all students received their certificates. We would like to see those who have modules to complete attend the club on Sundays to complete their missing modules. A very well done to everyone who attended. The youth series will probably be back next year.

The regatta itself had a reasonable attendance with good conditions. The Saturday evening Hog roast broke records with 88 people enjoying the roast pork and variety of food that was prepared by various members. Sunday was also good sailing and the fun events proved popular with the youngsters and adults alike, again tea and sandwiches and cakes followed by strawberries saw most members loosening belts.

George and Joan Bray were up and picking the strawberries at the crack of dawn (which explains why they did not

need breakfast). A big thank you to all those who prepared food, helped set up the marquee, tables etc and serve the food on both days to make the regatta a success.

On a more sombre note the miscreants have been back on the reach but luckily they were challenged by a member of Thames Water and subsequently ran off, before any damage or theft had taken place, keen eyed Rodger Wheeler actually managed to get a photo of the 3 of them, well done Rodger. I would like to reiterate padlock and chaining all wet berth boats to the mooring should be the norm and do not keep anything of value on board!

The safety boat is now back in service with a new shaft and propeller and running very well, the new prop has made a big difference, well done Nigel, Mick and the Bodgit team.

If you have not yet had your dinghy on the water this year there is still plenty of time and we would love to see you, the home made Coffee and Walnut cake last Sunday was to die for. (note to self, must make sure John Neale is OOD more often).

**Great Sailing.**  
**Tony Hopkins**  
**Commodore**

### Welcome - Joan Bray

We give a warm welcome to Karim Boukhalfa & family, Nicole & Simon Goodman & family, Evelyn McElroy, John & Brenda Panting, David & Helen Walters & family, and Michael & Patricia Bailey; wishing them all a long and happy membership of Aquarius.

### Newsletter Printing

The printing and paper costs of this Newsletter were met in full by JDC Independent Financial Advisers  
69 The Green Twickenham  
020 8755 5577

We thank Frank Rainsborough for setting this up. Apart from the cost saving it makes it much easier.

### Skittles Night

Just a reminder that this years skittles match is on Saturday 18 September at The Grantley Arms, Womersley. I will send out booking information by mid August. This is a highly popular event so early booking is advisable as it's first come first served.

**Mike (Knock 'em Over Easy) Baker**

## Two Work Parties

They came, they saw and they worked their socks off. Well, most did, some just came for the lunch.

Voluntary working days really help to stay on top of all the work, especially along the waterfront which needs to be addressed on a regular



basis.

Thanks to everybody who rolled up their sleeves and not forgetting those folks who worked in the galley providing hot drinks and lunch for the workers. I can assure you that your efforts are always much appreciated.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Loads of Picos

The more observant of you will have noticed that the club now has four Pico's. Two we already had and two others were recently bought from Goring SC using money from a "grassroots grants" which are funded from central government through the Office of the Third Sector (sounds like something from 1984 to me!) and in our case was managed by the Thames Community Foundation based at the NPL. These two are white hulled and have predominately blue sails. They both needed a minor amount of work to put them into sailable order and all the Pico's will now be used in our forthcoming youth sail training programme. Thanks to Nigel for negotiating their purchase and collecting them on Good Friday.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Spring Issue Quiz question.

The answer to the question 'what five letter word reads the same upside down and back to front?' was SWIMS

## Start of Season Party

The Start of Season Party on 21 March was well attended as is usual for this event and a good social atmosphere ensued from the outset.

The Commodore, Tony Hopkins, gave a warm welcome to the new members and a brief outline of events for this year's sailing season, also mentioning the next working party which he invited everyone to attend.

This was followed by a buffet prepared by Nigel, George & Joan Bray, Pat Irving. Thanks also to Anne Knowles and Stuart who did a lot of the clearing away afterwards.

Once everyone had eaten Nigel announced a table quiz which groups of around 5 to 6 members joined forces to participate in. This was a great success, very humorous and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Front Gate (IMPORTANT ... Please Note)

We hope you're not having too much trouble with the new club entry arrangements at the outer green gates.

These measures were implemented by Thames Water in an effort to stop the 'fly tipping' that had been occurring towards the end of last year and the beginning of 2009. This vandalism is very expensive to clear up and in mid April Thames Water took the decision to lock the gates.

Please ensure that you relock these gates after entry because if 'fly tipping' was to happen again as a result of members leaving the gates open, AQSC could be held liable for the cost of clearing up.

Fly tipping is still a problem and in the last few weeks a load was dumped overflowing into the road opposite the pipe yard (west end of Sunny Side reservoir). Richmond council cleared it and another load immediately appeared.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012

Every 4 years, after the Olympics, there is a new issue of the Racing Rules of Sailing; Although there are a fair number of changes I think only one makes a significant change to the previous rules that will affect our racing; the 'zone' at a mark moves from two to three hull lengths.

## Indoor Mini Olympic Games - 11 April

Only fifteen people turned up for the games evening including Alex Seaman's children Christopher and Rebecca. However that did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of those that attended.

Once into either the Red or Blue teams they set about a range of indoor sports challenges. While the more energetic battled with Skittles, Darts,



Jenga, Golf, Tiddly Winks high jump and bar skittles; the more mature contestants fought it out with Sequence and Scrabble.

Half way through the evening Nigel and Anne provided Pizza and Salad followed by Fruit Strudel and Ice-cream.

At the end it was a close run thing with the Blue team winning by 626 points to 570. The winners were presented with a box of chocolates which they generously shared with everyone in the clubhouse.

Bound to be another games evening sometime but probably not over the Easter weekend.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Great Idea

I have to admit that every now and again Lyn comes up with a brilliant suggestion. I don't mean that in a sexist way it's just that Lyn often thinks outside the box.

I'm talking marine gasket material. Have you ever tried to buy a sheet of rubber to make a gasket? Well, thanks to Lyn's suggestion, try your local shoe repairer, they stock sheets of rubber based materials. Talk to them nicely, explaining what you're trying to do and, if they're like the bloke I spoke to in my local shop, they'll be happy to sell you some good size off-cuts. Nice one Lyn!

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Bodgit & Son - Club Improvements Update

**Wednesday 15 April** - The plan was to permanently install the new drinks chiller cabinet. This involved a fair bit of fiddly carpentry and some electrical work.

The opportunity was also taken to install a proper drain for the coffee machine, doing away with the need for an overflow tank.

Two freezers have also been put in under the bar counter, significantly increasing the frozen food storage capacity.

A new mixer tap was installed in the bar replacing the old singles which have been dripping and twisting for weeks.

The water softener (be honest! you didn't even know there was one did you?) was moved to make more floor space available behind the bar.

The old hardboard notice board was replaced with a soft fibreboard. This makes sticking thumb tacks in so much easier.

It was a long day but 'a rewarding one' as they say. Now we've got to think about moving the answer phone from the car park gates down to the green gates, that's a lot of cable.

**Thursday 23 April** - Basically a reorganisation day, sorting out the Bosun's Store, the wood store and the area around the septic tank.

Shelves put up in the Bosun's store and a cycle rack installed; extended the waterfront planking in front of the Laser berths to make for easier launching; panelled in the area under the rear entrance staircase.

**Wednesday 19 May** - Replaced the old shower compartment strip lights with a low voltage halogen unit.

**Wednesday 23 June** - Installed telephone cable down the drive and moved the answer phone to the main road gate.

Bodgit Marine Division also drifted out the last old shaft bearing from the Aquarius safety boat and once we have a replacement made the new prop and shaft can be reinstalled back into the boat.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

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### First Aid Course

On 22 April Pat Irving and I attended The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames first aid course at the Spring Health Leisure Club (the old Richmond swimming pool). The course was run by Hilary Sutch who is their Training Manager/First Aid Trainer/Assessor. She is a very down to earth lady with a unique and somewhat laid back approach to the subject. I hasten to add that comes from knowing your subject inside out and years of experience.

Pat and I were both renewing our existing, albeit out of date, qualifications as 'Appointed Persons' for

ourselves, Aquarius and in support of the proposed Youth Sail Training Programme due to start in May. The course covered a whole range of theory and practical subjects including the task of the appointed person, legal implications, first aid boxes (do & don'ts), managing an incident/priorities, cardio pulmonary resuscitation, shock, dressing wounds, recognising angina/heart attack, burns/scalds etc.

The practical exercises included bandaging, slings and resuscitation on adults, children and babies and how to put someone into the recovery position. Being the only male in a class of

women was an interesting and not unpleasant experience. I might even have picked up a couple of potential new members who asked about visiting Aquarius for a 'look see and sail'. It struck me later that if any of these girls did actually join we would have even more 'appointed persons' available.

Both Pat and my certificates of attendance on the course are now on the foyer wall together with Tony's first aid certificate gained through his place of work.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

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### Technology - Love it or hate it?

Of all the technological gadgets with which we surround ourselves some are undoubtedly more useful than others. Some are nice to have, while others are must haves. Some have changed our lives for ever, in that going back to a time before them would probably be unthinkable.

I guess mobile phones and computers fall into this category and therein lies the problem. These very gadgets, while speeding up communication often isolate us from people and social interaction. They shrink the world and bring it directly to us via audio or visual media; but this same technology can also frustrate the hell out of us when, either it goes wrong or fails to do what we want it to do; the latter usually caused by that classic human problem called 'finger trouble'.

Some technology has earned a reputation for being unacceptably intrusive. Google's street view has to be currently top of this list.

Apart from the mobile phones and computers, which are somewhat asexual, male and female views on the usefulness of technology is often very different. Women will say that they couldn't live without a washing machine while men are more likely to highlight a cordless drill or flat screen TV as must haves.

Some basically good ideas receive a very bad press and never really achieve their potential; in car SatNavs being a case in point. Some achieve success out of all proportion to their purpose and owe it more to advertising. The Wii in home activity machines being a good example.

That's not to say that I'm anti technology, on the contrary, I'm all for it, it's just that when my computer crashes or won't connect to the Internet, when my phone battery won't hold enough charge to get through an average weekend I sometimes wonder if they are actually worth all the bother.

Online banking seems to divide opinion. Some people are all for it, others don't trust it and will have nothing to do with it. Online ordering seems to generate the same feelings.

Finally there's the technology that we all universally hate. Speed camera's and auto phone menu's have to top this list. Speed camera's because most of us think they are more about money making than safety and phone menu's because most of us would just like to speak to a person not a machine!

Love it or hate technology in all its varying forms is here to stay. This, and it pains me to have to say it, is a case if you can't fight it, you might as well learn about it, use that which is useful and skirt around the rest.

*Mike (Online Easy) Baker*

## Mid Thames Trophy

On Saturday 2 May AQSC competed in the 2009 Mid Thames Trophy at Staines SC. We entered six boats made up of Richard Cannon & Liz Archer in his ST368, Mike Baker, Nigel Knowles, Charles Dennis and Rodger Wheeler in Lasers, and Graham Thompson in his Graduate.

Hampton, Aquarius, Staines and Desborough entered teams but Laleham and Littleton were not represented.

The weather was sunny and warm while the wind, what there was of it, was 'circular' to say the least and very light (i.e. it was a drifter) with a light stream running.

Three races were held, each over the same course which consisted of one upstream and one downstream mark both taken to port. One race was held before lunch, the other two afterwards. There were two starts to each race, the Enterprises and Merlin Rocket went first followed by everybody else.

The sailing was a little disappointing with very light, variable direction winds all day. Conditions at the upstream end of the course were the best but even here it was dire at times.

Hampton's Enterprises swept all before them and by the end of the day had secured the first five places, and therefore, the Mid Thames Trophy with 18pts.

The Aquarius team came a creditable 2nd with 76pts. Graham Thompson our highest placed helm. Desborough were 3rd with 127pts. Staines was 4th with 136pts.

We met a lot of old friends at Staines SC, had an excellent lunch and enjoyed a very well organised day.

Following the prize giving the winning team captain thanked Staines SC on behalf of all the visitors and it was confirmed that the 2010 event will be held at Aquarius SC, date to be decided.

**Mike**

*(Lasers are hard on the knees) Baker*

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## George Bray's Birthday Surprise

The idea to celebrate George's 80th birthday and spring a surprise party for him at the club was a great success.

Rodger's organisational skills were put into overdrive while Joan tried to figure out a way to get George to the club without raising his suspicions.

A small army of the club ladies prepared an array of buffet food while Linda Wheeler constructed a galleon birthday cake.

Once the first youth sail training session was over the club was made ready and suitably decorated. By 7:30pm most people had arrived and the final touches were added to the buffet.

George and Joan arrived at 8:00pm and as they approached the club were met by a guard of honour holding an arch of crossed paddles. Once through they were met by an eighty gun salute delivered by all the members using party poppers!

The look on George's face was a picture. The evening was a great success and seemed to flash by. The food was great, there was dancing and later a toast was proposed to George during which he was presented with a rather fetching, suitably engraved tankard, to hang behind the club bar.

By the time the cake was cut I think George had just about come down off the ceiling while Joan had a broad smile on her face. George said he would never trust her again but secretly I think he was tickled pink. Hope you enjoyed it George, here's to the next one!

George was a prime mover in springing a similar surprise birthday party on me a few years ago at the club. This time it was his turn and he was caught out just as I had been; you never see these things coming.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

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## Youth Sailing Programme.

### 9 May - Instruction Module 1

This was more of a meeting with the trainees and their parents, outlining the course, its purpose and content. It also was a first opportunity for trainees and parents alike to get afloat.

This was followed by afternoon tea and cakes and a question and answer session. The first actual sail instruction was scheduled to start on 23 May.

Each trainee was given a copy of the Aquarius Basic Dinghy Sailing manual and a progress log. (Incidentally copies of these documents are available in the clubhouse if anyone wishes to look at them, but please don't just remove them; the Basic Dinghy Sailing manual is also on the Aquarius website).

### 23 May - Instruction Module 2

My eight volunteers turned up at 12:30am for a pre meeting to go over the day's instruction schedule.

Richard Cannon, Tony Hopkins, Rodger Wheeler and Nigel Knowles each had one Pico and a number of trainees to look after. George Bray, Eric Bridgewater and I handle the 'on shore' instruction. Joan Bray had volunteered to man the galley and Bryan Clements manned the safety boat.

This represented quite a commitment on behalf of the club to get this number of busy people together on a Saturday afternoon.

The plan was that half the trainees would go afloat while the other half would start on the shore based stuff. Every hour they would swap, in theory getting two hours each afloat and ashore during each module.

Module 2 was very much about understanding wind strength and direction, river strength and rules of the road. Sailing theory was covered together with helm and crew responsibilities.

This was the brain child of Simon Lunniss and Michael Chipps. They first raised the idea at a Management Committee meeting several months ago. From that point it took a lot of hard work and organisation by a lot of people to bring all the required elements together. Via Nigel we acquired two more Pico's, giving us four in all; the youth sailing programme had to be put together.

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter first aid coverage had to be arranged. Enough instructors had to be found to cover the five Saturdays that the course would be held on. Signed parental consent forms had to be obtained and catering had to be arranged for each of the training days. Finally applications for the programme had to be issued.

The response was immediate and a few days later not twelve but fifteen places on the programme had been booked.



Rigging a Pico was gone over and then tacking, always a problem for beginners was practiced ashore before going afloat. Finally a practical demo of the correct capsizing recovery procedure was demonstrated, something every trainee has to learn about as early as possible.

Afloat all of these activities were practised for real under the watchful eyes of the instructors and the safety boat. The day ended with some fun and games so everybody could let off steam.

It's always difficult to say if our novices 'enjoyed' the day. It's not considered cool to enthuse over anything nowadays but my instructors told me afterwards that requests by the trainees to have their log books signed off against the elements covered perhaps indicated a sort of enthusiasm. Time will tell.

### 30 May - Instruction Module 3

We continued with instruction in tacking because many of the trainees were not finding it easy.

For those that were ready reaching, running and gybing was added. This resulted in a number of capsize, boats in trees and boats in irons.

Leaving and returning to a berth proved interesting and confirmed that many of the trainees were still not sure what direction the wind was coming from but we got through the afternoon in one piece.

The day ended with the de-rigged Pico's being paddle raced around the buoys. The youngsters really enjoyed, especially as the instructors boat was so heavily laden that water poured in through the centre board slot and virtually sunk the boat.

### 6 June - Instruction Module 4

Nigel and Anne had gone on a cruise to Croatia and Lyn and I were at a wedding in Oxfordshire so I had handed over responsibility for delivering Module 4 to Rodger Wheeler. Graham Thompson and Dave Jennings had agreed to 'stand in' for us and the following is an edited version of Rodgers account of the day.

Still some trainees again straggled in well past 13:00. The keener ones, first arrivals, were therefore in boats till tea. As far as possible everyone had to demonstrate competence in basic tacking ashore on the Topper before rigging a boat. Everybody seemed capable of rigging.

Afloat the wind was easterly giving a very reliable wind stream ideal for training. Trainees were required to complete a figure of 8 (tack/reach) across the river; When successful they were then asked to bring their boats alongside the club, depart, go through a gate, 2 buoy slalom, gybe, and run back upstream.

Following some individual instruction trainees were then shown how to get out of irons. A few managed the long course properly but Imogen and Edmund, each solo, completed all elements very well and also successfully managed to pick up a floating life jacket which simulated the man overboard drill. Ashore Richard and Eric reprised module 2 and 3.

After tea all trainees were in the clubhouse for about 25 minutes and watched short sections of the RYA training video which showed tacking, gybing, getting out of irons, arriving at a berth. The trainees were then quizzed on the points of sailing and the 5 essentials but few had grasped them and they are expecting a further quiz next Saturday.

All trainees then took the boats out again, many attempting the long course, with or without crew or instructor. There were several capsize around 4.30pm and many of those involved went in to change at that point. There was no time or demand for fun races at the end as the keener ones continued to sail.

Trainees de-rigged their boats at the end of the afternoon without having to be asked but many of the achievement/log sheets were not completed because quite a number of the trainees had left by the time the instructors came off the water.

### 13 - June Instruction Module 5

This was the last session, to which 9 trainees turned up. We spent the first two hours carrying on where we had left off during Module 4. We concentrated in getting as many trainees as possible through Module 4 so they could have their log sheets signed off. This included points of sailing, the five essentials and man overboard procedure.

During tea Eric briefed everybody on racing including the start sequence, very basic racing rules, rounding marks, the course and finishing. While this was going on we set up a short racing course on the river.

When I came back into the clubhouse I was greeted with the sight of

everybody writing P & S on the back of their hands! When they had finished tea we explained the course, selected crews for each boat and sent them afloat.

There were several 'Coming- together' on the line to which we turned a blind eye. Several boats drifted downstream away from the line so the actual start was a very staggered affair. I think they did a couple of laps and then we finished them.

We ran a further two races and by the third I think they were getting the hang of it. One or two helms were obviously frustrated that the boats would not go in the direction they were aimed i.e. at the next mark. Back to the drawing board!

We finished bang on five o'clock and explained that further training would be needed but they were welcome to sail in the Ladies and Novices event at the Annual Regatta next weekend. They would also receive their certificates at that time.

Mike Chipps then very kindly, presented all the instructors with a case of Laithwaites wine, on behalf of the trainees and their parents. Much appreciated!

So that's about it. We, the instructors, learnt a lot about running events like this and hopefully any future programme would benefit from the experience. We all hope that most of the trainees will continue with their sailing at Aquarius and we look forward to seeing them on the water.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*



Learning Knots



Learning Capsize recovery

## Input to 'The Mainsheet'

Despite several requests for membership contributions to 'The Mainsheet' I'm still mainly plugging away on my own. John Neale has kindly come up with one or two items and I also had one from George Bray and Frank Rainsborough but the rest of you are a washout.

Surely someone out there has got something they could contribute to the newsletter. Failing this you will just have to put up with whatever I can dream up, but I don't mind telling you it's getting more and more challenging to come up with ideas month after month.

So I'll try again ... please, if you have something, or would like to write something, on any subject, it doesn't necessarily have to be about sailing, email it to me and we will publish it in the autumn edition. How about something from our recent youth sailing trainees? Go on, what's stopping you?

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Launching Club Lasers and Pico's

A lot of damage has been done to the above this season. It's mainly caused when launching them over the bank and, if care is not taken; as they drop into the river they catch their bows on the edge of the bank. This has the effect of peeling the foredeck away from the hull. The result is they start taking on water into the hull and eventually become waterlogged. This kind of damage is hell to repair.

Would everybody using a club Laser or Pico please take special care when launching and retrieving to ensure the bow does not impact on the edge of the launch area. After use please drain the hull by un-screwing the bung in the transom and allowing any water to drain out. Replace the bung when finished. Meanwhile we will investigate alternative methods of launching and retrieval of this kind of dinghy.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Open Weekend - 16-17 May

Despite the fact that we now operate an 'open door' policy every weekend to encourage potential new members to drop in, we still hold our annual Open Weekend.

This year we had the added complication of being required by Thames Water to keep the green road gate closed and locked at all times but we overcame this and at 10.30am on the 16th the doors opened.

The night before the weather looked grim with the wind WSW 8 gusting 15 and raining. The forecast said 30%-40% chance of rain over the weekend with continuing gusty conditions. Not what you would want to take visitors out in so we rigged a variety of dinghies, brewed some coffee and sat back and awaited events.

It was VERY gusty for most of the day but the rain held off. Discretion meant that we didn't take any of the nine families that dropped by out sailing. We did however get a few of them out for a ride in the safety boat. Several of our own members turned up in the afternoon and took the Pico's out. One of them, with three up, then started their own capsizing drill, which they repeated several times much to the amusement of those in the clubhouse. The young seemingly just don't feel the cold!

Weather wise Sunday started with a downpour that soaked those of us that had arrived early to open up. It brightened up before midday and although

there was a good breeze it wasn't as gusty as Saturday to start with. We had three Bosun's and Dave's day sailor in use and for a while they were all quite busy.

However, by mid to late afternoon the wind did get up and things got 'interesting' again, to the point that we had to stop taking visitors out in the dinghies. We had seven or eight families down on Sunday, which given the early morning conditions, was not bad really.

Again we had a variety of our younger members out in Pico's, weather conditions don't seem to bother them, although for most of the day we had both safety boats out on the water keeping a very close eye on them.

Thanks to all the helms who took the visitors out for a sail; also to the ladies who manned the galley and also provided lunch and afternoon tea. To the bar staff and Joan and George who greeted all the visitors and made sure they received all the information about the club that they required.

It was also nice to see so many members down over the weekend, the old clubhouse was really buzzing at times. That might not seem important but it does give visitors a good feeling to see a friendly, well used club in action. Hopefully that was the same reason you joined Aquarius.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*



Picture by John Tomkins

## Out and About

Here's a couple of eating and watering holes that you might like to try.

First there's The Grumpy Mole restaurant at Tadworth. It has a great menu but book well in advance. Formally this was The Inn on the Green but it changed its name about a year ago, refurbished and hasn't looked back since.

Second is The Sportsman pub at Mogador. This has some great countryside walks on the doorstep as it sits on the edge of Walton Heath, Lower Kingswood. The pub was built in 1532, has good beer, a varied menu and very pleasant restaurant.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*



Nigel carving hog  
Picture by Frank Rainsborough

## Ever been had?

I could have known. If I had recognised the odd phone calls over previous weeks, I would have known. If I had thought about it at all I should have known.

It was to be a quiet dinner with friends to celebrate a birthday. As they were coming up river in their cruiser, could we pick them up at the club around 8 as they wouldn't have their car.

Great idea! As it is a nice evening, lets go down to the club beforehand and have a drink on the quarter-deck while we wait for them.

The delaying tactics were superb! "My hair isn't right, I must do it again".

"No, I wore that dress last time, would a blouse and skirt look better? What about slacks?, I think I will wear the brown shoes after all". I wondered whether we would make the club by 8 at all.

Eventually all was set and all was right till we drove in the club - why are all these cars here ? I've been conned!

Thank you one and all for a wonderful and memorable evening in celebration of my birthday - The guard of crossed oars - the five shot salute, the transformation of the clubhouse, the superb array of goodies including the square rigged cake and of course the champers.

Thank you for all the cards and good wishes and the tankard now on its hook in the bar and of course thank you for the bouquet you gave to Joan.

I know now how many members and wives were involved in the subterfuge and preparation and while I tried to thank most on the evening, I'm sorry if I missed any and say a very, very big thank you once again. It was an evening I will remember for a long long time.

PS :- Joan has arranged a trip to Belgium - what am I in for?

*George Bray*

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## Regatta and Hog Roast

Two years ago we had a hog roast at the Aquarius regatta. This proved to be very popular, so ... it was decided to have another one this year.

Nigel arranged delivery of the oversize rotisserie complete with pig, Pete visited the Hog's Back Brewery and picked up a keg of TEA (Traditional English Ale), Rodger and Linda organised the food for Saturday night and Joan and George the regatta tea on Sunday while everyone else ran around in ever decreasing circles.

We used to get a pin of 'Hair of the Hog' which, by name, was quite appropriate but unfortunately the brewery has stopped producing it.

Saturday morning produced the normal pre-regatta chaos. The marquee needed erecting over the quarterdeck. The clubhouse needed sorting out and tables and chairs putting out. The hog roast had to be manhandled onto the rotisserie and fired up. A course had to be laid and a hundred and one things were missing. Oh yes, our No.1 safety boat was out of action having a new propeller and prop shaft fitted. As I said the usual chaos!

The Saturday racing under Richard's eye went well with enough wind to make it interesting, I think seven or eight boats were out at one time. Towards the end of the afternoon people started drifting in to watch and wait for the evening events.

Those of us that stayed had a quick shower, got the boats put away and started preparing for the evening.

By 7:30pm Jazz was blaring out and the place was heaving; and by 8:00pm we had 80+ members and guests at the club. Nigel duly started carving and the Aquarius ladies served the array of salads that accompanied. This was followed by a desert and coffee from Pete's famous Cappuccino machine. We left just before midnight but the place was still rocking. It was the best attended social this century.

Sunday started as a very still morning but picked up around the start of the first race. The second race was the Commodores novelty event set over a triangular course. On the two upstream marks buckets were attached, one containing coloured plastic balls while the other was empty. Contestants had to sail to the full bucket, grab a ball, and then sail around the course to deposit the ball in the empty bucket. Then go back and do it all again. I have never seen so many boats going in so many different directions at once.

The last race was the Ladies and Novices race. We had a record entry due to the recently finished Youth Sail Instruction Programme; 7 novices and 4 ladies. Unfortunately it was marred by a couple of accidents. Imogen Morris's Pico was picked up by another boat and as the boom was released it swung back and hit her across the face. She had to retire and receive first aid for a heavily bleeding nose. The same boat then went on, collided with Imogen's brother Edmund's Pico, and capsized him. He righted the boat and the rest of the race passed without incident.

The day ended with a paddling race using dis-masted Pico hulls around a couple of buoys. The number of people you can get on a Pico competition ended when the top of the centre plate box was driven under water and the boat sank, but great fun was had by all, including a number of, shall I say, our more mature members (they are just big kids really).

Once everybody was ashore and accounted for the Aquarius ladies served our traditional 'regatta tea' including sandwiches, savouries, cakes and, of course, strawberries and cream.

Our Commodore Tony Hopkins then presented the Youth Sail Instruction Course certificates to everyone who had taken part. Imogen & Edmund Morris and Dominic Lunniss received gold certificates for completing the course. The course log sheets are still open and everybody is encouraged to keep sailing and complete the programme.

Tony then thanked everybody who had helped prepare the regatta tea, including Joan & George who had picked all the strawberries at Garson Farm (I think George eats as many in the field as he bring back). By 6:00pm things were winding down but I think this year's Hog Roast and Regatta was a classic! Many thanks to everyone involved and I do hope our newer, younger sailors enjoyed their first Aquarius Regatta.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*



## Social Calendar - Dates For Your Diary

Sat 7 Nov	Kempton Park Fireworks and a social with hot food at the Club afterwards. <b>Provisional date and prices.</b> For cut price (£5.50 instead of £8) advance tickets contact Richard Cannon on 01932 786636 by Wednesday 4 November; meet & park at Richard's at 7:00 pm for a short stroll to Kempton Park
Sat 21 Nov	AQSC Annual Dinner starting at 7:30 pm.
<b>Sat 5 Dec</b>	AGM, Prize Giving and End of Season Party starting at 7:30 pm.
Sun 13 Dec	Cheats Christmas lunch and family games
<b>2010</b>	
Sun 17 Jan	Lunch and Pantomime
Sun 14 Feb	Ladies Day Lunch
Sun 28 Feb	Lunch and frostbite Cruise/scavenger hunt
<b>Sat 21 Mar</b>	Start of Season Party 7:30pm
Sun 29 Mar	Start of sailing,; Spring Race 1, TFC, Spa Race 1

## Sailing Secretary Notes - Richard Cannon

### Race Signing On

The task of the Race Officers is made difficult by members not signing on for races; Sail number, initial or first name and last name is required. The Race Officers may not know the names of the crew in boats.

If you intend to race the easy way is to sign on for all races when you arrive at the club; if crew or boat details change you can change them during the day, and if you don't race the Race officer can delete your entry. If you don't sign on **you may not get a race result.**

### Race Officers

There is normally a team of 3 running a race.

1. The Officer Of the Day (OOD) is responsible for everything but he can delegate as necessary.
2. The Safety Boat Officer of the Day (SBO) is responsible for manning the Safety Boat.
3. The Assistant Officer of the Day (AOD) is responsible for helping the OOD and SBO.

### Race Start Times

The normal race start times are 11:30 for the morning race, 14:00 for the first afternoon race and 3:30 for the 2nd afternoon race.

There is a lot for race officers to do to prepare the morning race and they should aim to arrive at the club by 10:00 to ensure they are ready to start the race by 11:30; invariably things crop up that means it takes longer than you expect.

It is members responsibility to be ready to start by the scheduled time and races will not be delayed for members who aren't ready.

## Apologies

The AQSC General Management Committee has asked me to apologise to those people who arrived late for the Hog Roast on Saturday night and couldn't get in. Apparently they had phoned the club from the outer gate because they didn't know the combination, but due to the music and general noise in the clubhouse nobody heard the phone ringing. Our sincere apologies and we will endeavour to get the new intercom installed at the outer gate as soon as possible so this, hopefully, cannot happen again.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker  
for & on behalf of the  
AQSC GMC.*

## Mid Summer Madness Cruise to 'The Magpie'

This has become a bit of an annual event with a flotilla of sail and power boats leaving Aquarius at 6:30pm. Last year we had a bit of a problem when the chef got totally overwhelmed but this time the pub was forewarned that Aquarius was coming.

Nineteen of us made the trip this year, Nigel, Mike Chipps and myself in Lasers, Rodger and Liz in a Bosun, Keith Poncia in a Skipper, and Richard and Dave in the Manta. We were accompanied by Stuart, Pete and Don's cruisers with everybody else onboard.

Mooring was a bit tight at the pub so Keith's Skipper, Don's cruiser and Dave's Manta had to moor on the wall upstream of The Magpie and walk back along the road.

The sail up was classic. A run all the way powered by a good consistent breeze, we did it in fifteen minutes!

The Magpie managed much better this year and everybody was served within forty minutes of arrival.

The sail back at gone eight o'clock was just as good, with a stiff breeze which got the Laser's well heeled at times and an empty river to enjoy without having to dodge other traffic. Again we got back in record time, packed up the boats and retired to the bar for coffee and a chat. A great evening!

*Mike (Warming to Laser's) Baker*

## Weather Forecasts Richard Cannon

There are links to 3 weather sites on the Aquarius web site; the BBC, Metcheck and a Lower Sunbury garden, my preference is the Metcheck site. On sailing days I normally put a Metcheck weather forecast on the notice board in the club entrance.



Moored at the Magpie



Returning from the Magpie