



AQUARIUS S.C.

# THE MAIN SHEET

## Summer 2010 Edition

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### 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 is good to have this task delegated.

### Joan Bray welcomes

We give a warm welcome to Robert (Bob) Kemp, Dominic Shoemaker and Robert Britton who has rejoined us together with his partner Elizabeth.

Wishing you all a long and successful membership of Aquarius

**Joan Bray**

### Commodore's Report - Tony Hopkins

We are well into the sailing season and I have hardly spent any time sailing. The open weekend provided an opportunity to get on the water and take out prospective members, the Saturday was disappointing with only one visitor but Sunday seemed to bring a bountiful supply and the sailing conditions were good.

The Mid-Thames trophy hosted by Aquarius proved a fairly windless event but the Sun shone and as usual Aquarius did the event proud especially with the lunch and tea, a very well done to all those who baked cakes, served teas, prepared and served lunches. A working party the weekend before put the club house, reach and car park in tip top condition, again many thanks to all those who attended.

Due to a clash of dates I missed the club regatta as I had booked a week in the sun hoping for some sailing on the Med, alas conditions were against me

with strong onshore winds and rough seas, I did manage one short sail.

We will soon be hosting a Signet open meeting, needless to say we will need members on hand to make sure that the event is a success.

The dead tree has now been felled making the end of the reach fairly safe.

Great Sailing,

**Tony Hopkins,  
Commodore.**



### Forthcoming Events

We go to a lot of trouble to try and keep members aware of forthcoming events. The annual programme card, flyers, posters, email and snail mail are all used but still some members grumble that they didn't know events were happening.

If you don't read what we send out or enter dates into your diaries there's not a lot else we can do. So here's another 'heads up'.

#### Saturday 17 July Quiz Night

A general knowledge quiz will start in the club house at 7:30pm. Prior to the start orders will be taken for fish & chips (approx. £5 per head).

#### Wednesday 28 July Thameside Harmony Chorus

Thameside Harmony Chorus, which includes Pat Irving, will be at the club to present an evening of song. The event is planned at 7:30 for 8:00pm and light refreshments will be available.

#### Saturday 14 August Sunbury Regatta Fireworks

Bring your own BBQ food to the club and later the safety boats will go upstream for the fireworks display. Watch for info re departure time and booking a seat on one of the boats.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## The Bodgit Diaries

The February AQSC Management Meeting was briefed by Nigel on the content of a submission to 'Grassroots grants' which are available via the Thames Community Development Foundation and funded by the Office of the Third Sector (very George Orwell).

The proposal was for a commercial dishwasher, oven and hob, two stainless steel hot cabinets and a 125litre hot water system. These items to be installed by Bodgit & Son as part of the overall galley refurbishment planned for this year and included electrical certification costs. The club committee unanimously approved the proposal which was emailed on 9 March and followed up with signed-off hard copy plus all the required attachments a couple of days later.

A decision was expected by mid April so we awaited the outcome ... The grant allocation came through some six weeks later and although it was less than hoped for it will provide a new hot water system and other items which are being re-negotiated at this time.

23 April - Dismantled the quarterdeck end of the 'temporary' winter conservatory. Constructed trolley to move and store the conservatory panels and repaired electrical connection to waterfront globe lights.

Various Wednesdays - General maintenance including ground work, electrics, installing club boat mooring posts and erection of racking systems in the Bosun's store.

## Ode to Spell Chequer

Eye halve a spelling chequer, it came with my pea sea.

It plainly marks four my revue Miss Steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word and weight for it to say

Weather eye am wrong oar write, it shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid it nose bee fore two long

And eye can put the error rite, its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it, I am shore your pleased two no,

Its letter perfect awl the weigh my chequer tolled me sew.

## Start of Season Party 20 March

This years party hosted a guest speaker Mr. Gordon Tripp who gave an illustrated talk on Admiral Robert Fitzroy who was the Captain of HMS Beagle (Darwin's ship) and a pioneering meteorologist. Things got underway at 7:30pm with the bar doing brisk business.

At 8:00pm. sharp the members were invited to be seated, Tony Hopkins formally introduced the guest speaker and then Gordon started his presentation which proved to be totally absorbing. I'm not going into the detail of the presentation, if you were there you don't need it and if you weren't, well, you missed a great evening. Needless to say it was very well received and provoked a lot of questions at the end.

Following the lecture an excellent buffet supper was served by Diana and her helpers which was much appreciated. Next stop the commencement of the spring series races on the 28th.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## A Big Bust Up In The Biscuit World

A Bandit called Rocky, who is Crackers, hit a Penguin from Montana over the head with a Club, tied him to a Wagon Wheel with a Blue Ribbon, kidnapped a Trophy and made his Breakaway in a Taxi. The police say Rocky was last seen just After Eight by a Viscount from Maryland Hobnobbing with a Ginger Nut.

Unfortunately at this stage we do not have a crumb of evidence to go on.

Sounds Jammy Dodger to me.

## Start of Spring Series 28 March

You never know what the weather's going to be doing on the first day's sailing of the year. This time the river was flowing pretty fast but there was just enough wind to make over the water. Richard set a port sided course with one upstream and one downstream mark and at 11:30 promptly yours truly set off in 'Peanuts'. I was subsequently joined by Charles, Graham and Rodger.

During the race Charles put down an early marker to retain the water rat by capsizing twice, and by the end of the day three times. The second race, following a lunchtime BBQ, followed along the same lines but this time I went for a swim demonstrating, rather elegantly I thought, the classic capsizes to windward. We were also joined by Trudi Hilton in her Comet. Richard was about to start the third race when 'the ladies' announced that tea was ready. Even Richard wasn't going to argue that the race should take priority so it was postponed and everybody disappeared into the clubhouse.

When the final race eventually got underway the wind was starting to drop. Bryan Clements who had been watching the days sailing finally decided the conditions were right and joined us in his Grad. You have to understand that Bryan doesn't like sailing in any conditions where there is a possibility of getting his feet wet.

All in all it was a good days sailing and got the season off to a flying start. Shame more people weren't on the water but there you go. We are thinking of renaming AQSC (Aquarius Social Club) but perhaps it's still a bit early in the season to go that far. Lets hope as the weather gets warmer it will tempt more members back into the boats.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**



Under tow from Aquarius

## The Big Cat's Maiden Voyage

I had requested that the crew might do a write-up, together with some photos of this epic voyage to take Gordon Courtney's catamaran from Hampton to Shoreham on the South Coast. However to date nothing has been forthcoming but perhaps we might get something for the Autumn edition of Mainsheet.

Entering Teddington Lock



## Working Party 24 April

I suppose it's fair to say that this working party was all about sprucing up the club in preparation for hosting the Mid Thames Trophy at the beginning of May.

The weather was fantastic, clear blue sky and brilliant sunshine. Some twenty one souls turned up to help out. Some got on with the ground work, strimming, weed etc. Some got on with the external painting. Others worked along the bank collecting a mountain of drift wood, metal, canvas, old trailers and plastic sheeting. Another team worked on the gate answer phone and got that working while others sorted out the patrol boat engine and its electrics.

Bodgit & Son cleared out the storage area under the quarterdeck to take the 'winter conservatory' panels taken down earlier in the week.

Diana kept the tea and coffee coming and served up a great lunch of sausage casserole with baked potatoes to keep the troop's stamina up.

By the end of the afternoon everybody was just about tuckered out by a combination of a lot of work and, unusually for this time of year, the heat.

Many thanks to everybody involved including Pete & Diana Carpenter, John Neale, David Grigg, Joan and Gordon Courtney, Liz Archer, Michael Chipps, Rodger Wheeler, John Tompkins, Tony Hopkins, Phil Courtney and Kim Groble, Ken Ayres, Dave Jennings, Keith Poncia, Nigel Knowles, Bryan Clements, Richard Cannon, Joan Walkden, Graham Thompson, and me, Mike Baker.

If I've missed someone I apologise most sincerely, it's really difficult keeping track of everyone. Great job everyone, the old clubhouse is looking pretty smart for the Mid Thames next weekend.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**



Preparing to start  
Photo by Stuart Schafer

## Mid Thames Trophy - 1 May

I believe AQSC has been competing in the MTT since 2001 although, as a competition, the MTT was running prior to this date. AQSC last hosted the MTT in 2005 and many of the improvements to our clubhouse were undertaken prior to this event to enable us to provide the facilities required. This period was also when Bodgit & Son was founded (if you ever wondered). Since 2001 Aquarius has won the MTT once but has had many second places. Probably the club with the most wins is Hampton SC.

As a result of Richard's calling notices we received entries from Hampton SC, Desborough SC, Littleton SC and Staines SC. Laleham SC seem to have fallen by the wayside over the years which is a shame. The club was open early on the morning 1 May. Ken opened up the extra car park by the pump house and directed AQSC members to it, leaving the main car park for visitors. Hampton SC arrived on the water, their 'fleet' of Ent's, Merlins and Lasers having been towed up from Benn's.

Diana and her team provided tea, coffee and biscuits while Liz (AOD) got the entry forms and food orders sorted out, Frank Rainsborough (OOD) and his race team (Nigel & John) got the course laid. This consisted of a windward and leeward marks separated by a mid course dogleg. At 11:00'ish Frank did the briefing and the first race got away at 11:30'ish. With the very light winds it wasn't necessary to split the race into flights and there were 23 boats starting; probably the most we have had.

Meanwhile Richard loaded the entries into the computer and got ready to calculate the results. The wind was very light out of the SW with a moderate stream, but, put simply the races were a bit of a drifter all day.



Victorious Hampton Team  
Photo by Frank Rainsborough

Hampton's Enterprises and Merlins romped away, although we learned later that the lead Ent subsequently withdrew for sailing an incorrect course. Note: ALWAYS check the course board before going afloat. That race lasted about an hour and was followed by lunch.

Burgers, various salads, fries. Various gateaux were available for dessert. The wind had died towards the end of the first race so Frank decided to change the course in the afternoon using only the windward and leeward marks. By the time R2 got underway the wind had all but died. Several boats started to drift in the direction of Hampton Court and had to be rounded up. By the time the shortened course signal was sounded several boats got timed out before they could cross the line, it was dire. By popular vote R3 was abandoned and Richard set about sorting out the results, rather more demanding than usual, while everybody else had tea and then started packing up.

Eventually Tony announced the results. Hampton SC won (or retained) the Mid Thames Trophy and a Hampton Ent. won the highest placed crew prize. Desborough came 2nd, AQSC 3rd, with Littleton and Staines taking 4th and 5th. As I remember it the AQSC team members were Charles Dennis (Laser), Mike Baker (Laser), Rodger Wheeler (Laser), Graham Thompson (Graduate), Bryan Clements (Graduate), John Panting (SigneT), Andrew Morris (Pico), Hannah Lunniss (Pico), Edmund Morris (Pico), Imogen Morris (Pico) and Tony Hopkins (Comet); having an entry of 11 boats was excellent. The full results (both by club and competitor) can be found on the excellent AQSC website under Race Results and Mid Thames by club; in each race the top 3 boats of each club count towards the Trophy.

I have to say that the event was a great success. Well organised, well attended, good food etc., just a pity that the weather, as in wind, couldn't oblige. I have no idea which club is hosting next years event but we will no doubt be advised sometime in the future. Footnote: On Saturday our missing 3rd water main trophy was returned. We think it might have come from Desborough but after many years gone (probably about 20), it's back and can be seen behind the bar for a while.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Personal Property at AQSC

The Management Committee have asked me to draw members attention to club rule 7.19 Personal Property - (which states that) No personal property shall be kept on the club's premises without the approval of the Management Committee. All such property shall be clearly marked with the members name or sail number. The club reserves the right summarily to dispose of unauthorised personal property left on the club premises.

This rule does not apply to property left in members personal lockers but does apply to items left in changing rooms and around the inside and outside of the clubhouse.

Approved equipment such as mast, booms, sailbags and items left in the trailer park MUST be clearly marked with the owners name and the boat number to which they belong. Items not marked will be regarded as club property.

Would members also note that washing up should be put in the dishwasher and NOT left in the sink or on the work surfaces. Someone has to clear up and finding a load of days-old crocks to deal with is not very pleasant.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Regatta & Hog Roast 12 /13 June

The regatta weekend is always a highlight event in the club calendar. Experience shows that a combination of 'serious' racing and fun events for those for whom racing holds less interest, is the way to go. Something for everyone.

A work party got together on Friday night to put up the cover over the quarterdeck. Forward thinking had this down as a sunshade or rain cover, either way the space would be needed. Nigel had collected the hog roast itself and Pete had collected and installed a pin of TEA (traditional English ale) from the Hog's Back Brewery. Tables were set out and the galley cleared.

I wasn't around for the sailing on Saturday and Sunday but I understand both the racing and fun events went well. I had hoped someone would provide a few words about the regatta but evidently not! Lyn and I did make the hog roast in the evening and I have to say it was excellent although attendance seemed a bit down on past years which is a shame considering the amount of effort by many people that goes into its organisation.

It was a beautiful evening and almost everybody was out on the quarterdeck for most of the time. There was recorded jazz for some and the first England world cup game for others. The food was outstanding. The hog was roasted to perfection (I think Nigel's getting the hang of it) and served with so many varieties of salad it made your head spin. The TEA and Pimm's appeared to be going down well (not a bad pint that TEA).

Thank you to everybody involved in the organisation and all those who helped out on the night, with special thanks to Nigel for wrangling the hog, Diana for organising the salads and desserts. Also all the folks who helped clear up, a thankless task, but most appreciated by anyone who has done it in the past.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**



Nigel carving the hog

## AQSC Open Weekend 8/9 May

Although the club is now open to visitors every Sunday we continue to hold our annual 'Open Weekend' to help raise the club's visibility in the local area and, hopefully, increase the membership. Publicity flyers were made available to the members well in advance and a couple of weeks before a local community event announcement request was put into Radio Jackie for broadcasting (the station manager is, luckily, also a keen sailor). Publicity information was also posted on the local council website and in local shops and libraries.

Saturday morning was less than encouraging. It was bitterly cold and raining and all my doubts about holding the open weekend too early in the year started to crowd in. By 10:30am a number of helpers had turned up and several of our Bosuns were being rigged ready for use, but by lunch time not one visitor had shown up. Things picked up a little in the afternoon and we had one visitor; the smallest number we have ever had.

I wasn't around on Sunday but I'm told the number of visitors was good (12 groups totalling 30 people) with a number of potential new members identified. We will have to wait and see how many convert into actual membership applications. Thanks to everyone, afloat and ashore who helped out over the weekend, it was really appreciated.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Bowl Water - 24 May

I have been saying for some time that more of you should take advantage of the opportunity to sail at Bowl. It's as near perfect a sailing venue as you will find anywhere. Good facilities, clubhouse, food and best of all big open water sailing. I hate to say it but if you think sailing on the river is what it's all about, try Bowl. You will never look at river sailing in quite the same way again.

This year we had a very good turn out, five Signets, two Picos, a Bosun and a Pacer and some twenty-five people. The weather was a bit overcast and the wind struggled to reach F3, although there was the odd bit of planing, but everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. This was a first 2010 sail for Over Easy and she was joined by John Panting in ST924 (Sunset) and Richard Cannon in ST368 (June), Keith Hatton with ST858 (Saint) and Rob Britton & his girlfriend Liz with ST749 (Ugly Duckling). Edmond and Imogen Morris sailed one of the Picos while Team Lunniss used the other Pico and the Pacer. John Neale and Rodger Wheeler sailed the Bosun and her large sail seemed to make the most of what wind there was.

There was no racing but cruising on Bowl is always a pleasure. Many thanks to BVSC for allowing us to go and enjoy their facilities. The day ended with the usual trip to 'The Grasshopper' at Westerham for a jar or two and something to eat.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**



## Sunset Takes To The Water

After months of painstaking work John Panting finally brought ST924 (Sunset) to AQSC on Sunday 25 April for her launching. John's wife Brenda bought the SigneT self build kit from Fyne Boats as a surprise 60th birthday present and John's trials and tribulations putting it together has been reported in past newsletters.

There was a lot of interest from members as Sunset was rigged. Brenda told me that despite protests from their family John had requested that they stay away from the initial launch as there would be a lot to do. I'm sure however they will be down to Aquarius very shortly to inspect Dad's handy work. In the event Sunset floated off her launch trolley and after a couple of minutes was declared bone dry, not a leak to be seen. John's smiles grew even broader.

With Richard Cannon as crew John then took ST924 out for her initial sail. In the afternoon Richard helmed and John crewed in ST924's first race. There are a couple of pictures of this auspicious event somewhere in this edition. On his return John declared himself well satisfied with the boat although I think Richard may well have suggested 'a few' tweaks and changes.

Congratulations to John for seeing his project through and to Brenda for choosing such a splendid dinghy in the first place (okay I'm a little biased). We expect to see quite a bit of John and ST924 on the water at Aquarius from now on, in addition to the SigneT class opens which I know he's also keen to attend.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Thought For Today

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not a retiree should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the retiree and ask him or her to empty the bathtub"

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

**Mike (my bath runeth over) Baker**

## 'Mid Summer Madness' Cruise - 23 June Trudi Hilton

On one of the finest evenings of the year so far 16 of us set off on the 'Mid Summer Madness' cruise to the Magpie pub for dinner, leaving at 6:30pm. Having missed it last year I was very keen to join what is advertised as a sophisticated trip up the Thames. I left work early and thanks to it having been the England game in the World Cup that afternoon there was very little traffic so I arrived in plenty of time to rig.

Dilemma struck when we discovered that this same football event meant that The Magpie had run out of food! Frantic planning and plotting led to the decision to head for the Weir Hotel instead, having confirmed there was something to eat when we got there, thanks Graham!

Disaster averted, Roger Wheeler in the Laser, and I in my Comet (emboldened by having been awarded the Ladies Cup earlier in the month at the Regatta!!!) I decided to try to sail despite only a gentle wind. The better-dressed members of the party either rowed (Eiko and Graham) or cruised alongside us. Richard Cannon in the patrol boat with Joan Walkden & Linda Wheeler patiently accompanied me in my Comet as I made my way slowly up river until Roger disappeared from my view! Then I was able to enjoy the magic of the evening as two swans flew low overhead in the direction we were headed; people sat in their gardens along the bank, chatting drinking and cooking food - magnificent!

We all regrouped in Sunbury Lock - apologies those of you in the cruisers who had such a long wait for me while I was helped to catch up!! (It seemed you all made good use of the time though?) Fortunately no one else was wanting to use the Lock at this time of the evening so we went through en masse For the record - Richard tells me it is the first time he has taken sailing boats through the lock since he joined AQSC in 1992. Certainly a first for me!

But that was not the last challenge along the route as it soon became clear that our masts would not clear the next bridge; it was very difficult to judge if we would clear the several cables strung across the river but we didn't bring any down.

Roger was ably assisted by Graham and Eiko to tilt his Laser and bring it under the bridge at a precarious angle! My team took a different approach as Joan generously offered to go ashore and hang on to my mast while walking my little craft through to the other side - a hairy moment but without any disasters, and another first for me!!

And then we cruised on up to the Weir Hotel where we caught up with the rest of the crew and were joined by Don & Helen Barnett for a wonderful hot dinner in the warm, setting sun (or watching the marathon tennis match for Joan - former Ladies Cup winner - and I!, we left just as bad light stopped play).

After some essential sustenance we headed back down to the club, perfecting the art of being towed and passing under a bridge (this time I was IN the Safety Boat and pulled my Comet to me!) before descending the lock and being released back onto the river with a gentle tail wind

A more perfect night you could not have been imagined - the sun was all-but gone, not a cloud in the sky, an almost full moon with some stars along the way, and the Thames glistening all around.

Patiently the cruisers escorted Roger and I slowly on our way back to AQSC in the gentle breeze and silent evening air until it was almost completely dark. Thanks again to the patient efforts of the Safety Boat crew I was escorted back to the club before midnight and able to get ashore and de-rigged by torch-light

It was a truly memorable experience for me, thanks to the patience and assistance of everyone else - I do hope you all enjoyed it too!

And for those of you who missed it, next year perhaps we will change the planned venue and do it all again? Not that I can imagine getting a whole flotilla under that bridge and still having time to eat dinner before dark!



Picture by pubs.com

## The Following Was Sent To Over Easy From A Friend It Made Me Laugh And I Thought You Guys Might Enjoy It As Well

This was actually taken from a passport application and a member of staff copied it, as it made her laugh all day.

### Subject: Passport Application

Dear Minister,

I'm in the process of renewing my passport but I am at a total loss to understand or believe the hoops I am being asked to jump through.

How is it that Bert Smith of T.V. Rentals Basingstoke has my address and telephone number and knows that I bought a satellite dish from them back in 1994, and yet, the Government is still asking me where I was born and on what date?

How come that nice West African immigrant chappy who comes round every Thursday night with his DVD rentals van can tell me every film or video I have had out since he started his business up eleven years ago, yet you still want me to remind you of my last three jobs, two of which were with contractors working for the government?

How come the T.V. detector van can tell if my T.V. is on, what channel I am watching and whether I have paid my licence or not, and yet if I win the government run lottery they have no idea I have won or where I am and will keep the bloody money to themselves if I fail to claim in good time. Do you people do this by hand?

You have my birth date on numerous files you hold on me, including the one with all the income tax forms I've filed for the past 30-odd years. It's on my health insurance card, my driver's licence, on the last four passports I've had, on all those stupid customs declaration forms I've had to fill out before being allowed off the planes and boats over the last 30 years, and all those insufferable census forms that are done every ten years and the electoral registration forms I have to complete, by law, every time our lords and masters are up for re-election.

Would somebody please take note, once and for all, I was born in Maidenhead on the 4th of March 1957, my mother's name is Mary, her maiden name was Reynolds, my father's name is Robert, and I'd be absolutely astounded if that ever changed between now and the day I die!

I apologise Minister. I'm obviously not myself this morning. But between you and me, I have simply had enough! You mail the application to my house, then you ask me for my address. What is going on? Do you have a gang of Neanderthals working there? Look at my damn picture. Do I look like Bin Laden? I don't want to activate the Fifth Reich for God's sake! I just want to go and park my weary backside on a sunny, sandy beach for a couple of week's well-earned rest away from all this crap.

Well, I have to go now, because I have to go to back to Salisbury and get another copy of my birth certificate because you lost the last one. AND to the tune of 60 quid! What a racket THAT is!! Would it be so complicated to have all the services in the same spot to assist in the issuance of a new passport the same day? But nooooo, that'd be too damn easy and maybe make sense. You'd rather have us running all over the place like chickens with our heads cut off, than find some tosser to confirm that it's really me on the goddamn picture - you know... the one where we're not allowed to smile in in case we look as if we are enjoying the process! Hey, you know why we can't smile? 'Cause we're totally jacked off!

I served in the armed forces for more than 25 years including over ten years at the Ministry of Defence in London. I have had security clearances which allowed me to sit in the Cabinet Office, five seats away from the Prime Minister while he was being briefed on the first Gulf War and I have been doing volunteer work for the British Red Cross ever since I left the Services. However, I have to get someone 'important' to verify who I am -- you know, someone like my doctor... who, before he got his medical degree 6 months ago WAS LIVING IN PAKISTAN...

Yours sincerely,  
**An Irate British Citizen.**

### Lessons Learnt At Grafham John Panting

Get the boat on course after a tack (don't over rotate).

Take care with the sheets (if they get tangled it could end your race or worse).

You only know your true limits when you exceed them (but this does not win races).

Shift your weight quickly and balance the boat on a gybe.

Auto balers are essential in a Signet if sailing in strong winds on open water.

A good crew can save the day.

Signet Open Meeting pictures by Madeline Hatton



## SigneT Open at AQSC - 4 July

Six SigneTs and, at times, three club Bosuns competed in the racing on Sunday 4 July. The wind was SW, F3 gusting F4. The general consensus amongst the crews seemed to be 'Interesting/challenging'.

The home SigneTs were ST368 (June) crewed by Richard Cannon and Robert Britton, ST369 (Over Easy) crewed by Mike Baker and Keith Hatton and ST924 (Sunset) crewed by John Panting and Liz Archer/Bryan Clements. The visitors were ST690 with Pat Overs and Steve Whiteside, ST387 with Rob Anstey and Kate Taylor and ST761 Roy Melsom and Hannah Whiteside. The Bosuns were crewed by Graham Thompson, Tony Hopkins and Rodger Wheeler (apologies to their crews, if any, but I don't have your names).

George and Joan Bray were OOD and AOD for the day with Simon Lunniss, Laurie Bridges and Dave Jennings manning the safety boats. Pat Irving and several helpers looked after the lunchtime BBQ and afternoon tea.

The course was a figure of eight with an upstream windward port mark and a downstream starboard mark. The first race started at 11:30 and the six SigneTs were joined by Graham's Bosun. Most boats started on starboard but there was some confusion because the start signal was generally agreed later to have been 9 seconds late. By my reckoning three SigneTs that departed against their own stopwatches, were over the line but only ST368 was recalled. Richard later reported that he had developed a tear in his jib and was over because he was concentrating on the damaged sail at the time. The race was about an hour in duration and was won by ST761. ST368 was second and ST369 third (Mike Baker helming).

Lunch was the next order of business and everybody settled down in the sunshine to enjoy a burger and a drink. The second race got underway at 2pm. and this time was joined by all three Bosuns, Tony and Rodger having finally got out of bed. Keith Hatton now helmed ST369 with yours truly up the sharp end doing the crew thing. Obviously it was the right move because ST369 came in first followed home by ST761 and ST368.

The third race was back-to-back with the second but there was a slight delay while ST924 with John and Liz recovered a capsize and then beat upstream to cross the line. With Liz looking a little soggy John then enlisted a replacement crew in the form of Bryan Clements.

The third race started a few seconds early but it was a clean getaway and a much closer contested race. In the end the places for all boats was identical to the second race.

It was a lively sail and I think by the end a number of people, including the crew of ST369, ached in places they didn't even know they had places.



Keith & Mike

## Grafham Water Signet Open Meeting 19 June Richard Cannon

Grafham Water is a large reservoir, 3 miles long and 1 ½ miles wide, off the A1 between Bedford and Cambridge; the Signets join the Beds and Cambs Regatta slow handicap fleet which had 22 entries. There were only 8 entries in the fast handicap fleet.

John Panting with Rodger Wheeler in ST924 and Richard Cannon with Robert Britton in ST368 went from Aquarius. There were only two other Signets, Pat Overs & Steve Leeding in ST690, and Lizzy Davies & Tory Carrington in ST761 both from Paxton SC.

It was very windy; NE 20 to 25 gusting 30 knts, with large waves. Richard rigged but decided it was too windy for him to sail; it was so windy the genoa wouldn't furl. A number of potential regatta boats left when they found how windy it was. John and Rodger sailed and did very well not to capsize. Fortunately although very strong the wind wasn't gusty and it was not as difficult as it looked and sounded.

In the afternoon there were two races back to back of one hour each so we would be on the water for about 3 hours. The wind had dropped by 5knts to a more manageable 15 to 20, gust 25knts so Richard decided to race. There was close racing between the SigneTs although at times positions changed with big difference in the distance between boats.

Lizzy and Pat were faster off the wind and Richard was faster on the beats and managed to be the first Signet in both races; the decision not to sail the first race paid off as he was fresher for the afternoon races. Lizzy capsized in the last race. John did very well not to capsize although in the last race he had a very near capsize which completely filled them with water.

We never get similar conditions on the river; if it is windy it is usually very gusty and fluky and we never go really fast.

Grafham Results			Races			Places	
Boat	Helm	Crew	1	2	3	Regatta	ST
ST368	R Cannon	R Britton	DNC	13	12	15	1
ST690	P Overs	S Leeding	11	15	13	14	2
ST761	L Davies	T Carrington	12	14	16	17	3
ST924	J Panting	R Wheeler	19	19	17	20	4

After the results and prize giving our visitors recovered their boats up to the car park and by 6:30pm most had gone. Many thanks to everybody who helped make the day a great success. The SigneTs like coming to Aquarius and will almost certainly be invited back sometime in the future.

### Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Aquarius Results				Races		
Place	Helm	Crew	Boat	1	2	3
1	K Hatton	M Baker	ST369		1	1
2	R Melsom	H Whiteside	ST761	1	2	2
3	R Cannon	R Britton	ST368	2	3	3
4	R Anstey	K Taylor	ST387	5	4	4
5	P Overs	St Whiteside	ST690	4	5	5
6	M Baker	K Hatton	ST369	3		
7	J Panting	L Archer	ST924	6	6	
		B Clements				6



## Social Calendar - Dates For Your Diary

Sat 17 Jul	Quiz night at 7:30pm with fish & chips supper
Wed 28 Jul	Thameside Harmony Chorus, including Pat Irving, at 7:30 pm
Sat 14 Aug	Sunbury Regatta Fireworks
Sat 9 Oct	Dress for the "Roaring Twenties" with Cocktails, Entertainment and Repast 7 for 7.30p.m
Sat 6 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 3 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.
Sat 28 Nov	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided
<b>Sat 4 Dec</b>	AGM, Prize Giving and End of Season Party starting at 7:30 pm.
Sun 12 Dec	Cheats Christmas lunch and family games
<b>2011</b>	
Sun 16 Jan	Lunch and Pantomime
Sun 13 Feb	Ladies Day Lunch
Sun 27 Feb	Lunch and frostbite Cruise/scavenger hunt
<b>Sat 19 Mar</b>	Start of Season Party 7:30pm
Sun 27 Mar	Start of sailing; Spring Race 1, TFC, Spa Race 1

## Things To Do ... Apart from Sailing (Unpublished Story From 2006)

Yes, strange as it may seem, there are other things to do apart from sailing. Being a bit of a petrol head no doubt inspired my family to come up with my birthday presents this year. Both came to me in the form of envelopes. Not very exciting I hear you say but you would be wrong.

Lyn's envelope contained an A4 cryptic message ending with an anagram. Two reads later I cracked it. Lyn had arranged a three day trip to the Monaco Grand Prix, staying in Nice. This, of all the Grand Prix's is the most exciting, glamorous and potentially dangerous. A 'must see' for all F1 fans and something that I've been banging on about going to since I climbed out of nappies and stepped into my first pedal car. Lyn even said she was coming with me ... and not a mention of all those designer shops, or am I being cynical? I mean what's wrong with a Ferrari T shirt!

Noel and Abby's envelope just enclosed a photograph of a drop dead gorgeous 1966, Series 1, 4.2 litre E Type Jaguar fixed head coupe finished in British Racing Green. My favourite car of all time and every red blooded male's idea of heaven on wheels. What I expected next was a model in a box but what they gave me was a second envelope which explained that the Jag in the picture plus a three night stay in a delightful hotel on Dartmoor was all mine (and Lyn's). I'm not often lost for words but I was at that moment. Me, an E Type, a blond and a hotel, I think my kids are trying to lead me astray! That being the case, lead on, that's what I say!

P.S. I've driven quite a few cars over the years but nothing compared to the E-Type. It's fantastic condition completely belied its 30 year age. Everything worked perfectly and the 4.2 litre engine was as powerful as

the day it was built. Its overall length and turning circle left much to be desired and were amongst the first things to come to terms with. Another was the heavy steering at low speed and the brakes, which although efficient didn't have 'the bite' of modern ventilated disc units. The clutch and gear change were 'industrial', again compared with modern transmissions.

Don't get me wrong, none of these things are criticisms, they are what driving a classic car of this vintage was all about; but if there is one memory I will take away it must be people's reaction to the car. Everywhere we stopped people wanted to look at it, photograph it or talk about it. It was a people magnet. A design icon that even today stands head and shoulders above its peers. It was a privilege to drive such an automobile!

**Mike (Happy little petrol head) Baker**

### Stories Needed From Members

If we had more stories from the membership we wouldn't need to use old unpublished ones like that above.

### Indoor Olympics 10 April

There was an organisational mix-up over this event and it was cancelled. Sorry about that!

### Weather Forecasts Richard Cannon

On sailing days a weather forecast for the day is normally displayed on the notice board in the entrance.

There are links to weather forecast sites on the AQSC web site news page.

### Fun And Training Sunday 12 July

The visit to the Paxton lakes SC RLNI 24 hour race didn't take place because not enough members were interested to make up the size team required to support sailing for 24 hours.

The World Cup football final was on in the evening and as there was fun sailing scheduled at AQSC Simon Lunniss organised a fun event for our youths and friends with a World Cup theme using canoes and a large ball; they had a great time.

Also some of our recent new members received training all afternoon in ideal conditions; it was very hot with a 3 to 10 knot West (mainly) wind that was fairly steady most of the time.

Some of our regular sailors avoided the bad Hampton Flower Show traffic jams by staying away.

### Personal Use Of The Club Safety Boats

The Management Committee is concerned about the amount of personal use of the clubs safety boats that is occurring.

Members are reminded that the prime purpose of these boats is to afford safety cover at the club and they are not to be made use of for joy riding at any time.

The Management Committee also requests that persons scheduled for a safety boat duty, which will now entail the use of the Dory, must have been checked out on the handling of this craft by either Rodger Wheeler or Richard Cannon.

Safety boat crews must ensure that they are carrying one of the club's walkie-talkies, that it is turned on and tested, prior to going afloat.

**AQSC Management Committee**