



AQUARIUS S.C.

THE MAIN SHEET

Summer 2011 Edition

Web Site: <http://www.sailaquarius.org.uk>
Email: mail@sailaquarius.org.uk

Editor: Richard Cannon 01932 786636
E-mail: editor@sailaquarius.org.uk

Publicity: Over Easy 020 8393 5495 E-mail: publicity@sailaquarius.org.uk

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Lunchtime BBQ

Every race day we have been very fortunate to have a gorgeous BBQ of burgers and sausages.

I would like to thank Pat Irving for the great service she has been giving us.
Richard (Sailing Sec) Cannon

Joan Bray welcomes

We give a warm welcome to:- Rebecca Gittoes, Kitti Kovacs and Gyorgy Sapi, Michael Ryman, Wayne Davis, Simon Lyde and family and Roland Arthur and family who have recently joined us.

We wish them a long, happy and successful membership.

Joan Bray Hon. Secretary

The Commodore's Bit

Summer seems to be passing too quickly for me this year with not much sailing.

We recently had the local RYA development officer attend a committee meeting and give an insight into ways the RYA can assist the club. The RYA have a large amount of expertise covering development right across the board. We have put together a working group in this area as things move forward.

We have had a rather unfortunate incident with a visitor who turned out to be a thief, several members had items stolen, car keys were taken and a car in the car park had items removed. Someone had divulged the main gate combination so he was able to leave the grounds before the theft was discovered. Please make sure that **ONLY** members have any club security information.

Tony Hopkins

An Alternative Wednesday Night

Every Wednesday night, come rain or shine, the bar is opened at the club at 8:00pm. But one wonders why we bother because hardly anybody turns up. It's usually only the regulars, who have often been working at the club during the day anyway, that end up appreciating the unique position of our own little 'pub' by the river.

So, this summer why not pack up a BBQ and come and eat Al Fresco on the quarter deck; or grab a take-a-way and bring it to the club. Gentlemen, I'm sure your wife would appreciate a night off from cooking and the kids would love it. Also during the summer a number of us sail on a Wednesday afternoon and into the evening and then retire to the bar to put the world to rights. Why not come and join us?

Did I mention the bar prices? By commercial pub standards Aquarius prices are fantastic. Where else could you get a pint for less than £1.50, It's a no-brainer, so this summer why not plan to occasionally come down to the club on a Wednesday evening and just enjoy its position and atmosphere. After all you help pay for it all so why not come and enjoy it.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

The Pinafore Pirates of Titipu

With apologies to W.S.Gilbert and A.S Sullivan

The Aquarius Press Gang is seeking out Singers and Actors to take part in an informal evening of Gilbert & Sullivan accompanied by suitable libation and sustenance on Saturday 10th September 2011 at 7.30p.m.

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED If you would like to take part and learn of the plot please contact Rodger Wheeler (r@wheeler.me.uk) or phone 020 8979 7254

Newsletter Printing

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We thank Frank Rainsborough for setting this up. He'd like to put something more interesting in, eg an 'information clip'.

From 'Food Slang in the Navy'; BITS are Beans In Tomato Sauce, and another item of Navy food, BATHING BEAUTY, is blancmange, because it shivers and has lovely curves!

(Good idea, we look forward to more clips! Ed.).

13 March Working Party

Never sure how these events are going to turn out. This one started grey, cold and wet. Not an auspicious beginning, however things did get progressively better. The rain stopped, the sky turned blue, the sun came out and twenty two souls turned up and got stuck in.

These included Liz Archer, Ken Ayres, Mike Baker, Don Barnett, Helen Barnett, Laurie Bridges, Eric Bridgewater, Richard Cannon, Diana Carpenter, Pete Carpenter, Gordon Courtney, Joan Courtney, Charles Dennis, Frank Goodall, Pat Halling, Tony Hopkins, Dave Jennings, Nigel Knowles, Stuart Schafer, Arthur Sykes, Graham Thompson and John Tomkins.

The main plan was to continue clearing along the bank behind the dinghies. This gainfully employed just about everyone for the whole day. Meanwhile Diana Carpenter, ably assisted by Helen Barnett, kept the hot drinks coming and provided a superb curry lunch with all the trimmings.

Pete Carpenter vanished into the clubroom ceiling and installed a new speaker system to replace the existing one that dated back to 'the ark'. Unfortunately the amp in the radio/CD player was then found to be blown. This is probably uneconomic to repair and will require the purchase of a new unit.

Thanks to everybody for a really good effort it was much appreciated and to Diana for the excellent lunch. The next working party is scheduled for 13 May. The drive will need a 'blitz', there will be plenty of grass strimming and we will probably push on further up the bank behind the dinghies. Hopefully see you there?

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

27 March – Start Of Racing Programme

I think the same people who sailed the last race of the 2010 season sailed the first race of the 2011 season. There was Nigel, myself, Pat and Charles in Lasers, Graham and Bryan in Grads, Pete in his Bosun and John in his SigneT. The winds were light out of the East, bright sunshine and hardly any stream to worry about. An ideal, easy, first sail to get the season started.

The morning race was followed by a series of starts and one mark to round before returning for the next start. The afternoon race was a re-run of the morning race around four marks. There was quite a lot of rowers out, as you would expect just after the Oxford/Cambridge boat race, so keeping a sharp lookout was essential. We even had a couple of early candidates for this years 'Capsize Trophy' (just love that rat).

But you have to wonder, there's 60 odd boats along the bank and all we get is 7 or 8 for the opening race! It makes you wonder why people keep boats and don't use them.

Anyway, those that did sail, had a great day, marred only by someone running their car over the road gate padlock and smashing it to bits. Nigel had to use an angle grinder to cut what was left of it off the chain. That, I think, is the 4th or 5th lock we've been through in the last year. Could everyone be a little more careful when coming and going through the road gate. Thames Water are running out of padlocks!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

27 February Lunch And Frostbite Quiz Cruise

Originally this was a dinghy/safety boat treasure hunt. Later, lunch was added and later still our cruiser contingent came on board providing much more comfortable (and warmer) transportation. It has now become a firm favourite on the calendar.

The lunch, consisting of 'Posh Sausages' and all the trimmings was prepared by AQSC's own master chef Nigel Knowles. This was followed by 'Mrs. Bodgit' delicious Apple Crumble.

This years quiz was devised by Imogen and Edmund Morris but unfortunately the weather was not kind and the cruise part of the afternoon had to be cancelled. However 21 people turned up for the event during which Ann Rainsborough was presented with flowers to celebrate her 46th wedding anniversary to Frank.

Nice one Guys! Many thanks to Nigel for organising the lunch and to Imogen and Edmund for devising the questions. Hang on to them guys I'm sure they will get used at a later date.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

1001 Uses for ...

Thought you might be interested in this. You've no doubt heard of "1001 uses for Vinegar", well try this. Type into your search engine '1001 uses for WD40'. You will be amazed at what WD40 can be used for. Mainly because it's fish oil based not petroleum based.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

19 March – Start of Season Party

I never did count the number of people who attended this years start of season party, I'd put it at about forty, but the old clubhouse seemed pretty full.

By the time Lyn and I arrived things were in full swing. Rodger was running the Christmas pantomime DVD of Pico Pan. A lot of folks were in the bar area and Diana Carpenter, her cousin Christine, Linda Rowley and Linda Wheeler were busy in the galley preparing supper. We shouldn't take the food at Aquarius for granted. It is

invariably due to the very hard work of the same small group of ladies. They deserve our wholehearted appreciation.

Pete Carpenter was equally doing sterling service behind the bar. The evening was the first chance for everybody to get together since last year and conversations never stopped, not even when supper was announced. This featured meat or veggie lasagne with salad and French bread. This was followed by fresh fruit and, for those that wanted it, Pete's fresh coffee ... perfect!

After supper Rodger announced some of the club's forthcoming events including the first racing of the season scheduled for Sunday 27 March. Things went a little quiet at that stage, can't think why? Altogether a good evening. Thanks to everyone who prepared the food, those that served it and those that cleared up afterwards. See you on the water next weekend!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

21/22 May – Club Open Weekend

With an ageing membership and little young blood joining the club this years open weekend was seen as pretty important. Informational flyers were made available to all members for local posting and distribution. Ads were placed in the Elmbridge and Kingston editions of 'The Guardian' newspaper. Radio Jackie advertised the open weekend via their local community information broadcasts for two weeks prior to the event. We backed this up with information on our website.

That's the conventional approach so ... a thought ... If every existing member introduced one new 'potential' member to the club each year we probably would not need to hold a open weekend. Bit radical? To much trouble? What do you think?

Luckily the road closure at the junctions of the Lower and Upper Sunbury Roads was lifted a few days before the weekend so banners were put up on the Thames Water fences directing potential visitors. Signs were also put up on the Lower Road directing people coming from the Walton direction.

The weekend kicked off with a bright sunny Saturday. Some eighteen people visited the club throughout the day and most went out on the water in either a SigneT, Bosun, David Jennings sailor/cruiser or the safety boat.

Sunday was interesting. We had twenty-eight visitors throughout the day. There was a very strong westerly blowing which at one point, I was reliably informed, gusted at Force 6 (look that up on your Beaufort Scale). It was deemed far too windy to take visitors out in the dinghies but the safety boat did sterling service and seemed to be out most of the day.

The only person who ventured out on Sunday was Rob Britton in club Laser Peanuts. He had a wild time with the dinghy almost taking off at times. It was very entertaining for both visitors and members alike but inevitably he capsized. With the first one he tried to wipe out some spectators with the mast laying over the bank followed by a classic recovery and he came in to repair the toe strap restraints.

The second capsize proved more problematic. He managed to go over the top again and onto the plate but then slipped and fell. During the righting it went straight over the other way and

was immediately swept downstream Rob became entangled in the mainsheet and at one point I think it was around his neck. Because of this he couldn't right the Laser. When the safety boat arrived their first priority was to get him out of the water. After that was achieved the Laser was eventually righted and towed back to the club. That was 'sailing' over for the day and Rob retired to the showers.

My sincere thanks to everybody who helped over the entire weekend especially Joan and George Bray who handled club information/membership together with Richard. John Neale, Pete Carpenter and Dave Jennings who took

visitors sailing on Saturday. The safety boat teams on both days including Graham Thompson and Tony Hopkins, Diana Carpenter and Pat Irving and a number of helpers for looking after the catering on both days. Many other members also helped to show visitors around and chat with them. Thank you all you did a great job.

I think almost everybody who came to Aquarius over the weekend will have gone away with a very positive view of a well equipped and friendly club. Now comes the difficult bit ... converting those visitors into members.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

7 May Mid Thames Trophy

This event was held on the day after my daughter Abby's wedding in Whitstable. Lyn and I were still up there on the 7th packing up all manner of things to be brought back from the reception. So I guess I have a pretty good excuse for not reporting on this event, however, hopefully someone else will.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

On Saturday 7 May at 11:00 there was no wind for the Mid-Thames Trophy inter club event at Littleton SC.

The start was postponed to 12:00 when there was an amazing change to a shifty force 3 gusting 4 South wind that gave an excellent sail for the rest of the day. Littleton SC won by a very big margin, AQSC were 4th.

There was an entry of 40 including a total of 16 visitors from Aquarius SC, Hampton SC and Desborough SC. It was very crowded at the start and around the marks.

Richard Cannon and Tony Hopkins in ST368 were 11th (better than it sounds because they were the 2nd non Littleton boat), John Panting and Frank Goodall in ST924 were 31st. Trudi Hilton came without a boat because her Comet is being repaired and she was very lucky that Adam, the OOD, offered her his wife's Comet number 666 called Fallen Angel; she was 36th.

Richard Cannon

14 May Working Party

This was the second work party of the year. Its purpose was to prepare the club for the annual open weekend on 21/22 May. Some thirty members turned up to undertake a variety of tasks including clubhouse cleaning, shower re-pointing, strimming, weeding, repairing the driveway and installing new tyre fend-offs upstream of the new ramp.

Diana Carpenter and Pat Irving supplied the tea and coffee and an excellent lunch of chicken, new potatoes and sweet corn followed by a couple of different flavoured pavlovas. The workers included Gordon & Joan Courtney, Mike Baker, Nigel Knowles, Tony Hopkins, John Neale, Bryan Clements, Stuart Schafer, Charles Dennis, Dave Jennings, Laurie Bridges, George Bray, Liz Archer, Ken Ayres, John Tompkins, Graham Thompson, Pete Carpenter and David Griggs. Apologies if I missed anyone and many thanks to everybody for a great days work. The old club is looking quite dapper and ready for the open weekend.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Saturday 18 June Youth Sailing Afternoon

Due to mid June's unpleasant weather, i.e. rain and high winds, this event was cancelled.

Bodgit Diaries

Bodgit & Sons 2011 programme re-commenced on Thursday 24 February. Having stripped out the galley the night before the walls and ceiling were given a second, and hopefully last, coat of paint.

While the paint dried concave edging strips were glued down between the wall and the floor right around the room. Above those a second strip was fixed which secures the floor covering edge in a U shaped moulding. The vinyl flooring was then laid. The joint between the vinyl flooring and the club room carpet tiles was covered with a chrome joining strip and screwed down. The fact that the flooring curves up the wall should make for a lot easier cleaning. No sharp angles to deal with and it looks pretty good too.

On 25th February the galley was reinstated, which included reinstalling all the units and reconnecting all the electrics and plumbing in readiness for Sunday Frostbite cruise lunch. The galley now awaits a suitable sink and stainless steel worktops to complete the job.

In mid February we took delivery of some galvanised steel grating material. This will be used to construct a new upstream launching ramp. This should measure roughly 2m x 7m, a little longer than the old ramp. Work on that will wait until the weather gets a bit better, and warmer, because that job will entail some of us getting into the river. Any volunteers???

Thursday 3 March - Work continued trimming on the bank opposite the club. This wasn't easy because, for some time now, a great deal of tree debris has been collapsing into the river and this needed to be cleared. On several occasions rowers have collided with this debris not to mention our own dinghies. This should be an EA responsibility but if they won't undertake it what are we supposed to do? The net result should make sailing near the far bank obstruction free and a lot safer. A couple of weeks later the team returned to finish the clearance work on the opposite bank which now looks really good (i.e. not nearly as much tree debris in the river).

Old saying "what can go wrong will go wrong". The Inlet pipe to the kitchen sink had an un-noticed leak which blew the floor ... whole thing had to come up again to dry out. It took another day to put it back down and re-plumb the pipe work. The dishwasher was also converted to a 30amp supply (the old power shower supply) and some modifications were made to the consumer units to provide more overload protection. The step into/out of the gents has been removed so

hopefully no more tripping up problems (John Neale please note).

A new movement sensor light has been installed above the Thames Water road gate to the club. Once connected it will hopefully make coming and going in the dark a little easier and safer. Please also note that it is a TW requirement that this gate **MUST** be kept locked at all times.

Wednesday 6 April - The launching ramp has need major refurbishment for a long time (Bosuns are too heavy) but difficult to do and keep it in use; the difficulty was avoided by building a new upstream ramp. This ramp shares a top platform and winch with the old ramp but faces upstream. The main support is a cross braced scaffolding pole structure overlaid with the galvanised steel grating sections mentioned earlier. The old ramp remains but will need some refurbishment to keep it safe to use. By close of play on 6 April, and with Bryan Clements help, Bodgit had most of the support structure installed and the first two grating sections laid. All the steel work and tools were transported to and from the ramp in Aquarius 1, our safety boat. It was a glorious warm spring day, which was just as well because Nigel spent the best part of it in the river bolting up the support structure.

Wednesday 20 April - Work continued on the installation of the new ramp support structure and the steel gratings. Bodgit was joined this time by Ken Ayres, Dave Jennings and Gordon Courtney. All the gratings are now fitted and await the fabrication of the plate that will bridge the bottom of the ramp to the river bed.

Wednesday 27 April - The last grating was installed. Next Gordon and his trusty welding kit fabricated the triangular plate that bridges from the bottom of the new ramp onto the river bed. This was then transported by boat up to the work site, installed and fixed. The old winch was removed and two holes were cut in the ramp top plates, one at each end. Heavyweight hollow posts were then driven through them down into the river below. The posts were then welded to the ramp deck. A lightweight ratchet winch was then attached to the turning post. By inserting the turning post into one of the fixed posts, either ramp can be used to launch or recover dinghies.

That's it, the following day Nigel put up a notice on the website announcing that the new ramp was open for business. Refurbishment of the older downstream ramp will be undertaken once it has been

surveyed, i.e. at present Bodgit (Marine Eng. Div.) is not sure what's holding it up (the platform was replaced around 15 years ago but not much was done to the ramp!!). Bryan and Ken then reset the three coping stones adjacent to ramp to prevent them tipping into the river. No mean feat as those stabs must weight nearly a quarter of a ton each. Having cleared up, Bodgit then thawed out in our excellent new shower. The new ramp and winch got tested during the sailing on 1 May and the feedback was very positive ... result!

11 - 13 May - Remodelled kitchen cupboard carcasses to take full width pan draws. Constructed draws and fitted guide rails. Installed units and draws. Cut aperture in third stainless steel worktop to take existing hob unit and installed.

Wednesday 18 May - On the previous Sunday Nigel had 'tailored' (that's a euphemism for 'bodged') the sink unit to fit the carcass. It was now fitted for real and the associated plumbing connected. Fitted stainless steel worktops together with their up-stands or splash-backs. Just one pan draw and the sink unit doors to be fitted.

We also got news that Thames Water have a number of gratings going spare. These are similar to the gratings we used on the new launching ramp. This means that at some time in the future, when we have collected a number of these, we can replace the old 'downstream' facing ramp.

Thursday 16 June - Back to the kitchen. Finally got the bottom pan draw fitted after overcoming a problem with the runners. Installed the last of the splash backs and fitted the new sink unit doors.

Wednesday 22 June - Nigel re-fitted the sink unit doors with new hinges. Also, with assistance from Bryan (listen I'm telling you) Clements, he sorted out an electrical fault to the spur in the kitchen ring feeding the ladies & gents heaters. These were installed years ago on the back wall to provide frost protection. The heaters will now be replaced and the wiring renewed.

Sunday 26 June - Joined by Gordon Courtney work started on joining up the quarterdeck canopy sidewalls. These were taped up and taken away by Gordon's to be stitched using his industrial sewing machine. The clubhouse end of the old canopy was then modified to effectively bridge the gap between the new canopy apex and the top of the patio roof. These will be used for the first time at the Regatta and Hog Roast.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker



Under water work on new ramp by Nigel & Gordon



New ramp nearing completion

Security Heads-Up

In view of the recent thefts for the club a new road gate combination lock has been fitted together with a new combination. Either Richard, Rodger or myself will recently have advised you of the combination by telephone. **Under no circumstances** should you **divulge** this number to anyone. It is for members use **ONLY**.

Also please take extra care when entering or leaving the club that you do not let non members in for convenience sake. Experience shows that this has led to thefts and that from now on all non members need to be accompanied while they are on club premises. I know this sounds a bit draconian but if you had been one of the members who lost valuables three weeks ago I'm sure you would argue that these precautions are long overdue.

Again I stress **DO NOT leave valuables**, including **car keys**, in the changing rooms. If you don't have a locker ask for your items to be secured behind the bar.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Midsummer Cruise

This years MS cruise was held on the evening of 15 June. The plan was to leave Aquarius at 6.00-6.30pm and sail and/or motor cruise up to 'The Weir Hotel' at Walton for drinks and supper. Lyn and I opted to drive up and had been enjoying a pint (or two) sitting in the bar for a while when Nigel and Frank walked in closely followed by Stuart, Rodger, Rebecca, Aiko, and Graham. Nigel and Frank had sailed up on Lasers the rest had been aboard Stuarts cruiser 'Cavatina'. The Steak and Guinness and Chicken and Mushroom pies took a hammering along with some good looking fish and several different types of falling down water. Finally Stuart decided he didn't want to get caught by the locks closing so, along with his crew, departed to move the cruiser downstream. I understand the trip back was uneventful. Lyn and I had a final coffee and wended our way home.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Sailing Secretary

For a change we have generally had good sailing conditions and no strong current. There was good sailing all of April and May except for Easter Sunday which was a glorious day but no wind for the Easter Egg races.

The Saturday Open Day was ideal for taking visitors out but Sunday was much too windy to sail so visitors were given trips in the patrol boats. Robert Britton entertained them sailing a Laser; there is a video on our website.

There was an excellent visit to Bewl on the late May holiday Monday; ideal for some Open Day visitors who came.

We were very lucky that for the Signet Open meeting held with the Saturday Regatta the sailing was nearly as good as it gets on the river.

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to sign on giving sail number, helm and crew names; last name **MUST** be included because the results use that, if you have a crew it is your responsibility to enter their last name; the Boat Handicap is a higher value if you have a crew so it is to your advantage.

I try and create accurate race results but that needs the race sheet to be accurate. With one race four boats had NO helm or crew names which took a long time to sort out. Your result may not be include if you don't sign on. I suggest signing on all race at the start of the day; it can be ignored if you don't race.

30 May – Bewl Water

What can I say about Bewl Water that I haven't said many times before. It's simply the perfect sailing venue. Easy to get to, great facilities, huge open water ... what more could you want? We are incredibly lucky that BVSC allow us to visit and sail at such a picturesque venue. If you haven't yet tried it and you missed the May Bank Holiday how about coming along at the August Bank Holiday. It's a perfect day out for all the family. For non sailors there are walks around Bewl Water or a steamer which will take you out for a cruise. Both are a great way to see just how beautiful Bewl Water really is. There's several of good pubs nearby as well the nearest probably being 'The Brown Trout'. If you don't have a dinghy of your own we can usually arrange to take one or two club boats. Additionally there are Aquarius members, with their own boats, who will always take people out for a sail.

So how did it go? Well Lyn and I took ST369 (Over Easy). Keith and Madeline Hatton took ST858 (The Saint). Richard took ST368 (June) and John and Brenda Panting took ST942 (Sunset). We were also joined by Liz Archer, Frank & Paula Goodall, Rebecca Gittoes and Tia Saxon. The last two having dropped in to the Open Weekend and decided to come to Bewl. The weather forecast was dire but it actually turned out to be pretty good. Bit cloudy, occasional sunshine and a light westerly breeze. Just the right conditions to take some first timers out. We had several hours afloat and, after packing up, some of us left the boats at Bewl and retired to 'The Brown Trout' in Frant for dinner. We then returned, hitched up the boats and headed home. The great advantage being that the Bank Holiday traffic had long gone and the roads were virtually empty. Even the dear old M25 was easy going.

A big thank to BVSC for allowing us to sail on their water. Such a change from all the tacking and dodging other craft on The River Thames. We also hope that Rebecca and Tia enjoyed their big water experience.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

9 July - AQSC Regatta, SigneT Open, BBQ, And Hog Roast

Preparation for this event started on Friday afternoon although the new Quarter Deck canopy was put up earlier in the week. Fairy lights were hung and The 'Hog' and its spit roast equipment was collected from Splashdown Farm. Finally the clubhouse and deck was generally spruced-up. Many thanks to all those who came down on Friday to help out with this.

First thing on Saturday the hog roast rotisserie was set up and the cooking got underway.

The first day of the AQSC regatta doubled up as a SigneT Open meeting. The SigneTs raced with the club boats but their results were calculated separately for the purposes of their points series. Saturdays programme included three races (Regatta Trophy Race 1 & 2) and (SigneT Open Meeting Race 1, 2 & 3). The wind was straight down the river Force 3 gusting 4, perfect sailing conditions. Frank Rainsborough was OOD, Eric Bridgewater AOD and Don Barnett manned the patrol boat.

The course was a classic windward, leeward with a two mark dog leg in between and was scheduled for an hours

duration. The racing got underway at 11:30am with five SigneT's and four club boats. By the end of the day the SigneT results were Richard Cannon & Liz Archer (ST368) 1st, Keith Hatton & Mike Baker (ST369) 2nd, Pat Overs & Roy Melsom (ST761) 3rd, John Panting & Rebecca Gittoes (ST924) 4th, and Kate Taylor & Luke Anstey (ST387) 5th. The club results rolled over to Sunday. Many thanks to Pat Irving and Brenda Panting for the lunchtime BBQ and all day tea and coffee.

As soon as the SigneT prize giving was over people began to drift away and preparations began for the evening. This included putting up the side and end panels on the Quarter Deck deck canopy. A further gazebo cover was then erected on the water front for our ladies to serve the multi salads that accompanied the hog roast. The race box was moved to make more space and tables and chairs set up. Pete Carpenter meanwhile set up the bar, complete with ice making machine, and prepared a large bowl of Pimms No. 1

The evenings activities were scheduled to start 7:30pm although by this time the bar was in full swing with pints of the Hogs Back Brewery's TEA (Traditional English Ale) going in all directions. The other Hog, which had started spit roasting early morning looked and smelt amazing. I think Nigel is really getting the knack of this. The side tables groaned under the weight of salads, desserts and fruit that Diana and her army of helpers kept bringing out.

At about 8:30pm Nigel announced the hog was well and truly ready and the queues started forming. I have to say that the meat was cooked to perfection and the crackling outstanding. Nigel, who was carving, just managed to stay abreast of demand, ably assisted by Anne as the queue filed past from the salads. The rest of the evening was spent drinking and chatting, with low volume recorded jazz in the clubhouse. Some 84 people came to the hog roast which is one of our best ever attendance; the Quarter Deck with the canopy make a tremendous difference to an event such as this, as it doubles the space.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

ST 368 go faster play; saving weight by dispensing with crews



The SigneT sailors



Pictures by Frank Rainsborough



Anne & Nigel finishing the hog

10 July - AQSC Regatta And Strawberry Cream Tea

Sunday's OOD was Nigel Knowles, AOD Stuart Schafer and patrol boat Bryan Clements. There wasn't much wind and by the afternoon there was practically none. The day started with Regatta Trophy Race 3 and was followed by a lunch of the remaining pork and salad.

The Commodore's Novelty Event which involved the collecting the greatest number of coloured balls which were released onto the river by the patrol boat; it didn't matter that there was no wind because any form of propulsion was allowed.

Next was the Ladies and Novices Races where each novice was followed by a mentor, Keith Hatton mentored from a canoe; there was much 'cheating' in the form of paddling and being pushed by the canoe but the two trophy winners obeyed the rules.

The afternoon ended with 'Fun & Games' which usually involves a couple of Lasers and everybody involved getting very wet; his year was no exception. During the day some fourteen boats participated in the sailing which made Richard a very happy bunny.

The sailing was followed by a very civilised and quintessentially English strawberry cream tea. The strawberries hand picked by Joan and George that very morning. Actually I think they eat far more while picking than they are prepared to admit. The club's ladies also provided an amazing array of sandwiches and cakes which, as there was very little left, obviously went down a storm. There were over 50 people at the club.

Richard then presented the trophies. John Panting won the Regatta cup. Rebecca Gittoes won the Ladies Trophy and Trudi Hilton won the Novice Trophy. Well done to them.

All in all not a bad weekend. The sailing conditions on Sunday were not the best, but then you can't have everything.

Trying to thank everybody who helped over the weekend is fraught with danger because you are always going to forget someone.

Needless to say a lot of people worked very hard to make it the success it undoubtedly was. From setting up, to preparing food, to washing up, to handling the racing, to manning the bar, to clearing up afterwards an army of folks gave of their time and energy for which all I can say is a very big **THANK YOU!** It was much appreciated and absolutely made the weekend. Aquarius SC is what it is because of members like you and long may it stay so.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Some Thoughts On 'Green Living'

Queuing up at the shop, the cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized and explained: we didn't have the green thing back in my day. That's right. Then they returned their milk and beer bottles to the shop. The shop sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled, and the same bottles were used over and over again--they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing in her day.

In her day they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every shop and office building. They walked to the shop and didn't climb into a 300hp machine to go down the road. But she's right; they didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's nappies because they didn't have the throwaway kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. "Wind and solar power" really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down-clothes from brothers or sisters, not always new clothing. But she's right; they didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then they had one TV, or radio in the house, not one in every room. In the kitchen they blended and stirred by hand (no electric machines). When they packaged a fragile item they used wadded up newspaper, not bubble wrap. They didn't use petrol or electric to mow the lawn, just a push mower. They exercised by working, so didn't need to go to a health club to use electrically powered equipment. But she's right; they didn't have the green thing, back then.

They drank from a fountain, when they were thirsty, instead of a plastic bottle every time. They refilled pens with ink and replaced razor blades instead of throwing away the whole razor. But they didn't have the green thing, back then.

Back then children used public transport or bikes and didn't turn their mums into a 24 hour taxi service. They didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles away, in space, in order to find the nearest pizza place. But she's right. They didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Strange, it was like that in my day too!

Provided by Tony (The Commodore) Hopkins

Changes In The Pipeline

At the Management Committee meeting on Monday 27 June two items came up which you, as members of AQSC, should know about.

Firstly Joan Bray, our club secretary of 23 years standing, announced that she would not be standing again at the next AGM. Secondly Tony Hopkins, our Commodore for the last three years, also announced that he would not be standing at the next AGM. These are key positions, in that without persons in them, the club could not operate.

The Secretary - Keeps a register of club member's names and addresses and conducts the correspondence of the club. Keeps custody of all club documents. Keeps full minutes of all meetings of the club. Maintains any

certificates or registrations and completes any such non-financial returns, as may be requested by-law. Collect subscriptions and berthing/mooring fees, and provide same to the clubs Treasurer. The position is open to both male and female members.

The Commodore - Is the Managing Director or CEO of Aquarius 'Ltd'. The job entails chairing the clubs General Management Committee and guiding the business and development of the club. It requires good interpersonal skills and an affable and flexible personality. Past Commodores have been both sailing and non-sailing persons. The position is open to both male and female members.

It is vital to the well being of Aquarius that these positions are filled. I would ask ALL members to consider, during the coming weeks, if you would be prepared to undertake either of these roles with a view to nomination at the AGM on 3 December.

If you are interested or would like some further information I suggest that you might like to talk to Joan and Tony who will happy to help you. Both positions receive the full support and assistance of the General Management Committee and the club President.

Mike Baker (Vice President)

A 'Potential' New Member Who Was Anything But

You do your best to make potential new members welcome at the club and what happens? They turn around and rip you off!

This time it happened on Sunday 3 July. A man, who had been to the club the previous weekend for membership information (i.e. to case the joint) pitched up. Amongst the chaos of pre race activity he vanishes and we now know went through the two changing rooms and stole cash and car keys. He's seen going up to the car park (to get a change of clothes from the car he said). He then opened a car and stole a mobile phone and a wallet and vanished.

The Police of course are not interested. People ... **WE HAVE GOT TO BE MORE VIGILANT** around visitors. I know you can't tar everybody who comes into the club with the same brush but we have to get more street wise. **Nobody**, who is not a member of AQSC, should be given the unaccompanied run of the clubhouse. We now have two members who have lost cash and phone, and a third with a missing wallet and phone along with all the inconvenience of replacement.

There is are other lessons here too.

(1) **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER** leave valuables of any kind in the changing rooms unless they are secured in the lockers.

(2) If you don't have a locker valuables can be placed behind the bar.

(3) **Don't ever** give the road gate combination to anyone who is not a club member. That includes giving it to anyone phoning from the entry phone.

AQSC Management Committee

Social Calendar - Dates For Your Diary

Sat 30 Jul	Start of Mudeford week visit, ends Fri 5 Aug. Visit for the week, the weekend, or odd days
Sat 13 Aug	Bring Your Own BBQ followed by a trip to Sunbury Regatta fireworks
Mon 29 Aug	Visit to Bewl Valley SC
Sat 10 Sept	The Pinafore Pirates of Titipu
Sat 8 Oct	Swinging 60's Evening
Sat 5 Nov	Kempton Park Fireworks and a social with hot food at the Club afterwards. Provisional date and prices. For cut price (£5.50 instead of £8) advance tickets contact Richard Cannon on 01932 786636 by Wednesday 2 November; meet & park at Richard's at 7:00 pm for a short stroll to Kempton Park
Sat 19 Nov	AQSC Annual Dinner starting at 7:30 pm.
Sat 27 Nov	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided
Sat 3 Dec	AGM, Prize Giving and End of Season Party starting at 7:30 pm.
Sun 11 Dec	Cheats Christmas lunch 12:30pm and family games
2012	
Sun 15 Jan	Pantomime
Sun 12 Feb	Ladies Day Lunch
Sun 26 Feb	Lunch and frostbite Cruise/scavenger hunt
Sat 17 Mar	Start of Season Party 7:30pm
Sun 25 Mar	Start of sailing; Spring Race 1, TFC, Spa Race 1

25-26 June At Hampton Regatta

This summer I said I would crew for Richard Cannon in his SigneT at the Hampton Regatta. I had rather neglected sailing during my exams but now it was the holidays, and I was excited about a weekend doing nothing else.

Not many people turned out to go to the Regatta since many sailors were on holiday, only Bryan Clements, Richard and I set out from Aquarius on the morning of the event. The wind was coming down river at about force three to four and Richard let me helm the boat at a run down to Hampton Sailing Club. It was steady, even going past Platt's Eyot where it is often fluky.

We signed on to the handicap class and we started ten minutes after the Enterprises (or 'Ents' as Richard calls them, which always makes me think of 'The Lord of the Rings!'). Bryan was sailing his Graduate with only the main sail and it wasn't doing too well in the strong wind so he had to retire. The SigneT, however, seemed to thrive in strong winds under Richard's handling and we were going well.

There were also two good Comet sailors in our race, yet considering our boat handicap we seemed to be beating them. But there was one other boat in the race, the mysterious X-1: spanking new, with a huge, high square-topped sail, transparent for extra convenience and yet seemingly very stable. It was sixteen foot long. It absolutely shot along, faster even than the Merlins, lapping every boat in its course several times.

We got a second place for that race, but Richard later said he counted it as a win, because no other boat in the

handicap class had a chance against the 'X-1'. It seemed to be very improperly handicapped.

The next race we also did well in, though now quite so well: we got a third. Bryan stood out for the race because the wind was still very strong. The 'X-1' won that race easily too, in fact, to avoid disappointment, before I go on I had better tell you it won all five handicap races in the regatta, even the ones for which it was helmed by a young topper sailor, who, though very good, of course had none of Richard's experience or skill.

I learnt quite a few of Richard's tricks for sailing that day. Pull the jib or genoa in as hard as it will go when tacking. Sail as far up-wind as you can and only tack when there is a favourable wind shift if you can help it.

The X-1 sailors came to talk to us after tea. They explained that the boat was a prototype of a new X-1 Riverboat class. There would be two others and this one was the first to be produced to the final design. One of the crew had come up with its concept and part of its design. He told us that he had realized none of the fast modern boats were designed for the river and no one had designed a boat for the river in sixty years. Richard looked them up on their web-site (www.x1riverboat.co.uk/) and found that they had been very busy promoting the X-1, taking it to an event every weekend. And if you're thinking of buying one, he also found out that they cost twelve thousand pounds!

Richard said I could helm the Signet back up to the club, saying half jokingly, "But I would prefer it if you didn't get me wet!" Unfortunately that's just what I

did do! When tacking up the river a gust came. Since Richard's SigneT has a jammer for the main sheet, I couldn't let it loose in time and, although I tried to head up into the wind, the boat capsized. I righted it as quick as I could, but not before Richard had got wet. Thankfully the sun was very bright and the water wasn't as cold as it might have been.

The next day the wind was light and fluky. Where Richard and I had had to work hard physically before, we had to work hard mentally now, especially Richard. But the Signet seemed unsuited to such winds and, despite Richard's best efforts, we went (in his own words) 'lousy'.

Bryan however, did very well in his Grad, racing along when the wind picked up. Unfortunately he had to retire when he bashed into some girls in a Topper who were on starboard tack. He asked them if they were competing and they said 'Yes', so he did a two turn penalty. After which the wind dropped and he discovered he was far behind everyone else. Later Bryan found that the girls weren't actually in the race at all and his chances were ruined for nothing.

As for the X-1, it still went impossibly fast despite the low winds, not even slowing down much in the doldrums which were deadly for Richard and me.

At the prize giving the X-1 carried off the top prize with their five firsts. Richard and I came only fifth, although it was all very close. We could have finished second by getting just one less point.

We went home tired, but pleased to have completed the event. It is certainly something I would like to do again next year.

Imogen Morris