

*Spring 2013 Edition*

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**Contents**

Vice Commodore's Jottings	1
Gate Locks	1
Email Tracking	2
On the Road.	2
Maritime Heroes Awards	3
Annual Dinner	3
Burns Night	4
Racing Rules Up-Date	4
Hot Tip	4
Culinary Corner	4
Bowl 2013.	4
SigneT Dinghy For Sale	4
Volunteering	5
Rule Changes	5
Newsletter Printing	5
Sailing to the Telltales	6
Bits and Pieces	6
Spring Flotilla.	6
Patrol Boat.	6
Cheats Xmas Lunch	7
Joan and George Retire	7
Work Party	7
SigneT Open Meeting	8
Start of Season Party	8
Sailing Programme Notes	8
Club Open Weekend	8
Sailing And Social Programme	8
News of Members	8

**Gate Locks***Richard Cannon*

Recently Stuart Schafer couldn't get into the club because the combination lock wasn't in the lock loop. It is essential that the lock is **NEVER** left not linking the 2 lengths of chain else we can be locked out.

Also **NEVER** leave the lock unlocked else the expensive lock can be stolen.

On this occasion the problem was caused by the contractors but Bryan Clements has been unable to get out because a member hadn't put the lock on both ends of the chain and Thames Water locked the gates without the combination lock in the loop.

**Vice Commodore's Jottings - Nigel Knowles**

By tradition this is normally the Commodore's "slot" - a pot-pouri of exhortations, advance notices and general ramblings to do with the Club. But at the moment we have no Commodore! HELP! Faced with an impending empty white page, your desperate editor approached the Vice Commodores "Troika" for assistance. Perhaps they could write it together - each contributing a word in turn? - a parody on the party game called Consequences? (Now there's an idea for the Start of Season party!) Common sense has however prevailed and we have decided that we will each take a turn as "guest" scribe of the "Commodores jottings"

So! - How are we doing without a Commodore? Can we really cope? Is the Club about to fall apart? These questions have been much discussed over the bar on Wednesday evenings with nautical similes and metaphors enriching the debate. By common consent we are still "afloat" and we are not "rudderless". On the contrary, Aquarius has plenty of people with ideas to steer us forward. At the other end of the ship we have a new "figurehead" i.e. a new President in Rodger Wheeler who has graciously agreed to assume the role from George Bray.

Pursuing the nautical metaphors, on the Bridge we have competent navigation officers, aided by look-outs, steersmen etc. and in the engine room there is still plenty of "umph". Arguably the propeller needs attention - there is too much thrashing around creating froth and insufficient forward motion! We have plenty of passengers but the crew could do with a bit more management. Overall however we are in good shape - we just need a Captain to provide a bit of leadership to an otherwise happy ship.

In the absence of a Commodore, the day to day tasks of running the Club have been assumed by the Management Committee. In theory this has always been the case- and rightly so - but recent Commodores have been very "hands on"

and arguably have got far too involved with routine tasks. The present situation has forced us to re-address just who does what. We have spent some time thinking about how the Club should be managed and how the tasks can be shared around in a sensible and practical way. We have as a result introduced some changes and a description of the revised Management Structure is elsewhere in this newsletter.

While asserting that we can manage, at least temporarily without a Commodore, it would be remiss not to acknowledge the sterling efforts of last year's Commodore, Rodger Wheeler (aided in no small measure by Linda). Rodger agreed to take on the role for one year only and he fulfilled it, leading from the front, with his customary energy and vigour. Thank you Rodger! An enormous "thank you" also to Joan and George Bray who stepped down as Secretary and President respectively at the AGM.

George and Joan go back longer than anyone can remember (and since they still have the Club records no one can actually check when they started in the Club!), but we do know that their service to the Club is unmatched. George himself took over as President from "Mac" McCoy - one of the Club's founding fathers - in 1984 (Quite an act to follow then, Rodger! Ed) and Joan has been Secretary for nearly as long. They have been an amazing double act and we are enormously grateful to them both

In contrast to last year when we were able to enjoy sailing throughout the winter months, conditions have been miserable this winter and there has been no sailing activity whatsoever. The river seems to have been in near permanent spate and has been over the bank and into the cellar on several occasions. Lets hope that things improve soon- the sailing programme is scheduled to start on March 31 - Easter Sunday- with the traditional Easter Egg trophy. Thereafter there is the customary programme of social and sailing events to look forward to. Good sailing!

## Email Tracking - *Mike Hendra* Endorsed by *Richard Cannon*

Here is something everyone should read and act accordingly. If you don't, you might be damaging yourself and your Email buddies. Please read right to the bottom.

By now, I suspect everyone is familiar with [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) and/or [www.truthorfiction.com](http://www.truthorfiction.com) for determining whether information received via Email is: true/false or fact/fiction. Both are excellent sites.

Advice from Snopes.com. ... .Very Important!

1) Anytime you see an Email that says forward this on to '10' (or however many)

of your friends, sign this petition, or you'll get bad luck, good luck, you'll see something funny on your screen after you send, warning of the worst virus ever, or whatever, it almost always has an Email tracker program attached that tracks the 'cookies' and Emails of the people you forward to.

The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of 'active' Email addresses to use in SPAM Emails, or sell to other spammers.

Even when you get Emails that demand you send the Email on if you're not ashamed of God/Jesus. . ...that's E-Mail tracking and they are playing on our consciences. These

people don't care how they get your Email addresses. . .just as long as they get them. Also, Emails that talk about a missing child or a child with an incurable disease, "How would you feel if it were your child". . .Email Tracking!!!

Ignore them and don't participate!

2) Almost all Emails that ask to add your name and forward on to others are similar to that mass letter years ago that asked people to send business cards to the little kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards.

All it was, and all any of this type of Email is, is a way to get names and 'cookie' tracking information so telemarketers and spammers can be sure these are valid, active Email accounts for their own questionable purposes.

You can do your friends and family members a GREAT favour by sending this information to them; you will be providing a service to your friends, and will be rewarded by not getting thousands of spam Emails in the future!

If you have been sending out (FORWARDING) the above kinds of E-Mail, now you know why you get so much SPAM!

Do yourself a favour and STOP adding your name (s) to those types of listings regardless how inviting they might sound!. . .or make you feel guilty if you don't. . .it's all about getting Email addresses. . .nothing more!

You may think you are supporting a GREAT cause, but you are NOT! Instead, you will be getting tons of junk mail later and very possibly a virus attached! Plus, you are helping the spammers get rich! Let's not make it easy for them!

Also: E-Mail petitions are NOT acceptable to the White House, Congress or any other organization - i.e. social security, etc. To be acceptable, petitions must have a signed signature and full address of the person signing the petition, so this is a waste of time and just helping. . .Email trackers.

AND MOST IMPORTANT: don't forget. . . Delete other people's Email address on the Emails you send out.

When forwarding/sending send all BCC: You'll notice the only name up on top is mine. If you forward this, please delete my name!!

*Richard Cannon* poscript - I have been forwarded many emails warning of the worst ever virus etc telling you to send to every one; I have never received one that isn't a HOAX.

## On the Road.

Some years ago I was listening to a radio article about positioning your car prior to making a turn, particularly one that crosses the path of oncoming traffic so in our case a right turn. A few days later I was hit from behind whilst waiting to turn right and because I had heeded the advice, I shot straight forward and not into the path of an oncoming semi-trailer.

So, when about to make a (right) turn, check you mirror, indicate your intention to make the turn, move your vehicle into the correct lane **KEEPING THE CAR STRAIGHT**, not pointing into the oncoming lane. When it is safe make the turn.

Oh and remember, the indicator is there to tell people where you intend to go not to tell them where you have just come from!



Richard being presented with his Maritime Heroes certificate by Rodger  
Picture by Frank Rainsborough

## Annual Dinner 24 November 2012

An excellent dinner was enjoyed by 46 members.

Frank Rainsborough suggested the dinner would be the ideal occasion to present Richard Cannon with his Old Pulteney Maritime Heroes Awards Certificate and bottle of whisky that came with it.

He asked Old Pulteney if they could donate their excellent product for the dinner; they agreed to supply bottles of Old Pulteney single malt Scotch whisky aged 12 years (£38.50 per bottle), and miniature bottles. Three 75cl bottles were generously supplied by Old Pulteney for the evening, that was three in addition to the one already supplied to Richard to accompany his Award.

One of the three was put aside as a star prize for the raffle organised by Anne and Leo Bond that star prize won by Janet Edwards and dram glasses were filled from the other two bottles in order that a toast and congratulations could be offered to Richard.

Old Pulteney also supplied 12 miniature bottles, these were distributed in two ways. One game was that one diner on each table would win a miniature bottle if a number on a their named menu matched the number that was taped under the seat that the diner was sitting on. Another batch of miniatures were won by answers offered to Rodger Wheeler's questions on whisky related matters. Given the apparently random answers offered to the questions, perhaps the 40% ABV had by then taken effect!

In the after dinner speech Frank presented Richard's achievements, following which Rodger Wheeler presented Richard with his certificate.

Frank called for a round of applause from the attending members, as a mark of appreciation to Rachael Gasiorowski and Vicki Byers and their colleagues at the Burt Greener Communications company, and the Inver House Distillers Company, for making our Annual Dinner just that extra bit special!

And now, not only has the Aquarius Sailing Club come to the attention the Inver House Distillers Company, that company's Old Pulteney Whisky was crowned World Whisky of the Year in Jim Murray's 2012 Whisky Bible, so AQSC is in good company!

Frank's pictures are on Google+ and there is a link on the AQSC web site <http://www.sailaquarius.org.uk/>

## Old Pulteney Maritime Heroes Awards

*Frank Rainsborough*

A new annual awards scheme was launched by Old Pulteney single malt Scotch whisky to reward the outstanding passion, commitment and achievements demonstrated within Britain's maritime communities.

Frank Rainsborough saw the promotion asking for nominations of any members who deserved recognition within one of the following three categories: Club Service, Bravery or Sailing Achievement.

Frank nominated Richard Cannon for the Club Service and Sailing Achievement, and Richard was awarded one of 30 National certificates, but we think his is special, it states that the award is for both categories, clearly they recognised both of Richard's significant contributions!

### Club Service

Prior to Richard's service at Aquarius he'd commenced his sailing at Hawkers in 1969; he bought SigneT 368 in 1972. Richard was an active member of the Hawkers sailing section until it closed in 1992; a total of 23 years. He served as Commodore for a year, 1979-1980, and Treasurer for 11 years 1981-92.

With the loss of the Hawkers sailing club Aquarius was selected as the best sailing club for Hawker members to join.

Richard's first sail at AQSC was the last race day of the 1992 season, on 25 October. Soon after, the then Sailing Secretary, John Botterill, asked if Richard would replace him as Sailing Secretary, so at the next AGM Richard accepted the post.

He has remained as the Club's energetic Sailing Secretary ever since, an unbroken record of 20 years, during which, amongst other multiple duties, Richard has kept and produced comprehensive records of the Club's activities, which he puts on a website that he created in 1999. He also produces a newsletter 3 times a year.

It's Richard who does much of the organising, the publicity and the 'on-the-day' work that is an essential feature of the club.

### Sailing Achievement.

The SigneT National Championships is an annual fixture, and Richard Cannon is himself a fixture within it, having competed in every championship bar one, since 1972. When he entered that first event at Colwyn Bay, at the age of 37 little

did he realise that 40 years later he would not only be still competing at the age of 77, but that he would still be at the front of the fleet, if not the very front!

In 41 years of these UK SigneT annual National Championships the entries have varied from a maximum of 45 to a smaller fleet of 10 entries, but the average is 18. At his first event in 1972 Richard finished in 17th position out of 27 entries. In 1979, at Ferryside, he was rewarded with his first podium position, a 3rd. He missed 1980 but in 1981 at Herne Bay he took another step up on the podium, a 2nd, and the following year, at Selset where he stood in his rightful place, 1st!

In those 41 years he has achieved 15 wins, 10 second places, 2 third places, 2 fourth places, and 1 fifth place, in 30 out of 40 events he has been placed 5th or better, a record unmatched in that fleet, and I suspect, a record unmatched in any other UK Nationals of any class.

The SigneT Class Owners Association also have an Annual Points Trophy for Open Meetings, Richard won it in 1974, and also in every year from 1979 to 1998, for those 21 years it could not be wrested from him! In the 38 years from 1974 to 2012 that Open Meetings Annual Trophy was not held by Richard only 7 times!

To encourage less experienced members at AQSC Richard introduced a Personal Handicap System where members were allocated a PH number; results are evaluated for Boat Handicap and BH + PH. In his first season at AQSC, 1993, Richard would have won every trophy on BH results so he decided to allocate all Trophies to PH results so trophies would be spread amongst more members.

Finally, some other noteworthy contributions that Richard has made to the sailing community and to his sailing colleagues, are that for 28 years, 1982-2010, he was the Treasurer for the SigneT Class Owners Association, and within that same period, for 9 years 1998-2007 Richard was also the Treasurer for the RYA Thames Valley Region. From 1993 to 2004 he attended meetings convened by the Association of Thames Valley Sailing Clubs (ATVSC), and on behalf of AQSC, for 22 years, 1993-2012 he also attended meetings convened by the River Users Group.



## Burns Night

For Brenda and I this was our third Burns Night at the Club. It was a Damp night and the River was over the dip of the concrete launching area. The club House was welcoming and was invitingly warm and comfortable.

Coats off and to the barman Peter for the drinks. A bottle of red and orange juice for me as I was driving home. Tables are laid with bright red and tartan napkins. We were delayed in getting to our seats, as lots of catching up to do since our last visit.

### Menu

Scotch Broth  
Haggis (vegetarian if required)  
Tatties and neaps with gravy  
Topsy Laird Trifle  
Biscuits and cheese  
Shortbread biscuit and coffee  
Oh yes and a wee dram of whiskey

The fare was impressive to say the least and at £5 each was bordering on unbelievable.

Volunteers gave a reading - "Address to a Haggis" - the poem by Robbie Burns. This is the third year I have not got a clue what it's all about.

The Haggis went on its usual journey accompanied by the music of the bag pipes and Leo. Grace. Then we all tucked in. Seconds for some. There was a toast which saw the wee dram off.

Before I knew it three hours had passed and George organised us to show our thanks for all the work that a few had taken, that so many of us could wallow in delight with full stomachs.

Stuart Schafer and Di & Phil Howley were front persons in all the above and for that all twenty six of us were truly grateful. They were helped by Anne & Leo Bond, Don & Helen Barnett and Joan Courtney.

*John Panting*

## Signet Dinghy For Sale £350

John Tomkins. Tel: 020 8949 6282  
E-mail: mail@tomkinsj.me.uk  
Sail No.: ST 367 Built: 1968  
Accessories:  
Main and Genoa Sails (Good Condition)  
Cover (Good Condition)  
Trailer + Spare Wheel  
Launching Trolley (Including 2-solid and 2-pneumatic wheels)  
Roller Reefing Gear  
Compass

## Bowl 2013.

As previously we have been invited to Bowl for the usual two bank holiday weekends, the one at the end of May and the other at the end of August. Although it appears we are welcome to spend both weekends camping and enjoying Bowl Water Sailing Club's facilities the Committee has decided that our official May visit will be for the Bank Holiday Monday only, whilst in August we will make it a long weekend Saturday to Monday.

Jean and I will be in Turkey in May but we are planning to be at the August weekend with our caravan as we did last year. We plan to arrive on the Friday to secure our spot and set up early, close to the amenities. Hopefully the turn out will be at least as good as last year with our side-tent acting as a mobile clubhouse.

See you there!

*Mike Hendra*

## Racing Rules Up-Date

For those interested in the racing rules UK Sailmakers send me (as Aquarius) their newsletter which includes a connection to an interactive demonstration of the operation of the racing rules.

For those interested in the subject, here is the link.  
<http://www.uksailmakers.com/DemoQuiz.html>

*Mike Hendra*

## Hot Tip

When you arrive home on a chilly night and someone forgot to turn the electric blanket on try the hairdryer bed heater. Just go and find the hairdryer plug it and a switch it on then blow the air between the sheets. Very quickly the bed is warm, comfortable and fit for a sailor and his crew. Just don't lay the hairdryer in the bed and leave it, hold it all the time and make sure the air intake and outlet are not blocked.



The catering team

There is a link to more of Frank's pictures on the website

## Culinary Corner

Lemon Drizzle Cake: A tribute to Joan Bray.

1 Large Lemon,  
6oz Caster Sugar,  
2 Eggs,(Medium),  
6oz Self-Raising Flour,  
4oz Soft Margarine,  
3 Tablespoons Granulated Sugar  
6" Cake or loaf tin.

Mix together Caster Sugar, Eggs, Flour and Margarine with an electric beater then add zest from lemon and add to batter mixing well.

Heat oven to Mark 4, 180.

Place mix in tin and bake for 1 hour.

Juice the lemon and when the cake is cooked sprinkle the top with the juice and immediately cover with the 3 Tablespoons of Granulated Sugar.

A tip for the Mainsheet Culinary Corner just under Joan Bray's Drizzle Cake recipe.

Place a lemon in the freezer and when you want lemon for drinks or flavour, simply grate as much as you need for the job. Sprinkle it on top of fish, cakes, casseroles, soup and in hot water for winter drink. Try in noodles, spaghetti sauce, rice, sushi, fish dishes, sweets, ice cream and salads.

Works with oranges too!

## Rule Changes and Revised Management Structure

At the AGM last December, members approved a couple of changes to the Club Rules, the apparent effect of which was to dramatically increase the number of Officers of the Club.

Specifically the Rules now allow for there to be up to 3 Vice Commodores and 2 Rear Commodores and all named post holders are now included in the list of Officers.

A cynic was heard to remark that it now looked as though we had more Admirals than boats! However this is not an attempt to emulate the Royal Navy. Rather it is intended to give the Management Committee the flexibility to share jobs around more equitably and to vary who does what, according to peoples availability and skillset.

Most of the tasks previously undertaken by the Commodore have now been shared amongst the Vice Commodores, so that he need not be so "hands on" as in the past. We have created three groups or teams, each coordinated by a Vice Commodore, who look after the day to day management of the Club.

The intention is that over time each team member will develop some understanding of all aspects of the teams' business together with the procedures and systems used. Thereby, if for any reason a job holder is not available, they can easily find a delegate.

While answerable to the Management Committee, each team is "semi-autonomous" in the sense that it can discharge its day-to-day business without needing to refer to the Management Committee.

The Management Committee can then concentrate on matters of more strategic concern, including the Club's longer term development. Teams are also encouraged to call on other non Committee members as much as possible and it is likely that additional volunteers will be sought for specific tasks.

The Admin team, coordinated by Graham Thompson comprises the Secretary (Jean Maracchi), Minutes Sec. (Michael Chipps), Treasurer (Joan Walkden), Auditor (Graham), Marketing & Publicity Manager (Mike Hendra), Web Master (Richard Cannon) and Health & Safety Officer (Pat Irving). Its remit covers the maintenance of Club membership database, document archives and records; the management of Club finances; liaison with membership, marketing and publicity.

The Program team is responsible for planning and delivering all the Club events. It is coordinated by Richard Cannon and comprises the Social and Sailing Secretaries (Diana Carpenter) and Richard respectively, together with their respective sub committees.

The Premises team includes the Boatswain (Bryan Clements), Harbourmaster (Ken Ayres) and Bar Manager (Peter Carpenter). It is coordinated by Nigel Knowles with input from Stuart Schafer, Gordon Courtney and Pat Irving. It is charged with making sure that all the Clubs assets - boats, premises, equipment and site generally, are all properly maintained.

*Nigel Knowles*

## Newsletter Printing

The printing costs of this Newsletter were met in full by JDC Independent Financial Advisers

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020 8755 5577

We thank Frank Rainsborough for setting this up. Apart from the cost saving, it is good to have this task delegated.

For this issue of the Newsletter, Frank's information clip is an explanation of the term 'The Real McCoy'. And there's a 'really' important McCoy connected to AQSC! George Bray informs us that in 1948, when he was working in the Engineering Section of what was then the Metropolitan Water Board, Mac McCoy was a founder member of AQSC.

Not only did Mac want to make use of the water that was part of his working life, he was also a talented craftsman who then built his own GP14, and jigs from which Moths were built, for use by Club members.

These would have been the original traditional Moths, not the incredible foiling versions that have morphed into wing-borne 'flying' hulls that took the first three places out of 340 entrants in the recent Bloody Mary Pursuit Race held at our neighbouring Club, Queen Mary.

The other McCoy, he of the term, was Captain Bill McCoy, a rum-runner during the Prohibition Era, and his clients always received the finest rum

## Volunteering

*Mike Hendra*

Aquarius is an organisation that exists because of a few people who are prepared to pay more than their annual subscription, they pay with their energy and time.

Much of the work is done in the background, from managing the basic administration to organising racing and social events. In between there is everything that goes with managing a successful small business, licences, insurance, health and safety, cleaning and maintenance of the premises and equipment.

Many of the people who carry out these roles have done so for years, some for 20 or more. We rightly recognise the efforts of the front people but without the silent majority none of the sailing or social events would ever take place. So here I ask you take a minute to think about what it takes to run Aquarius and give a quiet thank you for those who do and lend a hand when you can.

Last year we lost some of the stalwarts of Aquarius not the least George and Joan Bray who have been involved in the running of the club since the beginning in 1948 but who have now decided to hang up their oilies.

Temporally (we hope) we have lost the wonderful contribution Mike Baker made to our club and sadly Dave Jennings moved from this life so in one fell swoop forty percent of our Club Officials have been lost to us.

With George's retirement Rodger has accepted the post of President, but we are left without a Commodore.

With me filling at least part of the role played by Mike Baker and Jean taking over from Joan Bray we appear to have enough bodies to fill the Committee jobs and with Liz Archer as a Member Without Portfolio we will be able to manage to keep the club alive. However, the message is: **YOUR SAILING CLUB NEEDS YOU** so please put up your hand if you care enough to help.

from his ship, it was never of questionable quality, so he was always trusted (and never informed on to the Authorities!) Hence the origin of the phrase, to denote goods of the highest quality, as substantiated by Bill's namesake, Mac, who introduced to Sunnyside, a sailing club of the highest quality!

# UK-Halsey's Encyclopedia of Sails - Sailing to the Telltales

No indicator has been developed that approaches the sensitivity and effectiveness of telltales along the luff of the jib. These yarns or “ticklers” monitor the flow of wind across the sail.

Telltales are used for fine-tuning your genoa sheet trim and to fine-tune the course you are steering. Telltales are only an aid when the sail has wind flow across both sides, i.e., when sailing angles between beating and beam reaching. When sailing lower than a beam reach, the sail is catching wind instead of working like an airfoil.

Telltales come in pairs, one on each side of the jib. The best set up is to have three sets evenly spaced along the luff so that you can see how the wind is flowing at different heights of the sail. Telltales should be anywhere from six inches to 18 inches aft of the luff, depending on the size of the boat — the bigger the sail, the further aft the telltales should be. Also, the farther forward they are, the more sensitive they are.

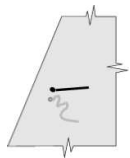
All UK Sailmakers sell inexpensive packets of green and red telltales that stick on to your sail. When applying telltales, always put the starboard one of each pair higher than the port one. This will help you figure out which is which when reading the telltales from the cockpit. The most basic way to read telltales is to get the yarns on both sides of the sail streaming straight back. If the leeward one stops streaming, head up and sail closer to the wind. If the windward one stops streaming, fall off. When the yarn streams straight back, it tells you that there is attached flow over the sail at that particular point. If a telltale stops streaming and hangs limp, there is no air flow and that side of the sail is stalled. If the telltale dances around, flow is turbulent.

## Patrol Boat

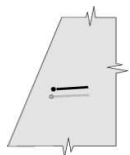
Duty Officers please note:- It is imperative that the club patrol boat is manned by two crew members when attending any incident that may require the rendering of assistance.

Handling the patrol boat safely is a one person job and as such does not leave the driver able to safely render assistance if needed.

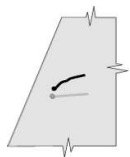
By concentrating further on interpreting the telltales, you can get even more information. The following are four different “settings” for telltales:



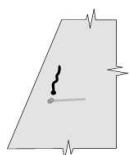
**1. Bow-down Speed-building Mode:** Leeward telltale dances and windward telltale streams straight back. This mode is used for building speed when coming out of a tack or when going through steep motorboat chop



**2. Max Speed Mode:** Both telltales streams straight aft.



**3. Pointing Mode:** Leeward telltale streams aft, and windward telltale dances between straight back and 45° above horizontal. This mode is used when sailing to windward in flat water in winds over 10 knots.



**4. Pinching Mode:** Leeward telltale streams aft, and windward telltale stands straight up. To be used when trying to get over another boat or make it around a channel mark.

## Telltale Perspective

When sailing to windward, the degree of course change between “Bow-down Speed-building Mode” and the “Pinching Mode” should be about 5 to 7 degrees. If the telltales go from one extreme to the other after a two-degree course change, put a bit more tension on the luff. The rounder entry angle will broaden the gap between stalled from sailing too high and stalled from sailing too low.

## Spring Flotilla

The dates for the 2013 Annual Spring Flotilla have been set for the 11th to the 25th May with an expectation to visit the Greek Islands of Rhodes and the Dodecanese, all depending on weather of course. Jean and I will be in Goccek for the week preceding the flotilla to help with any delivery requirements or just boat loafing in the Gulf of Fethiye. Budget Sailing offer competitive rates and usually I can squeeze a bit for deserving friends so join us for fun and adventure along the Lician Coast of Southern Turkey.

Remember not to sail with the telltales in the pointing or pinching mode in light winds or in wavy conditions. The boat will lose too much speed. In heavy winds when the boat is overpowered, you can reduce heeling by heading up into the pointing mode.

Use your telltales to fine-tune your lead position. With three sets of telltales along the luff, you'll be able to shape the jib like a trimmer on an America's Cup contender. In general, on a beat the lead is in the right place when the lower two sets stream straight back and the inside upper telltale dances about 45 degrees above horizontal.

To learn more go to:  
<http://www.ukhalsey.com/learningcenter/encyclopedia/encyclopedia5c.asp>

Courtesy of UK Sailmakers,  
[www.uksailmakers.com](http://www.uksailmakers.com)

## Bits and Pieces

*Mike Hendra*

So here we are in the Spring of 2013 far later in life than many of us expected. Sadly just as well 'cos there don't seem to be too many youths what wanna dip their bums in the chilly Thames.

Virtual sailing is controlled by electricity not the wind so far more civilised. All jokes aside we do need everyone's help in swelling the youth end of the club's membership so frogmarch your kids and grand kids to the club.

In the last Mainsheet we did ask members to spruce up their boats so as to improve our image. Thank you to those who have done so and a nudge to those who have languished in front of the winter fire. Please people let your boat gleam in 2013.

On the image front, please remember to keep your gear in the respective change areas and keep the lounge free of clothing, equipment etc. Equipment left in the changing rooms can also have a detrimental effect on the Club's image and aroma so should be taken home at the end of the day rather than left wet in the change room.

Sadie the cleaning lady died of a wet towel incubated fungus infection so please members keep the change areas clean and free from fermentation.



## Cheats Xmas Lunch 16 December

Brenda and I have attended each year and it says everything that we are back again this year.

I decided to press gang two of the available four grand children to assist with the "front of House Service". The younger members assisting with the serving have been a feature of this function over the past years. Over 40 booked and then circa 5 more were banging at the door.

Three course lunch with bread and sauce + filtered coffee + chocolate mints. Plus Crackers and incendiary devices included.

Followed by a 3D 'fuzzy felt style' art contest similar to that run by the Tate Gallery (but with infinitely better results), then a 100 question general knowledge Table v Table quiz and then an 'all comers' game of Jenga.

There was also a social visit by the River Police who we don't see very often.

Time flew and all too soon we were all mucking in to clear the tables, tables and all.

A big **THANK YOU** to all those that helped with the myriad of tasks. **WELL DONE** to the main organizers Nigel (from the infamous Bodgit team) & Anne.

So what can you say for the price £6.50, "Blooming marvelous!"

*John Panting*

## The torch is passed - Joan and George Retire *Nigel Knowles*

An AGM can sometimes be a rather boring event - a necessary formality to be got through as quickly as possible - but last December's was the exception.

For those in the know - and that was probably the majority of the 40 or so present - it was a somewhat poignant occasion: It marked the end of an era - that of Joan and George Bray as Secretary and President respectively. Joan has been Secretary for over 25 years; George has been President for a little longer. Between them they have been the welcoming "face" of the Club for a quite remarkable length of time.

While Commodores have come and gone, Joan and George have provided that re-assuring sense of continuity that helps make AQSC what it is. Quite apart from being thoroughly nice

people, who have always "mucked in" and played a full part in the life of the Club, their experience, advice and pragmatic wisdom has been invaluable over the years.

Joan has said that they are both looking forward to attending the Club as "ordinary" members. They will of course always be special to us and never "ordinary", but we hope to see them for many years to come. They go into "retirement" with our very grateful thanks for all that they have done and our best wishes.

The Club presented Joan with an engraved glass vase and George with a model of a 1930's yacht (suitably engraved and customised with AQSC as its home port!) as a small token of our gratitude.

## Work Party 17 March

Despite forecast of cold inclement weather 23 members braved mostly only light rain during the day, but with a finale of hailstones. Many tasks were completed by 3:30pm.

Walking around temporarily moved boats Peter Carpenter fell into the river, but he was recovered quickly, suffering no ill effects except wounded pride!

Diana Howley helped by Helen Barnet, Joan Courtney and Jean Maracchi fortified us with bacon rolls mid morning and a super Spaghetti Bolognese, and rice pudding when work finished. Anne Bond, Gale Mackintosh and Stuart Schafer helped clear up.



Our new patrol boat



Jenga tower falling  
Pictures by  
Frank Rainsborough

## Sailing And Social Programme March - May 2013

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

The 2:00 pm event will be Training, Fun, or Cruising (TFC) with emphasis on giving less experienced members a better sailing experience. Members are encouraged to try different boats, helm or crew.

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

The Wednesday afternoon sailing will be from 3:30pm starting on 9 May and ending on 5 September

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

Members needing help with rigging etc or who wish to crew need to arrive at least 1 hour before the start of an event.

Tea and cakes will be served at 3pm on Sunday race days.

Date	11:30am	2:00pm	3:30pm	Duty Officers, Evening & Notes
<b>March</b>				
17	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided			
Sat 23	Start of Season Party 7:30pm; <b>NOTE not</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> as in 1012-3 prog.			
31	Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races, best 3 count R Cannon, L Archer, R Clough <i>BST begins</i>			
<b>April</b>				
07	Spring Race 1	TFC	Spa Race 1	G Bray , J Bray, R Britton
14	Spring Race 2	TFC	Spa Race 2	J Panting, B Panting, T Golding
Sat 20	Quiz to suit all ages, fish and chip supper			
21	Spring Race 3	TFC	Sprint Race 1 & 2	J Botterill, D Best, L Bridges
Sat 27	Mid-Thames Trophy at Hampton SC first start 11:00			
28	Spring Race 4	TFC	Spa Race 3	B Clements, N Dixon, G Thompson
<b>May</b>				
05	Spring Race 5	TFC	Spa Race 4	M Hendra, J Maracchi, R Clough
Wed 8	Club clear up for Open days			
Sat 11	AQSC Club Open Weekend			
12	Open day, introduce new members to all club boats			
19	Spring Race 6	TFC	Sprint Race 3 & 4	L Bond, A Bond, N Knowles
26	Training and trying various boats for new members, and fun Sailing. P Carpenter, L Cummings, P Bryan. Monday is Bank Holiday			
Mon 27	Visit to Bewl Valley Sailing Club Family sailing			

### SigneT Open Meeting Saturday 22 June

Aquarius is hosting a SigneT Open Meeting on the 22 June within our regatta. The SigneTs will race in our normal Regatta races and two sets of results will be calculated; one for the Aquarius race series results and one for the SigneT results.

Members with SigneTs don't have to choose which to sail in because they will have results for both series.

The start times for the races may be earlier than our standard race times; they will not be before 11:30, 13:30, and the last race will start soon after the second race finishes.

*Richard Cannon*

### Club Open Weekend 11th/12th May

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

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

We need everybody else in the club to give it a real buzz and to talk to prospective members.

*Rodger Wheeler, President*

### Sailing Programme Notes

The Training/Fun/Cruising (TFC) event at 2:00 has been very successful; much easier to give new members and trainees a better sailing experience. Duty Officers should note it is an event and need not be a race; members should be encouraged to try different boats, helm and crew.

The same format will continue this year as follows:-

11:30am Series race  
14.00pm Training/Fun/Cruising  
15.30pm Series race

Please ensure that if you intend to race that you allow enough time to arrive, rig and be near the start line by the start time.

For those wishing to sail after racing, safety boat cover will be maintained till 5.30p.m.

### News of Members - *Joan Bray*

We warmly welcome new members Alan and Gail Mackintosh. We wish them fair winds and a happy future with Aquarius.

### Start of Season Party

Don't forget that on Saturday 23 March everyone is invited to the Start of Season Party for a congenial evening which includes free light refreshments.