



**AQUARIUS S.C.**

# THE MAIN SHEET

*Spring 2011 Edition*

Web Site: <http://www.sailaquarius.org.uk>  
Email: [mail@sailaquarius.org.uk](mailto:mail@sailaquarius.org.uk)

Editor: Richard Cannon 01932 786636  
E-mail: [editor@sailaquarius.org.uk](mailto:editor@sailaquarius.org.uk)

Publicity: Over Easy 020 8393 5495 E-mail: [publicity@sailaquarius.org.uk](mailto:publicity@sailaquarius.org.uk)

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## Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of "The Mainsheet" for 2011. Richard and I both hope you all had a great Christmas and an equally good New Year. Although we try to make the newsletter interesting please feel free to suggest any changes or improvements that you would like to see. In addition to "Mainsheet" don't forget to check out the club website every now and again for the latest breaking news and events.

I would also like to thank all the people who contributed to the Autumn 2010 edition. As a consequence I hardly had to write anything and it meant that I had something interesting to read when it was published, that doesn't happen very often!

*Mike*

## Commodore's Bit

Well the start of the sailing season is nearly here and let's hope we have a good one. Hopefully you will find the reach a bit kinder when close to the opposite bank as Bodgit and Co ((Arboreal branch), sorry about the pun) have been busy severely trimming back the foliage. We shouldn't see anymore sails stuck in foliage.

A couple of years ago I sailed a Comet event at Mudeford, what a lovely place to sail it was. We are planning a club trip there this year for Mudeford sailing week, the event runs

from Saturday the 30th of July to Friday the 5th of August. We don't plan to attend for the whole period; maybe just a long weekend, this depends on response from club members.

The sailing takes place within the harbour which is fairly shallow as you can stand up in most places so is ideal for youngsters.

Please take a look at the Mudeford website.

[www.mudefordsc.org/html/mudeford\\_week.html](http://www.mudefordsc.org/html/mudeford_week.html)

Great Sailing

*Tony Hopkins*

## A New Post Code For Aquarius SC

Ever since it was first established in 1948 Aquarius has not had its own postal delivery. Our mail has gone to the TW main gate and awaits collection. Consequently our mail is often weeks old before we get it.

However Tony Hopkins has been on the case and after long negotiations with the Royal Mail Aquarius has finally been allocated its own post code, which is:-

Aquarius Sailing Club

Sunnyside

Lower Sunbury Road

HAMPTON

TW12 2FZ

A new lockable style post box has been attached to the fence alongside the main gate answer phone enabling a postal service to the club akin to domestic deliveries (i.e. loads of junk mail no doubt) but I'm afraid that comes with the territory nowadays.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Subscriptions

The good news is that Subscriptions and Berth Fees remain the same as last year.

I'm sure you will agree that it is good value particularly if you work out the weekly rate ie full subscription £55 = approximately £1.05 per week and the berth fee is less than 50p. Where else would you get such value ?

This is all due to good management and my thanks go to all those volunteers who give so much time and effort in making our club a great place.

Prompt payment helps us to maintain these standards and we thank you for your co-operation.

Wishing you all a very happy and successful season

*Joan Gray*

## 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.

## So What's Been Going On At Aquarius?

The kitchen is progressing slowly. The new cooker and the water softener have been installed. Four extractor fans are in and working after a lot of ducting was put up in the ceiling to vent the exhaust. The redundant 30 amp power line to the shower has been rerouted to the dishwasher. The old kitchen window has been replaced with a new tempered glass unit and finished with a new inner window sill and the microwaves have been raised up above the work surface.

Some modifications have had to be made to the consumer unit fusing arrangements to lessen the likelihood of

circuit overloading. The water heater has been raised and recessed into the wall to create more draining board space. Cupboard doors have been put on and decorating commenced.

Bodgit's new apprentice Pete Carpenter has also installed new shower mixer taps and shower head. The new shower operates directly off the new hot water tank which Peter also installed.

Bodgit & Co. are now awaiting feedback on the layout and usability of the kitchen before new carcasses are procured, sink options finalised and the stainless steel work surfaces are ordered.

Initial feedback from Sue who runs 'Food for Thought' and did the catering for the club's annual dinner stated that it was a distinct improvement on the old kitchen.

A new plastic coated cable has been fitted to the upstream ramp winch. The old cable was badly frayed and had become dangerous. The quarterdeck has also been jet-washed but can still get a bit slippery in wet/freezing weather. You have been warned. Meanwhile, Pete has drained down the safety boat diesel engine thus hopefully preventing any freeze-up damage over the winter.

***Mike (Over Easy) Baker***



The kitchen gutted



The kitchen moved to the lounge



The kitchen nearly complete



New floor covering

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## Bodgit & Co.

The other day somebody asked me "what makes Bodgit & Co. tick?". A good question, and, at the time I didn't really have an answer. Later however I got to thinking about it, as you do, and I came to the conclusion that we actually enjoy what it is we do.

We set ourselves challenges, come up with solutions, find the materials and get to play with expensive power tools. We get to make a mess without getting into trouble for it, in that when we finish at the end of a day we don't have to clear up. We can just down tools, walk away and come back in the morning and pick-up where we left off the night before. I know that sounds a bit lame but it's a real bonus.

Coffee and doughnuts also play a major role. Work can't start in the morning before coffee and jam doughnuts and there's no one around to

say "you shouldn't be eating that, it's not very healthy!". Of course it isn't, but it's what we like. Lunch is usually a little 'healthier'.

I suppose Aquarius is like our garden shed or allotment. It's where Bodgit goes to plot, plan, relax, enjoy and work. Provide Bodgit with bricks, cement, wood, cable, plumbing and they will play for hours and build you a castle. You may not have wanted a castle but ... well you know what I'm saying. I suppose it also helps that Bodgit is technically 'retired' and therefore, with joint senior management's permission, isn't restricted to weekend only working. That concession also enables us to sail a bit on Sundays.

Bodgit is not a closed shop, over the years many members have contributed their time, tools and expertise to help

with a number of projects and that has been really appreciated. Equally not all the jobs are about maintenance or improvements, sometimes we really get to play, as in making scenery and props for dinners and pantomimes.

Simplistically Bodgit & Co. is a focus, sometimes a catalyst, for things that need doing at Aquarius. We take care of work that definitely needs to be done but sometimes choose to turn a deaf ear to 'less urgent' tasks that anyone could do.

Aquarius is a bit like painting the Forth Road Bridge, you get to the end, turn around, and it all needs doing again; but it's our Forth Road Bridge and we are proud of it. We think it's worth the effort and a little sweat to keep it up to snuff. Hope you agree?

***Bodgit (Deep Thoughts) Division.***

## Aquarius Pantomime Pico Pan

The hilarious Aquarius panto 'Pico Pan', with the terrifying Captain Hook (played by Tony Hopkins and parrot) and the rather hairy fairy, Stinkerbell (Rodger Wheeler), took place on the 14th of January 2011.

Bodgit and Co. (scenery constructors extraordinaire) were first on stage, with their van still there, finishing the job. A side-splitting scene followed in which Nigel Knowles attempted to give Captain Hook a 'hand' ['Groan' says the editor]. The set was amazing. The Victorian playroom was beautifully painted by Mike Baker and had a real opening and closing window. Nigel built a Wendy House which unexpectedly appeared from the floor around Wendy (played by Julia Iremonger). There was a real working cannon which fired party poppers at an unsuspecting Pico Pan (Edmund Morris). All this brought the pantomime to life.

This year's pantomime included lots of music and songs. Pat Halling played some inspiring music on his violin with a lot of ingenious improvisation between scenes but the cast somehow knew and opened the curtains whenever Pat started playing. Pat also played a beautiful duet with Imogen Morris, one of the club's younger members. They played 'Flow Gently Sweet Afton' and 'Evening Song'.

Jean Hendra (playing an adorable dog called Ba- Nana), and the stately but sea-weary Aquarians (played by Mike Hendra and Frank Rainsborough) led the singing with 'How Much is that Doggie in the Window', 'Leaning on a Lamppost' and 'Home on the Range'.

Jean Hendra was also the make-up artist transforming everyone from everyday folk to magical Neverlandians.

There were many talented actors in this year's panto. The pirates, acted by the moustachioed Andrew Morris and the multi-talented Nigel Knowles, told some hilarious jokes. Julia Iremonger (who played Wendy) charmed everyone with her great memory for lines and wonderful acting talent. The Darling children were played magnificently by Dominic and Robbie Lunniss and sang 'We're Walking in the Air' beautifully, alongside Pico Pan and Wendy. The actors are hoping that next year Bodgit and Co. can fix it for them to really fly. Kyle Farren and Grace Farren wittily played the concerned parents (Mr and Mrs Darling). The 'Lost Buoys' were

bobbingly acted by Imogen Morris in full orange regalia, trailing her fellow 'buoys' by a rope. Tiger Lily was beautifully portrayed by Lydia Iremonger, whom we are looking forward to seeing more of in future productions.

The most creative costume of the evening was that of the crocodile, delightfully made and portrayed by Anna Iremonger. She captivated the younger members of the audience seated in the front row whilst everyone sang 'Never Smile at a Crocodile'.

The pantomime wouldn't have been possible without the tireless work of the producer, and pantomime Dame, Rodger Wheeler. Rodger organised the music, co-ordinated the meetings, produced a film along with Richard Cannon and, put simply, made everything happen.

Hannah Lunniss's debut as director was an outstanding success. It is no small task to organise such a motley crew in such a short time. Hannah skillfully brought Imogen and Edmund's script magically to life.

Despite several computers conspiring against them, Frank Rainsborough and Richard Cannon produced the programmes and song sheets in double-quick time, creating a beautiful souvenir for all to treasure.

Most importantly, after all that acting, singing, laughter and applause everyone got to enjoy Linda Wheeler, Joan Bray and Stuart Schaffer's tasty spread.

Do it again? Oh yes we will!

*Edmund Morris*



Crocodile song



Curtain call 2nd performance

## Work Party - 28 November

This was the last work party of 2010. Despite being November and very cold, a band of 24 stalwarts turned up to (a) clear undergrowth from back of club house and Bosun store and clean out the rain gully (b) Trim the Hawthorn along fence between the reservoir and the clubhouse (c) Strim the bank and drive (d) Remove undergrowth at berths A-D and (e) Remove the holly bush at berth O & the tree stump at berth 30.

The day got off to jerky start when the main 60amp fuse in the supply box blew which meant no hot drinks and a delay in getting lunch underway. The supply box is located in the car park area and a TW electrician had to be called out to replace it which took some

time. Meanwhile Diana and Joan toasted crumpets on the BBQ to keep the troops happy.

Once the fuse was replaced Diana and the girls kept the tea and coffee coming and provided a much appreciated hot lunch of Macaroni cheese or sausage casserole (or both in some cases). The only downside of that is that people had to be kicked back outside afterwards. I wanted to stay in the warm as well, but what can you do? Luckily it got dark and considerably colder quite early so the pain didn't last too long.

Many thanks to 'those few, those happy few' whom consisted of Liz Archer, Mike Baker, George & Joan

Bray, Richard Cannon, Diana & Pete Carpenter, Pete & Georgina Clayton, Bryan Clements, Gordon & Joan Courtney, Pat Halling, Michael & Jean Hendra, Trudi Hilton, Tony Hopkins, Dave Jennings, John & Brenda Panting, Frank Rainsborough, Graham Thompson and John Tomkins.

Following the work party on 28 November a few 'chosen men' were due to do some tree pruning on the Surrey bank on 2 December but the snow and extreme cold put pay to that and it will be rescheduled to a more temperate occasion.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Annual General Meeting And Prize Giving - 4 December 2010

Most organisations having accounts and an elected management committee hold an AGM. It's the members opportunity to review the clubs financial situation and to ask questions or voice any concerns over the running of the club. It is also their chance to elect new flag officers and management committee members for the coming year; even to put themselves forward for election should they so wish.

Attendance this year was a bit of a worry, given the weather in late November/early December, but some 40 people managed to dig themselves out of the snow and turned up, which given the current 'full' membership number is down to 52 (i.e. entitled to vote) is not bad.

Following Tony Hopkin's opening speech, a sort of state of the union address, Graham Thompson delivered his financial report. This indicated that the club is in good shape and that no increase in fees are planned for the coming year.

George Bray, AQSC's President, then took over the chair and presided over the election of club officials. With a distinct lack of new nominees the existing club officials were re-elected virtually en-bloc; it's obviously thought they are doing a halfway decent job. The only new 'volunteer' to the social committee was Helen Barnett. For a complete 'who's doing what' go to the club website.

Following the AGM, supper, in the form of mulled wine, mince pies and tit-bits was served. Many thanks to Joan Walkden for 'the brew', well up to standard Joan, and to Diana and her helpers for the very tasty munchies. Munch appreciated (sorry about that). Just as an afterthought ... as we were cleaning up Linda Rowley pointed out that one of the extractor cowlings in the kitchen had turned a sort of pinky-red colour! It turned out that it was the one directly over where Joan had been brewing her mulled wine. What on earth was in that brew Joan!

Supper was followed by Richard Cannon presenting the prizes. Richard keeps meticulous AQSC sailing records together with boat and personal handicap data. His results have never been questioned, mainly I suspect because nobody else understands what the hell's going on! The main thing is that Richard does it well and that's all that matters.

So who won what? Well, Graham Thompson just about walked away with everything going having sailed the most number of races. However, John Panting won the Cruiser Cup for the Spring/Autumn PH series and the Capsize Trophy (I'm sure Brenda will be thrilled with the Water Rat). Charles won the Spring/Autumn Saturday Trophy, and Trudi Hilton won the Most Improved Helm Trophy. There was so little difference between Imogen and Edmund Morris they were both awarded the Junior Helm Trophy for them to share..

Full prize details and helm rankings for the season can be found on our excellent website, which is also maintained by Richard.

*Mike (Must go faster) Baker*

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## The Annual Club Dinner - 20 November 2010

This is a highlight of the social calendar and this year 46 members and guests attended. The lay-up was done on the prior Wednesday night. Many thanks to everybody who helped, it was much appreciated, and got the job done in double quick time.

Luckily Saturday night was dry, but very cold. By contrast the club was warm and inviting. A number of dinner jackets were in evidence and, not to be outdone, the Ladies looked elegant in evening or cocktail dresses.

Diana had chosen cream and green as this year's table colour scheme and in the candle light the old clubhouse looked really quite atmospheric. Our caterers, 'Food for Thought', provided a very good menu which had something for everybody. There was a choice of three starters, four main courses and three desserts followed by cheese, biscuits, coffee and mints.

The evening started at 7:30pm with cocktails or drinks from the bar. Shortly after 8:30pm 'dinner' was announced and everybody took their seats. The meal was very good, the wine excellent and, I can only speak for our table, the company an absolute riot. I think that comes from friends who are relaxed around one another and not afraid to let their very dry humour shine through.

During dinner a number of serious, and a number of, shall we say, less serious toasts were proposed. The response to one particular tribute was Nigel officially inducting Pete Carpenter into Bodgit & Co, and presenting him with his own B&C engraved corporate pencil. Poor old Pete looked very chuffed and embarrassed all at once.

Tony then presented Sue and her girls with gifts and thanks for all their hard work in providing the dinner. He then presented Diana with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for all her hard work in organising the evening. Over coffee Leo and Ann Bond drew the raffle, the prizes for which had been donated by members of the Management Committee. Afterwards people seemed very happy to linger at the tables and the buzz of conversation went on late into the evening as did the dancing. A great evening!

... and finally really a big thanks to all those hardy stalwarts that came back on Sunday morning to help clear up. Over and above guys! Over and above!

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*



## Now For Something Special

As we were laying up the Autumn edition of 'The Mainsheet' George Bray sent me a copy of his war time memories entitled "Wartime Child" suggesting that I might like to put it in the newsletter. Apparently he had originally written these for his grandchildren.

They are a youngster's very personal view of a time in our history that many of us alive today have only read about or seen in newsreels and films. The story tells how he helped his family and his country by doing his bit during the 1940's. George's account ran to ten A4 sheets and at a few pages per edition it would have taken over a year to publish. I decided therefore to have Richard put it on our club website in its own area, referenced from the homepage. That way you can read it at your own pace and in its entirety. As this Spring newsletter goes to print "Wartime Child" is being put on the website ... enjoy!

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## 6 November Kempton Park Firework Display

This event still seems to be able to bring out the 'child' in many of the members. And so it was that once again Richard Cannon's house was invaded and formed the car park and jumping off point for AQSC's annual pilgrimage to Kempton Park's firework display. I am told that, against a background of fairground noises and the smell of burgers, it was the best ever. The evening finished back at the club house with a supper provided by Diana and her team of helpers.

The only downside to the event was that poor old Richard took a flyer leaving Kempton, he walked into a low railing, and fell flat on his face. With Rodger Wheeler's help he ended up with the St. John's Ambulance people who patched him up and sent him to West Middlesex Hospital. Rodger picked him up about 1 o'clock in the morning. For how hard his face hit the pavement Richard can't believe how slight his injuries were.

A few day's later he was still looking like he'd gone a round or two with George Foreman! Luckily there wasn't too much harm done and by the annual dinner he was back to his old self again.

*Mike (Sparklers) Baker*

## Environmental Agency Directive 2010

The law governing boat registration and related conditions for our waterways has changed.

All boats kept on the river must be now be registered.

If you keep your boat on the River Thames, you will now need to register it and pay the full annual charge, even if you do not use it or are just doing maintenance. This requirement extends to every part of the River Thames including backwaters and marinas.

The EA will offer an introductory period until 1 April 2011 to give you the opportunity to register your boat or remove it from the river before we take enforcement action.

However, the EA will still take immediate enforcement action if you use an unregistered boat at any time.

Third party insurance is now needed for powered boats

You will now need to show you have third party insurance for a powered boat. This insurance will need to be for at least one million pounds.

When you apply to register for 2011, the EA will be asking you to provide the name of your insurer, your policy number and expiry date.

Note: The above was copied from the official EA website. The full version can be found at :- [http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/IWO\\_fact\\_sheet\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/IWO_fact_sheet_FINAL.pdf)



## 12 December Cheats Christmas Lunch

This years 'Cheats Lunch' was organised and cooked by our esteemed Commodore Tony Hopkins. Tony decided to limit the lunch to some 50 people, still quite a large number, but less than last year which had proved difficult to cope with.

With the run of the new kitchen great things were expected and, in true Aquarius fashion, Tony rose manfully to the challenge. I am told the lunch was excellent and Tony said that the new appliances worked 'as advertised', which was good news.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## Winter On The Water Front

So how did your boat fare over the winter? Did you remember to remove the sails, coil the sheets up out of the bilge, make sure the cover was well tied down and that the boat was adequately picketed bow up? Did you open all the drains and hatches? If you did then hopefully you didn't suffer any damage and your pride and joy was ready to race at the opening of the 2011 season. If you found trouble ... well, what can I say other than you only have yourself to blame.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

## 13 February – Ladies Lunch

This started out life as a Valentines Day event. After it was held at various restaurants last years lunch was professionally catered by 'A Bit of a Do' in the clubhouse. It must have hit the mark because our ladies who lunch requested the same again this year.

Advertising was sent out in plenty of time so that everybody who wanted to attend would have the opportunity to reserve places with Tony Hopkins.

The three course meal consisted of Spring Rolls, Thai Dipping Prawns and Chicken Sate. This was followed by Beef Goulash or Chicken Tarragon or Mid Vegetable Chilli with Rice and Green Salad. The dessert was Chocolate

Fudge Cake or Cheese Cake. In the event some 20 people booked for the lunch.

Unfortunately everything didn't go exactly to plan. During the week some Thames Water contractors placed a large pipe across the drive up to the car park. Our caterers Alison and Paul tried to drive over this obstacle and ended up damaging their vehicle. They had to leave their car in the drive and carry everything up- to the club. Later, everybody else had to leave their cars in the drive as well, it was chaos.

Anyway, after Tony presented each of the Ladies with a long stem red rose the first course was served during pre

dinner drinks after which everybody was invited to be seated.

The main courses and deserts were delicious and the lunch finished with coffee but the conversation, across the tables, went on late into the afternoon. Nobody seemed in any hurry to go and it was well past 4 o'clock before the first couples began to drift away.

Many thanks to Alison and Paul from 'A Bit of a Do' for a very tasty meal and of course to our Commodore Tony for organising the event.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

### Rigging

With the start of the new sailing season one point that is worth thinking about is rigging, we have had a hard Winter and that old halyard/jib-sheet/painter may have seen one season too many ( like a lot of us). It is most likely worth giving them all a thorough going over. It would not be good form to be on the start line for the first race of the season and the mainsheet decides to part company with the boom!

Saying that don't be ready with a camera when that happens to me. But seriously, we do need to give our dinghies a good going over before racing or even getting them on the water. And don't forget your licence and insurance. Great Sailing,

**Tony (The Commodore) Hopkins**

### AQSC Web Site

The Duty Roster on the website is the up to date master and should be looked at if you need to swap duties.

Links to historical items can usually be found on the archived news pages.

It is very important I am told of things that don't work else I never know and can't correct them.

**Richard Cannon 01932 786636**

### Out Of The Mouths Of ...

The following was sent to me by a friend in the west country. These purport to be some answers to recent school exam papers. Read them and laugh (or weep)! And no I didn't make any spelling mistakes, this was the way it came ...

History - In wartime children who lived in big cities had to be evaporated because it was safer in the country.

Maths - The total is when you add up all the numbers and a remainder is an animal that pulls Santa on his sleigh.

History - Sometimes in the war they take prisoners and keep them as ostriches until the war is over. Some prisoners end up in concentration camps.

Religious Studies - A mosque is a sort of church. The main difference is that its roof is doomed.

Maths - I would like to be an accountant but you have to know a lot about moths.

Geography - The closest town to France is Dover. You can get to France on a train or you can go on a fairy.

Maths - If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.

The Arts - ... and at the end of the show we all sing away in a manager.

The Arts - In last years Christmas concert Linzi played the main part. I played one of the smaller parts and I would like to have a bigger part this year.

Science - Helicopters are cleverer than planes. Not only can they fly through the air they can also Hoover.

History - Then Joan of Ark met her end. She was burned as a steak.

Natural History - Crabs and creatures like them all belong to a family of crushed Asians

Geography - In geography we learned that countries with sea around them are islands and ones without sea are incontinents.

Religious Studies - If you marry two people you are a pigamist, but morons are not allowed to do this.

History - Sir Walter Raleigh circumscribed the world with a big clipper.

Geography - In Scandinavia the Danish people come from Denmark, the Norwegians come from Norway and the Laplanders come from Lapland.

## 17 February – Special Work Party

Those of us that race regularly realised some time ago that the overhanging trees on the opposite bank from the club were becoming a problem. Some had collapsed into the water becoming a navigation problem and some had branches that stretched out and snagged sails. An appeal to the EA was all but ignored so a decision was made to do something about it ourselves.

On the 17th six members met at the club and with chainsaws, axes and a variety of other tools set about clearing the more obvious obstructions. Nigel and Tony did the cutting. Don and myself towed the cut branches across the river. Bryan and Gordon cut up the branches on the club slipway.

The wood was then carried up to the car park for disposal. I suppose we worked for about six hours. The

Aquarius patrol boat battled manfully against a strong current while towing some enormous boughs but eventually we managed to clear the more dangerous obstacles. There's still a hell of a lot to do but it was a good start and it proved the techniques that were used were about right.

**Mike (who'd be a lumberjack) Baker**

## How To Solve A Financial Crisis (or how a 'bail-out' package works)

It is a slow day in a damp little Irish town. The rain is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt and everybody lives on credit.

On this particular day a rich German tourist is driving through the town, stops at the local hotel and lays a €100 note on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night.

The owner gives him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the €100 note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the €100 note and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the €100 note and heads off to pay his bill at the supplier of feed and fuel.

The guy at the Farmers' Co-op takes the €100 note and runs to pay his drinks bill at the pub.

The publican slips the money along to the local prostitute drinking at the bar, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer him "services" on credit.

he hooker then rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill to the hotel owner with the €100 note.

The hotel proprietor then places the €100 note back on the counter so the rich traveller will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveller comes down the stairs, picks up the €100 note, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, pockets the money and leaves town.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole town is now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, Ladies and Gentlemen, is how the bailout package works!

**Mike (The Economist) Baker**

## Further Financial Problems

The Management Committee have asked me to draw your attention to the question of writing cheques made out to the club.

Due to a recent incident where an over zealous bank manager refused a cheque made payable to "Aquarius S.C." I have to emphasize that it is very important that cheques are made out only to "Aquarius Sailing Club". This, I am assured, will make our bank manager a very happy bunny and has nothing to do with the banks intent to do away with cheques altogether sometime in the future. What happens then God knows!

The Management Committee have also asked me to stress the importance of taking away any of your food stuffs (including your food related rubbish) from the club at the end of the day. Some of our furry friends have been back in the club again and they like nothing better than nibbles left lying around or waste bins full of food waste. So remember, you bring it, you take away the rubbish.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## The Annual Club Programme

Following the first Management and Social Committee meetings in January the AQSC 2011 club programme was finalised. You will receive a copy of this programme after membership/berthing renewals in April.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Panto Video & Burns Night Supper Tuesday 25 January

This event was first held last year. The Neaps and Tat ties were cooked at the club and the supper was accompanied by the traditional dram of the falling down water. I also seem to remember a chocolate and beetroot cake. Hey! Don't knock it till you've tried it. It must have proved popular because it was decided to repeat the evening again.

This year the supper was preceded by a showing of a video Rodger Wheeler took of the AQSC Panto so that members involved with the panto had a chance to see how it worked out. Rodger captured the Haggis and some

twenty-eight people turned up to enjoy the evening. Attached is a picture of Imogen Morris bringing in the beast.

I understand it all went very well and by the end of the evening nothing was left of either the Haggis or its accompanying dishes, not to mention the delicious bakery made by Lorna Morris. The diners apparently survived their close encounter of the Scottish kind so that was okay ... but be warned, the Haggis is a persistent beast and is sure to return again about the same time next year!

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**

## Great Sailing (and tea and cakes)

We are lucky in a lot of respects to have the reach at Aquarius, yes it is a somewhat fluky reach with wind but we have a great outlook and Sunday afternoon teas on the deck after the first race after lunch are a joy. And 50p for tea and a cake are ridiculously cheap in this day and age and you don't even have to sail to benefit!

Just turn up and there will be someone willing to take you on as crew, how many clubs afford such an idyllic setting, not many!

Use of club dinghies is free(!) and there is usually someone around to help you rig and launch, social events abound and the costs are always good on the pocket. Why don't we have hundreds of members! Because when it's this good we keep it to ourselves!

**Tony Hopkins (Commodore and cake lover)**



## Sailing And Social Programme March - May 2011

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, a Fun Race, or Cruising (TFC) with emphasis on giving less experienced members a better sailing experience.

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

The Wednesday afternoon Series will start on 11 May and end on 7 September; start time will be 5pm.

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 45 minutes before the start of an event.

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

On the Late Spring Holiday Monday 30 May, and the Late Summer Holiday Monday 29 August we visit the Bewl Valley SC who are having family sailing days and not open racing days.

Date	11:30am	2:00pm	3:30pm	Duty Officers, Evening & Notes
<b>March</b>				
13 Sat 19	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided			Start of Season Party 7:30pm
27	Spring Race 1	TFC	Spa Race 1	Richard Cannon, L Archer, David Jennings. <i>BST begins</i>
<b>April</b>				
3	Spring Race 2	TFC	Spa Race 2	G Bray, J Bray, Robert Britton
10	Spring Race 3	TFC	Spa Race 3	Mike Baker, John Panting,, Don Barnett
17	Spring Race 4	TFC	Sprint Race 1 & 2	Tony Hopkins, Joan Courtney, Paul Bryan
24	Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races, best 3 count			Bryan Clements, Trudi Hilton, Graham Thompson
<b>May</b>				
1 Sat 7	Spring Race 5	TFC	Spa Race 4	J Botterill, T Hilton, Graham Thompson
	Mid-Thames Trophy at Littleton SC			
	For the non sailors a visit to the Valley Gardens, Windsor, with lunch at the Wheatsheaf pub			
8	Spring Race 6	TFC	Spa Race 5	Charles Dennis, Family Addouche, Don Barnett
14	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided			
15	Spring Race 7	TFC	Sprint Race 3 & 4	Leo Bond, Anne Bond, Family Morris
Sat 21	AQSC Club Open Weekend			Peter Carpenter, Brenda Panting, Rodger Wheeler
22	Open day, introduce new members to all club boats			F Rainsborough, Family Gatehouse, John Neale
29	Trying various boats for new members, and fun Sailing			Cath Bridger, Jonathan Vaughan, T Hilton
Mon 30	Visit to Bewl Valley Sailing Club Family and Try Sailing			

### Start of Season Party

Don't forget that on Saturday 19 March everyone is invited to the Start of Season Party for a congenial evening which includes free light refreshments.

### Valley Gardens Visit

While the sailors sail on Saturday 7 May come and join us on a social outing to Valley Gardens, Windsor, to see the Spring display, lunch at the Wheatsheaf Pub. More details in club house nearer the time.

### Hygiene

The Management Committee reminds members that no personal food or drink is to be left in the galley fridge.

We have recently had to remove some foul smelling articles from this fridge which is not only unpleasant but is an open invitation to our smaller 'rodent members'.

The OOD has been allocated an additional responsibility to ensure that at the end of the day the contents of the kitchen waste bin is removed from the club and a new bin liner fitted.

### SigneT Open Meeting Saturday 9 July

Aquarius is hosting a SigneT Open Meeting on the 9 July within our regatta. The SigneTs will race in our normal Regatta races and two sets of results will be evaluated; 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 21st/22nd May

*Tony Hopkins  
Commodore*

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

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

### 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.

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.