



AQUARIUS S.C.

# THE MAIN SHEET

## Autumn 2011 Edition

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### Vice Commodore's Report - *Graham Thompson*

The sailing season is drawing to a close and competition has been, well, confusing.

A week ago as race officer I could be seen basking in the sun on the quarterdeck, bitter shandy in hand, having sent those pesky sailors on a loooooong distance 'fun' race up river.

Then yesterday there they were again fighting it out for the capsized cup, or rather the stuffed water rat which has peered out from the back of my wardrobe through several winters.

Quite why the ladies do not embrace this hallowed symbol of manly endeavour, Charlie capsizing 21 times in one race and last seen spurning helping hands as he raised his mast in a downpour, or Keith's graceful capsized while moored, I cannot imagine.

Two pieces of business to save you from further musings. A questionnaire has been sent out to gauge your opinions and help us form our development plans. Please respond. The AGM is approaching and the committee will no doubt be looking for an infusion of fresh blood.

### RYA Manifesto

If anyone's interested there are copies of the latest RYA manifesto available in the clubhouse. This document sets out the RYA declaration of principles, policies and objectives. It's pretty dry stuff but it does summarise what the RYA is all about.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

### Additional Lockers

In August four 'pay as you use' lockers were installed in the clubhouse foyer. These were intended for the use of members not having annually rented lockers in the changing rooms. These lockers require a £1 coin to be inserted in mechanism on the back of the door. This will enable the door to be locked and the key removed.

When the locker door is re-opened the £1 coin will be refunded in the chute on the back of the door. (Note: If the key is lost the £1 will NOT be refunded but used towards the cost of cutting another key.)

Two additional conventional lockers were also installed in the Ladies changing room. Applications were invited for the annual rental of these at a cost of £5 each per year. Please contact Nigel Knowles if you are interested in one of these.

*AQSC Management Committee.*

### Development Plan

By now you should have received, and hopefully completed and returned, the club development plan questionnaire.

I cannot stress enough how important this is to the club's future. The findings from this survey will be used to write the actual plan which will then be used to help grow and develop the club over the coming years.

So if you forgot to respond please fill the questionnaire in right NOW, preferably using Excel, and send it to the address listed in the 'introduction'.

*Mike (Over Easy) Baker*

### 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.

And here is this Newsletter's 'something more interesting' information clip, from Frank:

From 'Food Slang in the Navy; RBG is Rich Brown Gravy, and another item of Navy food is a Ring Stinger, euphemism for an extremely hot vindaloo curry!

(Keep them coming! Ed.).

## SigneT Nationals

This years SigneT class nationals was held at Ullswater YC from 6th to 12th August. Three AQSC boats made the trip up to Cumbria. ST368 (June) with Richard Cannon & Rob Britton and ST 924 (Sunset) with John Panting & Frank Goodall and ST858 (The Saint) with Keith Hatton and me, Mike Baker. Our party included Madeline, Lyn and Roy Melsom who was crewing ST761 with Pat Overs.

As in the past we all shared a farm cottage conveniently located a couple of miles from UYC. This provides a very comfortable home from home for the week's sailing. I think, years ago now, we were amongst the first to hire one of Nigel and Amanda's newly completed farm building conversions and ever since, whenever we go up to Cumbria, we always stay with them. They have an intimate knowledge of the area and can always point us to the best pubs with the best food. Amanda says it's all about knowing which chef is where on a given night. Can't argue with her, we've never had a bad dinner yet.

We arrived on Saturday just as Ullswater Week was getting underway. The camp site was heaving, the waterfront packed with craft and the car park full to capacity. ST858 had already been offloaded so we made tracks to the farm for a shower and some falling down water before dinner.

Ullswater is one of the northern lakes and lies on a NE axis. The nearest big town is Penrith to the east, on the other side of the M6. The two big towns on the lake are Pooley Bridge at the top end and Glenridding at the base which provides access to Ambleside and Windermere. The wind on the lake varies but during the week was predominately from the SW with strengths from gusting 5 to virtually 0.

Sunday required us to be at the club at 2pm for a briefing with the practice race due to start after the last UYC weekend regatta race. The practice race is all about orientating oneself to the clubs fixed marks out on the lake, some of which are quite a way apart.

All have names such as Beauthorn, Brunskill, Lodge, Harbour and Thwaite. One you would recognise is Sharrow Bay, home to the famous hotel that is generally credited with inventing sticky toffee pudding. It's also a chance to ensure everything's working okay on the boats.

Some 15 SigneT's came to Ullswater with 14 entered. The practice race winner was ST847 with ST368 2nd ST858 6th and ST924 9th.

Monday's programme included two races. The 1st championship race at 1pm and the 2nd at 2:30pm. The wind was a good 3-4 gusting higher and during the second race ST192's mast came down. It tore out of the heel block, breaking the block and the centre board box top stiffening beams as it went. Undeterred her owner Simon Mann phoned down to Fyne Boats at Kendall who were able to cut the parts which Simon then went and picked up. By Thursday ST192 was back on the water. The 1st race was won by ST368 with ST858 7th and ST924 8th. The 2nd race was won by ST530 (Mark Hollamby's old boat) with ST368 4th, ST858 7th and ST924 8th.

Tuesdays programme included two races. The wind was a good 3-4 and gusting higher with the 3rd championship race at 1pm and the 4th at 2:30pm. The 3rd race was won by ST530 with ST368 4th, ST858 9th and ST924 10th. The 4th race was won by ST530, ST858 2nd, ST368 6th and ST924 10th.

Wednesday was a lay day. There was a chance, for those that wanted to go and explore the stunning surrounding countryside. Lyn and I took off for the Lakeland Artist Exhibition at Grasmere which involves driving to Glenridding and then up over the Kirkstone Pass, an experience in itself.

One of our SigneTs entered the UYC long distance race which starts on the club line, goes down water to Norfolk Island off Glenridding and then returns up the lake to Pooley Bridge and then back to the club. Takes about 2½ hours in a fast boat. In a SigneT anything up to 4 hours. In the evening almost everybody decamped to an Italian restaurant in Penrith for a 'slap-up' meal.

Thursdays programme included the 5th championship race at 11am followed by the crew invitation race at 1pm. As the name implies this is where the boat crews change ends and the skipper gets to play up the sharp end for a while. It also gives the crews a one time chance to express their views on the spinnaker handling abilities of their skippers. It's called payback!. The 5th race was won by ST761, ST368 2nd, ST858 10th and ST924 14th. The Crew Invite was won by ST522 with ST368 3rd and ST858 4th. ST924 didn't compete for some reason. During the afternoon Lyn and Madeline took themselves off to The Sharrow Bay Hotel for tea. They said it was a real experience and brought us back a box full of cream cakes they couldn't manage! The associations AGM was held at the clubhouse in the evening.

Fridays programme included the 6th championship (RNLI) race at 11am. A healthy donation to the RNLI is required from each boat before entering this race. The race start was long delayed because there was virtually no wind and even when it did get going it was a bit of a drifter; it was shortened to 3/4 a lap that took 100 minutes. The leaders were almost stationary a few yards from the finish line while the tailenders were catching up in some wind that was filling in. The 6th race was won by ST530, ST368 6th, ST858 14th and ST924 11th.

This is usually followed by the single handed race but this was cancelled due to the lateness of the hour and the lack of wind.

After all the dinghies had been recovered and packed up onto their road trailers the prize giving was held in the club's committee room at around 6:00pm. The winning boat was ST530 with ST368 2nd, ST858 8th and ST924 12th.

Looking back most days were overcast and/or wet. It wasn't that cold but there was precious little sunshine. The winds were generally good apart from the last day which was a tedious drifter. The accommodation was excellent, the food was tasty (especially the clam chowder at The Crown & Mitre Inn at Bampton) and the beer excellent. Ullswater is still my favourite inland sailing venue by a long way. Already looking forward to our next visit.

Additional: UYC is the RYA club of the year. Quite an accolade when you think how many sailing clubs there are around the country. They have big development plans and while we were there we had an opportunity to see the architects plans and drawings for the planned new clubhouse. It was on two levels, elliptical in shape, a lot of glass looking out over the water. The lower floor was 'wet' comprising changing rooms, showers and storage. The upper level was 'dry' including lounge, bar, restaurant and meeting rooms. Although extremely modern in concept I think it will blend into its surroundings very well. I am really looking forward to seeing the finished article, I think it's going to be stunning!

*Mike (Temporarily 'The Saint') Baker*

## Steven's Story

This is not the usual thing I write about but I do think it is something people should read if only to understand the kind of sacrifices being made by our troops in defence of our way of life.

Lyn and I have a great friend called Terry. Terry lives down in Coombe Martin on the N.Devon coast and has two sons and a lovely partner Joanna. We first met Terry nearly forty years ago when we were all in the Barton Green Youth Theatre Group in New Malden.

One of Terry's sons is called Steven and from an early age he wanted to join the army. Eventually he went for Officer Training and became a captain in the Marines. After various postings he ended up in Afghanistan where he was the Officer Commanding (deleted) Company, in charge of approx 175 personnel (mainly marines) based in the Northern half of the Nad e Ali district of Helmand Province.

In late May this year he was blown up by an Improvised explosive device (IED). Although terribly injured Steven survived but a number of his troop were killed. Unknowingly you would have seen some of these on TV coming back to the UK via Wootton Bassett.

Amazingly and only three months later, although still badly wounded he managed to write an account of the attack and his subsequent fight back. Steven is currently at Headley Court in Surrey and will be for some time.

With the families permission I have posted Steven's own story on the club website. I would urge you to read it, it's a unique insight into the danger that our troops face every day in Afghanistan.

Please note that at Steven's request certain identifying data concerned with individuals and or their units has been deleted both from the above and from his account of what happened. This in no way detracts from Steven's account.

**Mike (over Easy) Baker**



New gratings fitted

## Bodgit Diaries (The ongoing story of DIY folk)

I knew I shouldn't have let Bodgit Senior off the leash. I turned my back and he was straight onto a yacht and off around the Scottish Island distilleries. The good news was that he brought back some samples. He knows which side his haggis is battered, or should that be buttered.

Having got a special dispensation from the Management Committee Bodgit had a bonfire to get rid of all the material cut down from behind the dinghies. Now such things tend to fuel Bryan Clements pyromaniac tendencies so he was reminded why the club banned bonfires a couple of years ago. That seemed to work and by the end of the afternoon there wasn't much left except a pile of very hot ash and a somewhat 'flushed' Bryan.

When I got back from the SigneT Nationals I found that Bodgit senior had manufactured and installed the drawer above the dish washer racks. The kick boards under the kitchen units had also been finished. He doesn't hang about!

A new batch of lockers had also arrived. Four 'pay as you use' for the foyer and two conventional for the Ladies changing room. These were installed that same evening.

With winter round the corner and several end of season social events coming up Bodgit has re-installed the patio on the quarterdeck.

With Mike Chips help another source of galvanised steel gratings has been found. These will be used to re-

construct the downstream end of the launching ramp which will start towards the end of September before the river gets too cold.

September 28, 29 and 30 were blisteringly hot days as Bodgit & Co. started work on the downstream side of the ramp. Two scaffolding A frames were set up, one in the river the other on the bank adjacent to the end of the ramp and cross braced. A chain hoist was then attached and the whole ramp was lifted clear of the water. A support structure was put in at both ends of the ramp and the ramp was then lowered, still clear of the water so it could be worked on. The damaged wooden and metal coverings were then partially stripped off to expose the support structure underneath which was in surprisingly good condition.

Construction then started on the new supports which would hold the new gratings. Initially this proved challenging to say the least but it's at times like this when Bodgit senior goes into deep think mode usually lubricated with tea or coffee and a sticky bun.

Anyway after several hours of cutting, grinding, welding, drilling, bolting and sweat ( I did say it was hot) things were looking good by close of play on the 30th with the first two gratings lowered into place.

Many thanks to Stuart Schaffer who helped out on the 30th.

**Mike (Over Easy) Baker**



The ramp lifted out of the water

## Gilbert & Sullivan Evening at AQSC on 10 September

Now I have to say from the outset that this is not my kind of thing. I guess it's because I'm just not into musicals. I once slept through *Les Misérables* and with the exception of *Phantom* have never been to another. However, I do know that many people rave about G&S, and anyway the world would be a boring place if we all liked the same things.

Rodger started his recruitment drive for "The Pinafore Pirates of Titipu" in July. I'm not sure G&S ever wrote something called that, but I guess Rodger knows what he's doing. The following hilarious account of the show was sent to 'The Mainsheet' by Mike Hendra .....

'Mick are doe'.

I was a little sad when the opening Flanders's and Swan concert did not go ahead at the beginning of the season but then I saw the Panto video and swore that I would never appear in another Aquarius production.

When Rodger promulgated the G & S concert, somehow I had momentarily forgotten my vow and agreed to take part. As the dates drew near I thought I was rescued by friends with a yacht in Mallorca who invited me to spend some time with them. This invitation coupled with Rodger's wedding duties should see me unrehearsed before going and scratched when I came back.

Over the summer I had forgotten Rodger's enthusiasm and tenacity so it was not long after I set foot back in dear-old-blighty that Jean and I were nabbed. Oh well, I suppose a small part could be found for me but no, "I need a Mikado" quoth Rodger. I am no singer, no training, no experience although I did practice with a hair brush back in the 60's when Cliff Richards was a boy, I protested but I was caught like a ship's rat.

Our first gathering occurred at the club house on Saturday 9-3, all very informal and by chance. Rodger waved some paper and CDs about and those present agreed to meet at Joan and George's on Monday evening. The evening was damp and cool but the Brays welcome was warm and the unexpected spread incredible.

When we arrived (with a very nice cake made from windfall apples) things were going well with the three little maids.

Some practice did occur but with George plying us liberally with one brew or another, the evening took on

more the form of a party than a rehearsal.

Unfortunately the karaoke DVD was too quiet for us to hear the verses and so loud during the choruses that we thought the Brays might have trouble with their neighbours.

I emailed a couple of friends to ask if they would like to attend the evening and to my surprise three of the four accepted. One was a lass we had sailed with a few years ago and she happened to mention she had a pirate outfit.

I had conveyed this to Rodger who thought she might be useful and to my surprise George arrived on my doorstep the following morning with the words and music for her to sing the Pirate King. I protested that there was no time and no opportunity to rehearse so the matter was left, or so I thought.

I struggled with the karaoke CD and eventually downloaded my own version of my two songs. I had told Rodger about my karaoke problem but he assured me that he would have it solved by Saturday. It was plain that the size and the requirement of the production was a big task but Rodger was confident and enthusiastic.

I had sent Mia, our pirate, a copy of the Floral Dance, but she still did not know about the Pirate King part. She was due for lunch at one o'clock on Saturday but got lost in New Malden so it was nearly two before I managed to locate and rescue her.

Lunch was a more hasty affair than planned but we were off in time to be at the club for the three o'clock rehearsal. Our timing was perfect, we arrived just behind Ann and Leo so Jean did not have to fight with the gate lock.

Subsequent arrivals were reasonably on time for the club, but Rodger was notably absent. We milled around a bit sheep like for a while, slowly focusing on the task and eventually our trusty producer arrived with the scripts and song sheets.

Now at last, at four on Saturday, we had our first glimpse of the plot and sequencing. Rodger was clearly stressed and to our horror the printing process has gone wrong and most of the scripts were incomplete so Mia was now set to work with the task of script organising.

We tried a few songs and clearly there were problems but still we were assured all would be well. Rodger then sailed off home, across the river, to solve some problem or other whilst Jean tried to manage the music.

Some semblance of order began to develop and we arranged ourselves into something resembling a cast.

Suddenly Rodger appeared looking rather like a two-tone jester with one side wet and one side dry. Apparently he had fallen in the river whilst navigating back from home with some more script pages.

Mia continued to solve the script puzzle whilst Jean and Rodger, now stripped to his underdaks, struggled with the music. Finally, at six we began a full rehearsal.

Notwithstanding the unsolvables, mainly the lack of scripts and song sheets, the rehearsal went fairly well in a rough kind of way. Richard had been called to assist with the music and he had worked something akin to magic with the mass of cables wires and screens. The song sequencing went smoothly enough, confidence built and we relaxed a little at about six-forty-five with afternoon tea.

Our trusty catering personnel arrived with the evening spread (at least dinner looked safe) chairs were brought out and the place began to take on some air of normality. With the first signs of an audience arriving, the cast went to change and what a fantastic array of costumes appeared.

With the audience seated and expectant, the overture and beginners commenced and went on and on and on and on. None of the cast had heard the intro before and I found it difficult to manage the competing emotions that were invoked. First the giggles, then the wondering about when it would actually finish, if ever, then the restlessness in the audience and finally as doom was approaching it finished. "Thank something or other!"

Amazingly, at least from my point of view, the production got underway with things not appearing too rough. I had high hopes for my own contribution as I had practiced well and even sounded reasonable, or so I thought. I knew the backing for the Mikado's song was not good so I had used a recording of an actual performance downloaded to an mp3 player and it worked well.

After the overture fiasco the opening went reasonably well but when my music should have started there was silence. Words appeared on the computer screen but I heard nothing but my own breathing. "S\*\*\*!!!! Go anyway!" I thought, so I did and here I offer sincere apologies.



Now the sound system was starting to have a game all of its own, almost baiting, teasing and smiling at Rodger. As and when necessary, almost all of the time, Richard coaxed the thing back in line and the audience appeared to actually enjoy our antics.

When our rather gorgeous, very feminine, pirate king began her song in a deep male voice, the tension finally broke for me. It had been my idea to include the Floral Dance, for no better reason that I liked it. Once again I had down-loaded a recording to my mp3 player but the brass band version missed out a couple of lines and two verses. Rodger had cut and pasted the backing adding the two verses but the combination was not perfect and the Pirate King and I had no time to practice with the final tape.

Notwithstanding our lack of rehearsal, the energy and enthusiasm of the song seemed to carry it and it was a high point for Mia and I, and I hope for the audience as well. Eventually we reached the end with no boos or pies being hurled at us and many of our audience actually said they had enjoyed the production so perhaps all was not lost and the spirit of Aquarius had triumphed again.

Whatever the performance, it is the catering service that pulls all the irons out of the fire and here they did it once again. So thanks to Linda, who spent a whole day preparing food, Diana who did a sterling job with the salads as well as the dedicated bar people who keep the whole thing lubricated. Thanks also to Gordon for driving the dishwasher, as he does so doggedly and all who lent a hand in the huge clean up job that comes at the end of every Aquarius operation.

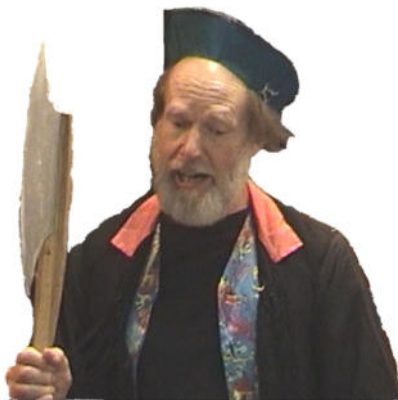
This is my story and there are several dozen others, one for each of the great sports who took part in or who supported us and the club.

Aquarius is supposed to be a sailing club but that is just a corporation name for a building company, a garden maintenance concern, a catering company, a boat builders, a social club and a theatre production company to name just a few and it is a great place in which to be a member.

Suffice to say, many work hard to make the place what it is and some work harder than others as always. For this production we must thank (or blame) Rodger, for without him this entertainment would not have happened and he nearly drowned himself in the process. Thanks Rodger!

Why do I do this? Well it is like passage sailing for me, I am enthusiastic at the start, disappointed with the progress and conditions on the way, thankful when I have finished and impatient to go again within a very short time. Without the other silly buggers in the crew (including my own lovely Buttercup) this would not have been possible and the fun and camaraderie would have been missed so 'till the next time, thank you all from me.

*Mike Hendra*



Koko, Lord High Excecutioner



Three Little Maids from School

## August Bank Holiday Sailing at Bewl Water

The sun was shining on us as we arrived at the reservoir (a significantly reduced stretch of water) with a sizeable contingent from Aquarius (14) and a respectable fleet of dinghies (8) – 4 Signets, 1 Enterprise, a Bosun, the Comet and a club Laser.

Compared to my last visit, May 2010, my first observation was the length of the slipway into the water which, owing to the low water level was a considerable distance from the road. The weather was markedly better this year, with consistent but not overwhelming wind conditions and a little sun from time-to-time to warm our backs.

There were very few Bewl boats on the water, but with the usual generous, warm welcome from their staff and OOD, we headed out to the farthest reaches of the water on an effortless run most of the way, and long tacks back.

Such was the drastic effect on the water level that even some of our most experienced members were caught out by the shallowness of the water, catching the centre-board and almost running aground! The wind conditions were such that it was reported that one of our Signet helms got his shorts wet while leaning out!

After a leisurely start and lunch for some, most had a good few hours on the water, with time for some 1:1 coaching for me. The stalwart supporters settled themselves into the members lounge area and kept the seats warm for those on the water.

Richard and John P squeezed in a quick boat-swap in gentle winds at 5pm, before packing up to face the Bank Holiday traffic on the A21.

My personal thanks go to Frank (and Bryan) for packing up and towing my little Comet down to the lake, those who 'stuck with me' out on the wild water, and Richard for the 1:1!

For the future, we had several crew and car slots available for anyone who wants a 'free ride' for the next Bank Holiday – if you've never been, it's really worth a try!

*Trudi Hilton*

# Swinging Sixties Evening - 8 October 2011

## Mike Hendra

The 60's Night, which should have occurred at the clubhouse, took place in a brick cellar reminiscent of the Cavern where the Beatles career began to take off over half a century ago. Not only was the clubhouse transformed but we were also reacquainted with many of the characters that strutted the stage at that time. John Lennon greeted guests at the door and flower power and peace were everywhere. We even had a bloke who seemed to have come from an earlier time and although we implored him to walk across the river he appeared to be freshly out of miracles. Probably because of the task of turning the club into a cellar had taxed the miraculous ability of him and his disciples. They had certainly done a wonderful job of transformation.

The club twinkled and glowed on the river bank looking very inviting as it does on these occasions. The welcoming drink and décor carried that warmth inside, the ambience promising a pleasant evening with the aromas of great dinner exciting the olfactories. At the end of the room, the usual slaves manned the galley while a familiar crew ran the bar, waited at table, cleaned the dishes, washed up etc. Finally the club cleaners worked wonders and JC and the Disciples performed the miracle of conversion, turning the Cavern back into a clubhouse.



For inspiration we must thank Anne and Leo for the idea of the 60's night and for the organisation and work. Anne, with the aid of the AQSC Women's Institute, did a wonderful job with the meal and she made a beautiful host. Leo apparently got lost somewhere but in his place John Lennon was reincarnated so nobody minded. Everyone seem to enjoy themselves and at least for Jean and I, it certainly was a wonderful evening so thanks to all whose efforts made it so.

There is currently some debate about the club's purpose, is it a sailing club or a social club? Certainly running a social club requires a great deal of work and in our case all voluntary and certainly not always acknowledged. However, I have been a member of many sports clubs around the world and in every one it is the social side that keeps the club alive and often provides the money to support the sporting side. Some places survive on the strength of the one-armed-bandit, others from running a successful restaurant but none survive just on the activity emblazoned on the banner. For me it is the social events that are the draw and without them there would be little point in continuing membership.

So once again, thanks and appreciation to all those who work hard to keep the club alive and running such fabulous events as the 60's night.



## Mike (Over Easy) Baker

This event was organised by Anne & Leo Bond and was held in the clubhouse on the evening of 8 October.

Preparation for the evening began in mid September with Anne compiling lists of 'things to do' which seemed to get ever longer. The plan was to get everybody into flares & mini's. Even the meal reflected the era, Prawn Cocktail, Coq au Vin and Blackforest Gateau (very avant-garde for the 60's).

One thing there was no shortage of was music, although vinyl LP's proved to be a problem (as in finding something to play them on). That was solved by transferring everything to CD.

Aquarius itself was turned into 'The Cavern Club' for the evening. Wonderful what a few rolls of brick wallpaper can do. A glitter ball and a display of 60's record sleeves and some posters completed the makeover. However, it was decided that the smells associated with Liverpool's original Cavern Club could be dispensed with. The evening itself was great.

I'm sure that many people look back to the 60's as a happy time. I started work in 1962 at the age of 16. We had enough money to get by. The height of sophistication was a having a decent record player. 'Tops of the Pops' was a must see. Fashions were amazing, more for the girls than the boys. The beer was cheap and you didn't have to take out a mortgage to afford concert tickets. Lyn worked as a window dresser at Jaeger and after she finished work in Chelsea we would often spend evenings in London. It was an optimistic time when everything seemed possible.

Leo and Anne did a great job. Anne's food was plentiful and delicious. The music was non stop and brought back many happy memories. There was even a 60's music quiz that really made a lot of people think hard.

As club events go a 60's evening is always going to hit the spot and this one certainly did. Thanks go to everybody who put in a lot of hard work before, on and after, to make the evening thoroughly enjoyable and especially to Leo and Anne; Nice one guys!

## How about a Flotilla Sailing Adventure

Shortly after receiving Mike Hendra hilarious account of the G&S concert he sent me the following. Lyn & I have been to the Gocek and Fethiye areas and can confirm that they are great places to visit and the sailing is amazing.

Hello!

With the email from Easyjet advising of the opening of the 2012 summer air fares, my thoughts turned again to Budget Sailing's Turkey Annual Spring Flotilla. The first flotilla of the year has become somewhat of an annual event and now even has some regular attendees.

We have enjoyed the event twice and apart from counting Wilma, Hasan and Aziz, the owners of the company, as friends, we have also shared both trips with two other crews who have also become friends. On both trips we met new crews as well so we have had the benefit of catching up with old friends as well as making new ones.

On our spring adventures we have enjoyed good weather with the days warm and sunny, enough to make a good sunscreen and hat necessary. Evenings have been cooler but comfortable, with a shawl or light jacket needed if out after 9.

However, unlike summer where it can be a bit too warm in bed, sleeping in the cooler nights of spring is very comfortable. Sailing weather has been variable and I am not a purist, so if the wind is light I resort to diesel power, as a result so we do about 50/50 sail motoring but others do better. At the beginning of the season the water is pristine and at about 22° is comfortably swimmable without being like a warm bath.

The Gocek area offers both exciting sailing with lovely bays and good anchorages to relax in. History seeps from the pores of every rock so there is a lot to see and the towns are both historical and touristy in the nicest of ways. We have travelled to the west of Gocek in the Marmaris direction and east towards Kalkan and beyond to Kekova but there is plenty of sailing and sightseeing without leaving the Gulf of Fethiye. Fethiye has a fantastic fish market and an amazing vegetable market on Fridays, neither should be missed. Gocek also has a lovely Sunday morning market that covers a whole range of goods from fresh farm produce to "genuine fake" designer gear so this one should not be missed either.

Flotilla crews usually eat together in the evenings which give the ladies a chance to look just a little more glamorous than when sailing. However, Turkey is more laid back than Greece, where they really can be glamorous, so thus a little more casual. We try to have at least one barbeque during the flotilla and a joint meal on the lead boat with everyone adding something to the feast. This aids socialising and makes things a bit more fun keeping eating costs down a bit as well. We also carry basic food on board so if necessary we can stay aboard and feed ourselves.

My booking in made, so now I am writing this as an invitation to other potential flotilla crews to join us. So start now looking forward to a spring holiday then shake of the winter blues, come to the warmth of Turkey and join is on the 2012 Annual May Spring Flotilla.

**Mike Hendra**

mikehendra@gmail.com

Tel +442083371568

<http://www.budgetsailing.com>

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## Another Sailing Club Robbed

After a recent theft from Aquarius, perpetrated by a male 'prospective member', we advised/warned other local sailing clubs about this 'modus operandi'. We now hear that a few weeks later and despite their members being warned to be on their guard, Hampton SC was robbed in exactly the same way. I cannot stress enough the need for club members to stay vigilant.

Never, ever give the main gate combination lock number to anyone. On site, if you don't recognise someone, don't assume they have a right to be there, check with other members to see if they are known. Always secure your valuables in your locker or in one of the new 'pay as you go' lockers in the foyer. That's what they were put there for. It's your club ... help us to protect it.

A late addition received on 8 October from the Surrey Police:-

We have recently received reports of suspicious activity involving males in canoes on the Thames. The information we have received is a little vague, but we have reason to believe that the males concerned may be acting with ill intent.

Should you witness any suspicious activity of this nature, please report it to Surrey Police at the time on our new non emergency number, 101. If you believe that a crime is taking place, please dial 999.

Kind regards,

Debbie Smith

FIN: 13330

Neighbourhood Team Coordinator

**AQSC Management Committee**

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## The Annual Warning

It's getting toward dinghy laying up time again. You know what I'm going to say ... take some time to properly winterise, store and picket your dinghy if you don't want to come back to problems in the spring.

Remove the sails and all loose equipment. Laser should be rolled over to stop the cockpits and more importantly the mast step apertures filling up with water; and don't forget to remove the drainage bungs. You'd be amazed how many people forget this simplest of winterisation tasks. A decent boat cover is also essential but some along our waterfront are obviously well past their useful lives. So there you are ... take care of your dinghy and it will hopefully take care of you.

**Mike (Two covers over the winter)  
Baker**

## Social Calendar - Dates For Your Diary

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Sat 5 Nov         | Fireworks at Kempton Park then soup & victuals at Club; details below.         |
| Sat 19 Nov        | AQSC Annual Dinner starting at 7:30pm; details below.                          |
| Sun 27 Nov        | Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided |
| <b>Sat 3 Dec</b>  | AGM, Prize Giving and End of Season Party starting at 7:30pm; details below.   |
| Sun 11 Dec        | Cheats Christmas lunch 12:30pm and family games.                               |
| <b>2012</b>       |  |
| Sun 15 Jan        | Pantomime.   |
| Sun 12 Feb        | Ladies Day Lunch.  |
| Sun 26 Feb        | Lunch 12:30 pm and frostbite cruise/scavenger hunt.                            |
| <b>Sat 17 Mar</b> | Start of Season Party 7:30pm   |
| Sun 25 Mar        | Start of sailing   |

## Aquarius Sailing Club Annual Dinner Saturday 19 November 7:30pm for 8:00pm

The annual dinner will be held in the clubhouse:  
 Dress: Smart  
 Discounted price: £24.50 (£25.50 after 12 November)  
 Includes:-  
 Reception drink at 7:30pm.  
 Four course meal by Professional Caterers  
 Table Wine  
 Coffee/Tea and mints  
 Candle light, soft music and good company  
 Limited to 48 members on a first come first served basis. This is a very popular dinner so earliest booking is advised by **12 November** at the latest.

A print of your booking form, together with a cheque for £24.50 (or £25.50) per person and made payable to *Aquarius Sailing Club* should be put in an envelope and posted to Diana Carpenter at:

11, Chestnut Avenue, Ewell, Surrey, KT19 0SY

Tel.No. 020 8393 8029 email dianamcarpenter@tiscali.co.uk

Note: Booking forms are included with, or attached to, this issue of "The Mainsheet"

**Please order by 12 November because** any tickets not sold by this date will be offered to guests of members. Please include (G) against guests, they will be placed on a waiting list until 12 November when any remaining tickets will be allocated.

**If anyone has items they would like to donate to the raffle would they please leave them at the club by 12 November for Leo and Anne to wrap.**

## Annual General Meeting, Prize Giving And End Of Season Party Saturday 3 December At 7:30 pm For 8 pm

Your presence is requested for the Annual General Meeting, the most important meeting of the year where the future administration of the club will be decided for the coming year.

Matters for discussion include elections for Flag Officers and Committee, the club's finances and future plans.

The Annual Prize Giving and End of Season Party will follow including our traditional mulled wine, mince pies and other tasty fare.

*Joan Bray*

### Kempton Park Fireworks Saturday 5 November *Richard Cannon*

It is the largest display in Greater London; afterwards we will return to the clubhouse for soup & victuals.

Richard Cannon can obtain advance tickets for members from a local shop for £6, instead of £8 and queuing on the night; please ring him on 01932 786636 by 2 November if you would like him to buy you tickets.

Members can meet and park at Richard's house, 77 Saxonbury Avenue, Lower Sunbury, by 7:00pm, for a short stroll to Kempton Park avoiding car park jams.

There is information at <http://www.kemptonfireworks.org.uk>.

### Cheats Christmas Lunch – 11 December

I don't know at present who is organising this one but these lunches have proved very popular in the past so again, early booking is advised. Watch out for advertising via flyers, email and our website.

### Store And Changing Rooms

**Once again** there is a large amount of unidentified property in the club, especially clothing. Shortly there will be a clear up and unidentified items may be disposed off. Members are recommended to check and remove any of their property.

### Sailing Beyond The End Of Season

The last scheduled racing for this year is on the 13 November but if the weather and river conditions are suitable for sailing then patrol boat cover will be provided beyond this date. Members will be informed of intentions by e-mail.





## AQUARIUS SAILING CLUB ANNUAL DINNER 19 NOVEMBER 2011



Please provide the selected courses for the following group:-

Group Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the name of each person and if a guest please indicate by (G).

Tickets will only be allocated to guests if they are still available at 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Select** one item from each course for each person by clearly ticking the appropriate boxes.

Booking **MUST** be made on this form and received by 12th November.  
Booking by phone will **not** be accepted.

|                          |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Enter person's names (G) |   |   |   |   |
|                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

### STARTER

- A. Baby breasted camembert with a cranberry relish **OR**  
 B. Cream of winter vegetable soup with parsnip crisps **OR**  
 C. Smoked bacon caesar salad

|                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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### MAIN COURSE

- D. Salmon supreme en croute with a white wine sauce **OR**  
 E. Slow cooked lamb shank with red wine and rosemary **OR**  
 F. Chicken breast stuffed with brie and fig with a cider sauce **OR**  
 G. Butternut squash and mushroom tart (V)

|                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

All served with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

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### DESSERT

- H. Chocolate caramel salted tarte **OR**  
 I. Mulled wine fruits creme brulee' **OR**  
 J. Individual eton mess

|                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Followed by Cheese and Biscuits  
 Coffee and Mints

There will be a reception drink at 7:30, and Table Wine or soft drink during the meal.

Guests will be placed on a waiting list until 12 November when any remaining tickets will be allocated.

Please send to Diana Carpenter by the **12 November**, enclosing a cheque for £24.50 per person (£25.50 after 12 November) payable to 'Aquarius S.C.' and a **stamped self addressed envelope for returning your ticket**. We will make a record of your menu and return it with your ticket.

Diana Carpenter, 11 Chestnut Avenue, EWELL, Surrey, KT19 0SY