



AQUARIUS S.C.

THE MAIN SHEET

Spring 2012 Edition

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

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

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

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Commodore's Bit

Welcome to another season at Aquarius.

I would like to thank our retiring commodore, Tony Hopkins, for his hard work on behalf of the club over the last three years and also all the others who helped.

The weather and current have been kind to us and we have been able to sail nearly every Sunday since November. Sailing has been punctuated by a number of social events including Lunch with Cole Porter, Burns Night, Ash Wednesday Pancakes in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and a Frostbite Cruise, Lunch and Scavenger Hunt.

This year we need a lots of new volunteers to help with the running of the club. Any help, however small, will reduce the load on those stalwarts who devote endless hours to Aquarius.

We also need to know what you would like from the club and we need your suggestions.

To kick off the new season we have the Start of Season Party on St Patrick's Day - Saturday 17th March. So come along at 7.30p.m. for 8p.m. perhaps wearing something green and we will celebrate with food and music in Irish fashion.

Don't forget to note the forthcoming events on the back page of this newsletter. We will be expanding the sailing programme with more time for cruising on Sundays and dedicated duty officers on Wednesday afternoons.

We need **AS MANY** boats on the water and members in the clubhouse for our open days on 19th and 20th May so please put these dates in your diary.

Wishing you all a successful sailing season.

Rodger Wheeler
Commodore

Introduction

I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Firstly, my thanks to Mike Hendra for his contributions to the last newsletter. His articles on the G&S night and the 60's evening were both incisive and humorous. If I ever get out of writing stuff for 'The Mainsheet' I think Mike would make an excellent replacement. His idea for a club flotilla sailing holiday in Turkey would certainly make a change from the river & Bewl (and a lot warmer) AND make a terrific story for 'The Mainsheet'; anybody thinking of booking up please note.

Secondly my personal thanks also go to those of you who completed and returned the club questionnaire. I should add that your returns represented 43% of the 77 questionnaires sent out. I think it also says something about members and their participation..

Thirdly my thanks go to Richard Cannon who somehow, several times a year, manages to pack my ramblings into 'The Mainsheet' and get it distributed.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker



Frank Goodall
Sailing on 15 January

Newsletter Printing

The costs of this Newsletter were met in full by JDC Independent Financial Advisers. We thank Frank Rainsborough for setting this up.

Here are some more of the Navy's slang terms for food. The first item is topical. This is the Spring issue of Mainsheet, so when a seaman chooses 'Spring-loaded chicken' from the menu, what is it that they're expecting to be served with? It's vaguely the same size, and can be farm bred, it also doesn't fly, but it jumps, hence 'Spring-loaded' it's Rabbit!

We know that sailors have an salty sense of humour, Fartleberries are baked beans, and finally, for this issue, Snake and Pygmy is rhyming slang for _ _ _ and _ _ _ pie. A correct answer emailed to editor@sailaquarius.org.uk will get mention in the next issue, and we're sure to get multiple correct answers, so five names at random will be announced, and that's it, a mention, nothing else!

The Bodgit Diaries

Having partially 'dismantled' the 60's night Cavern Club, work recommenced on the ramp on Wednesday 19 October. The warm weather had gone and it was now a race to get the work finished before it got really cold and wet.

Bodgit Senior made some pithy comments about his picture that appeared on the website. This showed him standing on the ramp in his new shorty wetsuit. A fine strapping figure of a man. That observation will probably get me fired from Bodgit!

Anyway the job got finished and it was back to the clubhouse to run some new wiring which turned into extending the ring main. That involved taking down a number of ceiling tiles. Not difficult I hear you say but you should see the mess it makes!

Wednesday 23 November was a typical cold and overcast day. Gordon Courtney made a start on strimming the trailer park while Bodgit & Co. cranked up the cement mixer and repaired the steps up to the quarter deck. When the steps were finished work moved down to the main gate to start installing the new spot lights that hopefully will illuminate the area when approached from either the road or the drive.

Unfortunately this has to be connected by Thames Water so goodness knows how long that will take. After dark, work moved inside the clubhouse and the wiring to the new frost heaters in the male/female toilets was competed and tested. Wiring to some of the new speaker sockets was also completed. Things may quieten down a bit as we approach Christmas.

p.s. The main gate lights did get connected back in early December, Thanks TW.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Club Questionnaire

I was asked to present some facts and figures about the questionnaire at the AGM. Sorry if you missed that but I'm not intending to go over all that again. Needless to say that data will be useful as we begin to write the actual development plan. Thanks to everyone who made a return and congratulations to Dave Jennings who was the winner of the case of wine. Dave was in hospital for a while before Christmas and we all hope you are feeling a bit better now mate!

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

AGM, Prizegiving And End of Season Party

This AGM was always going to be eventful. Both the Commodore and Secretarial positions needed to be filled and an injection of new blood to the Management Committee was also considered long overdue. The new team would also be tasked with the preparation and implementation of the clubs Development Plan which included some of the recommendations from last years questionnaire.

Graham Thompson gave the Commodores report, outlining what had been achieved during the year. Yours truly then followed Graham with an overview of the questionnaire findings. That led to some pretty lively debate. George finally got things to quieten down and Rodger Wheeler was elected Commodore and Joan Bray has agreed to do one more year with some help.

The rest of the Management Committee remains very much unchanged. Frank Goodall and Trudi Hilton have been persuaded to serve on the General Management Committee which is great and will hopefully bring some fresh ideas to the table during 2012.

Following the elections Richard Cannon announced the prize winners for 2011. You can find all the details on the website.

The evening ended with mulled wine and a splendid buffet provided by Joan Walkden, Diana Carpenter, Linda Rowley, Linda Wheeler and Pat Irving. My apologies if I missed anyone. It was a good evening and a fitting end to the 2011 season.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

AGM - 3 December

This again was a very successful and enjoyable evening with over 40 in the clubhouse.

The same Officers who served last year were re-elected apart from Rodger Wheeler who kindly agreed to stand as Commodore once again.

George and I send our thanks and wish him every success.

We also welcome Trudi Hilton, Frank Goodall and John and Brenda Panting who join Ken Ayres and Michael Chipps on the Management Committee and special thanks and appreciation for their hard work go to Tony Hopkins, Simon Lunniss and John Neale who stood down.

More good news is that the subscription and berth fees are to remain the same for the current year.

After the formalities of elections and reports were over, Mike Baker gave an informative and interesting presentation on the future aims of the club to bring it into the 21st century and promote membership. There followed an extensive discussion on the interim results of the questionnaire circulated in the Autumn - these will be analysed later and action taken on practical suggestions. We thank Mike and his committee for the time and effort they have put into this.

Following the meeting, we had the annual prize-giving presided over by Richard Cannon, where Frank Goodall almost swept the board, and the End of Season Party with our usual tasty snacks, mulled wine and mince pies.

Finally I wish to thank Michael Chipps for taking on the role of minutes secretary at committee which is a very great help to me.

Wishing everyone a great sailing season

Joan Bray.



Frank Goodall's haul of trophies, excluding the Water Rat

Annual Club Dinner

This event is probably the social highpoint of the club's year. A not to be missed evening which just seems to get better and better. Our Social Secretary Diana Carpenter masterminded the whole event. The lay-up and decorations were done on the prior Wednesday. Thanks to everybody who pitched in that night and got the job done.

One of Diana's first priorities was to contact 'Food for Thought' about the menu. After some discussion the following was settled on:-

The starters were Baby breaded camembert with cranberry relish, Cream of winter vegetable soup with parsnip crisps or Smoked Bacon Caesar salad. The main course choices were Salmon supreme en croute with white wine sauce, Slow cooked lamb with red wine and rosemary, Chicken breast stuffed with brie and fig with a cider sauce or Butternut squash and mushroom tart. All served with potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

The dessert choices were Chocolate caramel salted tarte, Mulled wine fruits crème brûlée or individual Eton mess. This was followed by Cheese and biscuits and coffee.

Next the colour scheme for the table settings was decided (these things don't just happen you know). Leo & Anne Bond kindly offered to take care of the raffle again; another box ticked.

On the night only 35 tickets had been sold, our lowest number ever. Undeterred, members were met by Rodger who was dispensing pre dinner cocktails. The bar also seemed to be doing well and everybody was chatting away when Diana announced that dinner was served.

The service was slick and efficient and the food very good. During the first course our Treasurer, Joan Walkden, stood up and explained that, while on holiday, she had walked into The Hobart YC (otherwise known as The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania) and presented their Commodore with an AQSC pennant. He immediately enquired where AQSC was.

Joan explained it was on the River Thames in England quite near Hampton Court Palace. The Commodore had heard of Hampton Court Palace and presented a Hobart YC pennant to Joan to be hung over the bar in the clubhouse.

Nigel was able to project some pictures of this event and before Joan sat down some reciprocal shots were taken to email back to the Hobart YC Commodore.

The second course got underway, the wine flowed and time passed surprisingly quickly and before we knew it cheese and coffee was being served. Before Leo & Anne's raffle got underway Nigel made two presentations, the first to Joan Bray, an engraved vase recognising her 23 years as club Secretary. The second, a bouquet of flowers to Diana for organising the annual dinner. He also thanked "Food for Thought" for all their work. Nobody seemed in a rush to leave and it was going on 1:00am before people started drifting. It was a great evening.

Mike (DJ Still Fits Okay) Baker

Ash Wednesday Pancakes

Shrove Tuesday !! so we were a day late, but we are trying to spice up Wednesday evenings. Some 30 pancakes were cooked and tossed - OK two folded a bit as they dropped back in the pan - but all in a good cause. The pancakes were free but donations were requested and a cheque will be winging it's way to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

We intend to have a "special" Wednesday evening each month so watch out for details.

Rodger (the pancake tosser) Wheeler

Fireworks Night

What can I say. Perhaps Oh! Ah! sums it up. As always a great show and an excellent supper back at the club. Thanks to Diana and her helpers and to Richard for getting the tickets and providing some competition to NCP on the night.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Thanks

Lyn and I would like to thank everybody for their best wishes and cards over the last few weeks. Lyn is still in The Royal Marsden but has just been moved into a newly refurbished ward which is pretty swish.

Her treatment continues and she's still attached to a variety of gizmos but in the last few days she has been able to eat some solid food, her first since new year. She can't wait to come home but until they can remove all the IV lines and be sure that she can eat and drink normally, I'm afraid she will have to stay put. Thanks again, hope to see you all soon.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Your Club Needs You!

You may have noticed that it's usually the same old faces that organise club events, prepare the club, make the food, clear up afterwards, etc. etc.

Now it's your turn. If you enjoy events at the club perhaps you could help and spread the load..

Would you be prepared to organise an event or prepare the food?

Alternatively you could help as part of a team.

It does not have to be a large task.

Any help would really be greatly appreciated.

Offers please to

Rodger Wheeler

Any Suggestions?

Look out for a new suggestion scheme coming later in the year. In the interim we are always looking for new ideas and ways of improving the club. So don't hesitate. If you have any suggestions please let me know.

Rodger Wheeler

Work Party

27 November was thought a little late in the year for a work party but the usual staunch crew turned up to trim, cut and clear their way along the riverbank and down (or up) the drive between the main gate and the car park. The weather was exceptionally good. Cold but with bright sunshine.

Things got underway at 10:30am with two teams working the above tasks. The bank team were also tasked with turning the Lasers and Pico's over in preparation for the winter. A third team worked on the bund between the clubhouse and the ramp, clearing the concrete gutter at the back of the club and clearing the starter hut. A fourth team kept the tea and coffee coming and prepared lunch which was scheduled for 3:00pm so as to not interfere with the work before it got dark.

Many thanks to all the following for their sterling work. Nice one guys (and gals):-

Liz Archer, Ken Ayres, Mike Baker, George & Joan Bray, Laurie Bridges, Eric Bridgewater, Richard Cannon, Diana & Peter Carpenter, Bryan Clements, Gordon & Joan Courtney, David Grigg, Trudy Hilton T, Mike & Jean Hendra, Nigel Knowles, John Neale, Keith & Gail Poncia, Arthur Sykes, Graham Thompson, John Tomkins, Joan Walkden and Rodger Wheeler.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Last Wednesday Evening Before Christmas 21 December 2011

A few of us usually gather at the club every Wednesday evening to put the world right over a couple of pints and Pete's excellent coffee. Before this last evening of the year Nigel, who was on bar duty, put out a notice inviting everybody for mulled wine and nibbles. By the end of the evening fifteen people had turned up. The wine flowed and the savouries and mince pies went down a treat. A great start to the festive season and many thanks to Nigel for organising it.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Cheats Christmas Lunch

This years CCL was organised by Rodger & Linda Wheeler and was held on Sunday 11 December in the club house. Many thanks to John Panting for the following account of the event

It's not often that you arrive for a Christmas meal before Christmas arrives; but at Aquarius anything can happen.

As Brenda and I negotiated the downhill ramp from the car park the safety boat was speeding towards the clubhouse. On closer inspection it was being helmed by our Commodore Roger, with Competent Crew Linda at the ready. The cargo was the piping hot seasonal fayre. Its local journey had started the previous Wednesday at Tesco. This shopping spree, I understand, being supported by much calculation regarding portion size multiplied by anticipated attendance and factoring wastage etc.

It is understood that there is no obligation upon the Commodore to prepare this meal and I am unsure as to how Roger and Linda were selected for the task. However, I assume it follows the basic rule, "If you want something done, then give it to a busy person". Busy people had already been at their tasks preparing tables and chairs and would no doubt later be clearing things away.

So coats off, wine on order, quick chit chat, bottoms on seats and already the soup is on the table. Now on such occasions the meal is the star of the show; and so it was in quality and quantity, including crackers enough and sauces in abundance. Later there was ample for the doves that could muster strength and space for seconds.

Time sped by, punctuated by attempts to serve an offering of a completed quiz paper. In the event someone has to win the quiz, but I can't remember what table achieved and received this honour. (Possibly I had too much to drink or one of the other influences on my grey matter played its part). I could blame the plethora of well deserved toasts but that seems inappropriate and unkind. So instead it would be more accurate and correct to reflect how satisfied and grateful the diners were for this magnificent effort and result.

So please be upstanding,
"THE CHEATS CHRISTMAS LUNCH".

I have no fear that we will be back next year.

John Panting

Surprise Event Sunday 15 January 2012

This was originally to have been a pantomime but youth support was thin on the ground this year so it was decided to hold a late lunch followed by an entertainment. Subsequently the surprise event became Sailing and Lunch, with Cole Porter.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Sailing And Lunch With Cole Porter

Sun 15th January was as good as any summer day for sailing, with a clear blue sky, steady easterly wind and slight chill in the air. When I arrived at 11 Frank G was already rigging his beautiful new Laser so I headed down the bank for my Comet, which I must confess to having cleaned in order to compete with the Laser on looks!

And there we were spinning up and down our stretch of water with Josh, Frank's grandson riding on the front of the Laser. The patrol boat didn't join in the fun after Richard realised, when collecting Roger and Linda, that reversing was not an option! fortunately Brian was able to put it right when he arrived at about 12.

Everyone started to arrive for lunch and warmth and good smells emanated from the club house. We were served warming soup followed by quiche and chips before the Cole Porter entertainment started. Brian and I managed another hour on the water before coming ashore as the sunset, just in time for dessert.

There are few summer days offer the good wind conditions, made even more pleasurable by the relative emptiness of the river with only scullers for competition. If it carries on like this, some of us will be way ahead of the field by the time the racing season starts. Not that 'we' need the practice having won all the trophies last season!

Trudi Hilton



Cheats Christmas lunch prepare and clear up team (Frank's picture)

The Boat, And Personal Handicap System

Since the 1950s the RYA have managed a Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme (PYS) so that faster and slower boats can race together and their race times are adjusted; a boat's time is adjusted by dividing its elapsed race time by its PYS number. Faster boats have a lower PYS so their adjusted time is greater. More details at <http://www.rya.org.uk>.

At AQSC each class is allocated a Club Number (CN), typically PYS/10, and if a two handed boat is sailed without a crew the CN is reduced by 2.

To encourage novice helms AQSC operate a Personal Handicap System (PHS). Each helm is allocated a PHS number, typically 30 if a novice; the PHS number is added to the CN. Two

sets of results are calculated; with and without the PHS. Most Trophies are awarded according to the PHS results.

An adjustment is made to a helm's PHS according to their results in races that count towards a trophy; -2 for a win, -1 for 2nd, +1 for next to last, +2 for last place. The PHS is adjusted after a day's racing. More complex adjustments using race times were tried, these adjustments were too inconsistent.

On the website and in the clubhouse there is a table showing the PHS used on every day a member has helmed in a race.

If anyone has questions, or requires further explanation please ask Richard.

Richard Cannon

Race Series - *Richard Cannon*

All individual sailing races or events have a number allocated within a series, so that reference details can be recorded against it. Usually, a Trophy is allocated to a series.

The current Series at AQSC are generally:-

Spring Series; the 11:30 race up to August

Autumn Series; the 11:30 race from August

Summer Series; the 3:30 race from June to September

SPA Series (SPring Autumn) the 3:30 race up to May and from October.

Sprint Series ; a pair of short races at 3:30 scattered throughout the year

Fun Series; generally races at 2:00, no trophy

TFC Series; (Training, Fun, Cruising) generally non racing or novelty events at 2:00, no trophy.

Regatta Series; all regatta events, 3 races count towards a trophy

A member could choose to concentrate on series that suit the time that the member can allocate.

Members are encouraged to experience different boats, and different helm and crew at the 2:00 event (winning trophies is not jeopardised).

Burns Night Celebration Wednesday 25 January

This one was for lovers of Haggis, Tatties and Neeps and if you don't know what they are then you probably shouldn't have been there. Thanks to John Panting who sent in the following observations on AQSC's Burns Night supper.

Rabbie Burns

You must wonder why English Folk would go to a Rabbie Burns Night!

Despite the plentiful and personal heritage this great man left behind, the only association I have is Auld Lang Syne (which I still don't know the words to) and haggis which get consumed on the celebration of his birthday 25th Jan 1803.

Despite its physical origins, haggis isn't at all bad to the taste. Single malt Scottish whiskey is equally as well known and I for one will confess it passes the lips more often during the year.

So why would us non Scot bother? Well, it may have been true, that it could be something to do on a cold dark night when there is not much else to compete with it. However, these days we have the TV, cinema, theatre, bridge, dancing and fixing the dinghy. Perhaps it's for the social health of us Aquarius members or it could be a cheap meal at £4 given that 'seconds' lurk. No, surely it's for the recital, in an imitated Scottish brogue, of a sacred poem penned by the master himself.

Of course beer and maybe cider help to flush down all the above into one palatable memory. So, this is the reason I will be back next year.

Some interesting entertainment was provided by Richard's endeavours, who in his unique style had filmed, Directed, Produced and edited various clips and videos of the facets and spirit which continue to make us Aquarius. We owe our thanks to Rodger for this memorable event. Well done everybody else who mucked in plus Nigel who showed great fortitude behind the bar. Oh yes some credit to Rabbie for without him I may have been watching 'soap'.

John Panting

Steven's Ongoing Story

For those of you that read 'Steven's Story' on the website I thought you might like to know how he's getting on.

In November 2011 and while Lyn & I had a short break with friends in Cornwall we went to 42 Commando Royal Marines medal parade. On the news you may have seen the men marching through Plymouth. In the afternoon, and in pouring rain they returned to their base at Bickleigh Barracks.

Each company had set up a bar in the in the gymnasium for friends and families. There we met Steven who had been released from Headley Court for the medals parade and the subsequent Remembrance Day parade. He looked remarkably well considering the injuries he had sustained. He told me that was the third time he'd been blown up, but the first he'd been hit. The scarring down his right arm, which was all we could see, was horrendous and will probably stay with him for the rest of his life.

We also met his wife who was lovely. She was excited at the prospect of staying with him, in the barracks over the weekend. I think she said it was the first time that they had some time together since he'd been flown home.

Later that afternoon the medals ceremony was held on the astro turf, their name for their parade ground area. The Elizabeth Cross was awarded to the next of kin of seven soldiers killed in action. The Brigade Commander's Coin was awarded to 10 soldiers who had gone above and beyond the standard expected of them during the units deployment to Afghanistan. The Operational Service Medal was then awarded to those soldiers who had served in Afghanistan.

Throughout all of this the rain lashed down covering many people's feet but hardly anyone left for the shelter of the gymnasium. Finally the parade marched off, dispersed and rejoined families back in the Gym.

We had a last chat with Steven and his wife, wished them all the best and headed back to our cottage outside Helstone. Steven will return to Headley Court after the weekend to continue his treatment. I understand the main concern now is that shrapnel still lodged in his body might move around causing further damage. Steven's future as a Royal Marine Commando is uncertain at this time.

Mike (Over Easy) Baker

Sailing Secretary Report

The season started very well with good sailing and support for the first four Sundays. Then Easter Sunday was glorious but the sailing was terrible with very little fluky wind. Generally there was good sailing in May. Throughout the year there were generally more good and fewer poor sailing days than usual.

The weather was ideal for the Saturday Open Day and we had 20 visitors. The Sunday Open Day was extremely windy, SW force 4 to 5 gusting 6 to 7. The only member to sail was Robert Britton who was very entertaining in a Laser.

Both the late Spring and August bank holiday visits to Bewl were excellent; warm with SW force 3 to 4 wind that gave super sailing. Over the years we have generally been very lucky with the conditions at Bewl and they make us so welcome.

The Regatta on 9 and 10 July was a couple of weeks later than usual and the Saturday was combined with a SigneT Open Meeting; fortunately there was great sailing on Saturday with a West force 2-3 gust 4 wind for the Signet visitors. Sunday was poor with very little wind.

The last scheduled sailing, 13th November, was amazingly warm and fine with a steady force 2-3 East wind that gave a very good sail. The main problem was that the low sun dazzled and made it difficult to see when some boats crossed the finish line.

There wasn't any sailing in the extended season in November. The 20th was very foggy with no wind. It looked

excellent on the 27th but members were fully occupied with a working party. But there was sailing on 4 December when Bryan Clements and Frank Goodall had a good sail in a West force 1-2 wind; a bit patchy but not shifty and fluky. There was also good sailing on 11 December. The first time we have sailed in December for at least 10 and possibly 20 years.

Super sailing conditions continued with four boats having a good sail on New Years Day; since then there have only been two Sundays without good sailing.

There has generally been good support, although rather inconsistent. Often there were multiple short races at 2pm which was popular and helped us to achieve the highest total number of boats starting that we have ever had; 690 compared to 203 in 1993.

I thank all our duty officers for their reliable support; without them we couldn't race. In particular I would like to thank Pat Irving for preparing a super BBQ lunch every Sunday; a vast improvement on the pies we used to cook in the microwave.

A printed report of each race entry, series results, summaries and other items are in the Race Result folder that is normally kept in the book case and they are on the website <http://www.sailaquarius.org.uk/>. The race entry reports are very compact and give virtually all the information, except intermediate lap times; therefore the original race entry sheets will not be retained.

Richard Cannon



The scavenger hunt winning team team
Picture by Frank Rainsborough

Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You.

"Ask what you can do for your country." The last few lines of the inaugural address of U.S. President John F. Kennedy delivered at 12:51 on Friday, January 20, 1961, my 20th birthday. Although the lines will be fifty one years old on the 20th January 2012 they are as relevant today as they were then and as relevant to our sailing club as they were to America.

Unlike the USA or many other clubs, we are a cooperative, a club owned by the members for the members. We have no paid president or committee of officials, we have a few who give generously, some who give happily, some who give little beyond their membership fee and some who complain. Perhaps we all fit into the slot of our personality and without each group of individuals the club would not exist. I have long held the opinion that we do nothing more in life than invest for a return so whatever we give, the giving is its own reward. However, no one's time is purchased and no one's time is owned by any other. It is my experience that those who complain

loudest are often those who contribute least whilst expecting the greatest return, unfortunately they often get it.

The last AGM dragged on for a long time with complaints, mostly via the questionnaire but also from the floor. Mine concerned the state of the boats and the image that it creates to other river users. It seems that those who use them should be responsible for their upkeep, particularly as they are lent without charge. The state of the club house, particularly on a Sunday morning, perturbed me when I was the deputy duty officer. At the meeting I was surprised to hear that some members seemed to think that it was the responsibility of the club to keep their valuables safe.

It is no one's job to clean the boats so by default the responsibility for their care should fall upon the users and likewise it is incumbent upon us all to keep the club tidy. No one is paid as a security guard and no one carries the responsibility for loss other than the loser, so image, cleanliness and security are the responsibility of us all. If you

use club boats please clean them, if your gear doesn't fit in a locker, keep it in your car or don't bring it at all. If your wallet and keys can't be secured elsewhere, bring a sealable plastic bag, put them inside and keep them in your pocket or a pouch round your neck.

The club needs people to develop towards filling committee positions, to assist servicing boats, to help in the kitchen, to canvass for new members, write for the newsletter, to sub-contract for Bodgit PLC and many other tasks. Like many organisations we need volunteers, not for a good cause but for our cause so your work here benefits yourself first. So ask not what your club can do for you but please ask what you can do for your club.

In writing this article I have expressed my own views and opinions, they are mine and although they may be shared by others I am equally aware of the line that: "No one in the world is with you constantly, no one is completely on your side."

Cheers!

Mike Hendra

Frostbite / Scavenger Hunt Cruise – Sunday 27 February 2012

Sunday the 26 February dawned bright and sunny but with very little of that stuff that we need to push our boats along. But despite that, after lunch Frank G. and Bryan C. found enough of it to overcome the slight current and tack their way upstream, to then turn round and run back down to the Clubhouse in those fickle wind streaks.

At the earlier lunch, 21 adults and 2 younger club members had enjoyed the excellent lunch prepared and served by Galley Girls Joan Bray, Linda Wheeler and Diana Carpenter, and an extra 'thank-you' is due to Joan and George who procured and pre-cooked the meal - a big job. Linda baked all the cakes, Peter repaired the dishwasher in the nick of time, and Diana helped on the day, with several others (notably Gordon C)) mucking in.

Once the lunch, dessert and drinks were safely put where they belonged, as were the used dishes in the now repaired dishwasher, Rodger invited members to form their teams to conduct

the hunt for answers to the clues that he'd set. He said the answers were all between the downstream end of Sunbury Court Island, and the upstream end of Platts Eyot. He claimed that the answers to the clues were visible from the water, but that claim did not accord with the puzzled looks on the 14 people that were embarked in three boats, the Club Dory, the diesel Patrol Boat, and Laurie Bridges Leisure 17 cruiser.

All three boats were seen meandering up and down the river, and some, no names, but they seemed to have 'leisure' time to use up, were aground! Rodger had set some relatively easy clues such as Q8. 'Nearly a perfume' A. CHANnEL and we got that one, but we didn't get Q4. 'Antipodean cloth' A. Tasmanian flag on Pat Halling's flagpole. So we were unlikely to get some of the more cryptic ones such as Q7. 'It floats like the constellation Aquarius'. A. De Waterman, – the Dutch translation of the word 'Aquarius'. 'De Waterman'

being the name of Bob's old boat moored on the Middlesex bank, upstream of Platts Eyot. In fairness, Rodger did admit that that one was probably the most difficult!

The scavenging hunt was great fun, conducted in bright sunshine and the combatants all thoroughly enjoyed it. There was Team Richard, Dennis & Mary, and Diana & Peter, Team Anna, Julia, Lydia and Rebecca, and Team Laurie, Liz, Dave, and Frank & Ann. Once ashore the answers were checked, it was very close, scores being (out of 24) 15, 12 and 11 but I have to confess that I wasn't paying attention when the prize-giving ceremony was being held, so I'm unable to link those scores with the relevant Team. But you know who you are, and where you came! On all levels, a great day, we thank you all for the hard work that was put in to make it so!

Frank Rainsborough.

Sailing And Social Programme March - May 2012

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
March				
11	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided			
Sat 17	Start of Season Party 7:30pm			
25	Spring Race 1	TFC	Spa Race 1	Richard Cannon, L Archer, Mike Hendra. <i>BST begins</i>
April				
1	Spring Race 2	TFC	Spa Race 2	G Bray, J Bray, R Britton
8	Easter Egg Trophy, 4 races, best 3 count			J Panting, B Panting, D Barnett
15	Spring Race 3	TFC	Sprint Race 1 & 2	T Hilton, N Knowles, K Poncia
22	Spring Race 4	TFC	Spa Race 3	B Clements, T Golding, G Thompson
Sat 28	Mid-Thames Trophy at Desborough SC first start 11:00			
29	Spring Race 5	TFC	Spa Race 4	R Cannon, F Goodall, Family Wild
May				
6	Spring Race 6	TFC	Spa Race 5	N Knowles, E McElroy, D Barnett
12	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided			
13	Spring Race 7	TFC	Sprint Race 3 & 4	L Bond, A Bond, J Botterill
Sat 19	AQSC Club Open Weekend			P Carpenter, B Panting, R Clough
20	Open day, introduce new members to all club boats			F Rainsborough, Family Gatehouse, J Neale
Sat 26	Boat Jumble Food at 5:30 to 6:00			
27	Spring Race 8	TFC	Spa Race 6	C Bridger, P Godden, B Clements

SigneT Open Meeting Saturday 30 June

Aquarius is hosting a SigneT Open Meeting on the 30 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

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.

Club Open Weekend 19th/20th 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, Commodore

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.