



AQUARIUS S.C.

THE MAIN SHEET

Summer 2013 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: Mike Hendra 020 8337 1568 E-mail: publicity@sailaquarius.org.uk

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President's Bit

Nigel concluded his "jottings" in the Spring Newsletter by bemoaning the miserable winter, with the current precluding nearly all winter sailing. How things have changed - no current, reasonable winds, and sun. So we've had some members taking full advantage with Bryan Clements sailing several days a week.

Summer Social events have benefitted from the "clement" (no pun intended) weather with 74 members and guests partaking of the Hog Roast last Saturday and drinking many litres of Joan's Pimms.

That well oiled machine "the organising team" were really stretched so any additional help with future events would be really appreciated. I think I can speak for everyone in proposing a big vote of thanks to everyone involved including the unseen group that cleared up afterwards.

Coming up, we are having a barbecue and cruise to see the illuminated boats and fireworks at Sunbury in August, plus a 3 day visit to Bewl, and a Russian evening in September. See the back page for a full list.

On another tack, just a reminder to safeguard your property. Unfortunately there have been several "incidents" in the area recently.

Do you really know how to use the patrol boat, rescue a sailor in distress, or capsize and recover ? In any case why not get a few tips at one of our demonstrations after lunch on selected Sundays.

Wishing you all Good Sailing
Rodger Wheeler

Newsletter Printing and Content

The printing and paper costs for the Newsletter are normally met by JDC Independent Financial Advisers; for technical reasons it isn't possible for this issue.

There is also a problem with the time needed to, print, address, fold, put in envelopes, stamp, and post, so it is being distributed by email. Those without email will receive a paper copy.

For much of the content we need to thank Mike Hendra.

Secretary's Welcome

A warm welcome to all new and returning members, and I hope that you all enjoy being a part of Aquarius Sailing Club.

As ever this year we have a full and varied programme with something for everyone, whatever their age and capability. The racing calendar is in full swing and there have been some exciting, though at times very damp, moments. The peanut gallery on the veranda is in full voice, and always ready to give helpful advice to our gallant sailors from the safety of the quarter deck (otherwise known as the veranda).

Various round robin emails advising impromptu events not included in the Sailing Programme have been circulated by Richard, and I would like to encourage all of you to take full advantage of your membership and join us at the club.

If you have any comments or suggestions you would like presented to the Management Committee, please email me at jeanmaracchi@gmail.com and I will pass them on to the relevant committee member.

Jean Maracchi
Hon Secretary

Quiz Night

Frank Rainsborough

The 20th April dawned, and continued to be the most beautiful day that we had seen for a very long time. The sky was a brilliant blue, clear of all cloud and the sun shone joyously all day ending in a spectacular sunset across the river from our clubhouse. By 7:15 the club was aglow with the light, the view across the river was beautiful and 31 people were gathered for Frank's quiz night.

The evening held a promise that it delivered extremely generously. Frank had done a great job of preparation with an army of Rainsboroughs beavering behind, and Di and Pete Carpenter giving bar and sustenance support to the usual high Aquarius standard.

The quiz organisation and management were perfect and four teams assembled for the battle of the brains. It did not take long to get underway and soon we were all in full flight. Team members answered questions individually, assembled the result and delivered a team answer.

The evening passed quickly and we raced through half the program before the fish super arrived. Refreshed and revitalised we battled on but despite the best efforts A-Team just pipped Georgian at the post.

In the end we all won the same prize and we were all winners. However, in compensation Di Carpenter produced a very nice sweet and Pete espressoed some fine coffee to round off the evening. Finally a small army of nameless volunteers cleared up and we all went home to bed.

Thanks Frank for a great evening, the attendees for their presence and the volunteers that helped it all happen.

Team Scores

	Geogian	A-Team	Incredulous	Scroungers
Pictures	29½	31	27	26
	J-History	J-Film	J-S+N	J-History
Round 1	20	24	19	19
Round 2	23	28	23	22
Round 3	30	22	25	24
Round 4	22	22	25	21
Total	124	127	120	112
Place	2	1	3	4

'J' indicates the Jokers that Teams played for extra points. Subjects are self-explanatory, except for S+N which is Science + Nature.

Working Party

17th March

In keeping with the weather curse of 2013, the lead up to the March working party was not promising and a number of members phoned Richard expecting the function to be cancelled. Ever hopeful Richard took no such action so those who did not come made the decision themselves. Notwithstanding a cold wet morning, 23 of the faithful pitched up for the chilling experience. Adverse weather seems to have no impact on the turnout.

As usual there was a list of jobs prepared by our dedicated Vice Commodore Premises. In his manly pursuit of things practical the list included everything from window cleaning to a full make-over of the entire site. What he forgot was that those brave enough to challenge the elements would need warming and sustaining.

Fortunately the club matrixes, the women who bind the place together, did not need a jobs list, they just got on with preparing bacon rolls for morning tea and spag-bol for lunch. Every now and again a cold nose would enter the clubhouse followed by cold hands and feet and a damp chilled body. The chilled would be welcomed with laughter from the galley and with any luck a hot cup of tea or coffee. Eventually and surprisingly, a number of important jobs were completed although unfortunately the list was not exhausted.

Due to Rodger being away there was no formal entertainment planned for the day so Peter Carpenter decided that he would provide some aquatic cavortation. Unfortunately, having braved the river to waist depth, he found the lack of sponsorship made further submersion uneconomical so he abandoned the venture and much to the disappointment of the assembled company, he went home.

By late afternoon more cold noses had gathered in the clubhouse so dishing out the spag-bol became a priority and we all sat down to lunch. Slowly the conversation grew louder as bodies warmed. Lunch ended and again the list of jobs was found wanting as the tables need clearing, dishes needed washing and things needed stowing. Even without a jobs list the assembled company helped with the clear up and the clubhouse was restored to normality.

Committee Business

Like most clubs, Aquarius has difficulty finding enough willing and effective bodies to fill the various Committee positions and this year was no exception.

The club's President George Bray, and it's Secretary Joan Bray retired after many years of unstinting service. Rodger Wheeler stood down from Commodoreship but we still have a key, long serving person in place with Rodger now occupying the President's seat.

The vacant Secretarial seat had been filled by Jean Maracchi and Mike Baker's publicity officer's role has been to some degree filled by myself, Mike Hendra.

A Commodore's functions have been undertaken by the three Vice Commodores, Richard Cannon, Nigel Knowles and Graham Thompson.

All these Officers put in dedicated service and to a large degree the club exists because of their efforts so we all owe them a huge vote of thanks.

Sailing and Motor Cruisers.

With the increase in ownership by members of vessels other than sailing dinghies, the club's policy on visiting "cruisers" was discussed in Committee. As the club facilities are available to all members all and every day, it was considered reasonable for owners of cruisers to enjoy having their boats at the club during the days when racing or sailing was not taking place. In general there is no objection to occasional overnight stay and it was thought that more use of the club by members during the week was advantageous from a security standpoint. There is no provision for charging members for the occasional overnight stay but members with berthing facilities do pay for them and the club may charge fees for any vessel left at the club for a week. Notwithstanding, non race vessels should be kept clear of the docking area during race days, i.e. the bank between the up and down river slipways.

All in all the day was a success with a relatively good turn out despite the lousy weather and the uncompleted listed jobs. Thank you to those who braved the elements and those who bound the whole lot together from the galley.

Start of Season Party

The Start of Season Party was organised for the 23rd March, the Saturday following the March Working Party. This way it was thought that the club would be presentable for the occasion.

The chilly night was not an inviting one but nevertheless a good number of brave souls made the journey to a warm and welcoming event.

As is usual, it was good to see the many faces of those who sail less often than once might have been the case. It was also good to see Mike Baker return to the club and it is hoped he will soon swell the numbers on Sunday and give Charles Dennis a run for his money.

For interest Nigel had gathered a selection of photographs which were displayed as a continuous slide show as background to the lively conversations that were taking place.

For sustenance the Galley Crew mostly, but not exclusively in the form of the two Diana's, managed to present an interesting array of finger foods and as usual had no trouble finding willing consumers. As the evening was without charge it was hoped that Pete would manage to keep the financial wolf from the door by quietly manning the bar and coffee machine and I am pleased to report that the club finances remain in good order.

As is usual, those principally responsible for the event were ably but quietly supported by a range of other volunteers less visible but no less important to the production.

All in all, an enjoyable evening during which many members renewed their membership for the coming year. Thank you to all who made the evening a pleasant one

Quartet Pro Musica

Club members are often entertained by our own accomplished violinist Pat Halling. For those who don't know him, he is the silver haired bloke who lives on the other side of the river almost opposite the club and sails his Laser over to Aquarius standing up.

Pat usually provides musical support for pantomimes and other light hearted entertainments at Aquarius as well as bringing his friends along to entertain in the form of the Quartet Pro Musica.

Beyond the confines of the club, members are often invited to attend performances that happen outside Aquarius and in April the quartet performed at the Riverside Arts Centre in Sunbury. The venue was cosy and welcoming, the bar well stocked and the performance first class.

About a third of the audience was made up by Aquarians who report that they thoroughly enjoyed the evening. I can certainly recommend that when Pat again offers club members an evening of Quartet Pro Musica entertainment either at or beyond the club, they take up the offer enthusiastically.

Thanks Pat!

Culinary Corner

Mike Hendra

Following my stint as OOD I have been asked again for my Brownie recipe.

Brownies Ingredients

150 grams	Plain flour
75 grams	Cocoa
300 grams	Sugar
100 grams	Walnuts or any nuts or dried fruit
4	Eggs
125 grams	Butter
1 tsp	Vanilla essence

Method

Beat eggs until frothy. Add sugar and beat for one minute. Melt butter then pour slowly into egg /sugar. Mix whilst still beating. Add vanilla. Mix the flour and cocoa and slowly fold into the egg sugar mix. Heat the oven to 170c and toast the nuts as the oven is heating. Grease a 20 x 25 cm pan. Add nuts to mix and pour into tin. Cook for 25 minutes. When cool cut into 16 pieces.

Midsummer Cruise

The summer cruise to the Weir took place on the 26th June on a fine summer evening with just the threat of a shower. The participating craft ranged from Graham's rowing boat to Don's cruiser with a sprinkling of Lasers and a Comet, and all shepherded by Richard in the patrol boat.

All having managed to arrive safely, 20 participants enjoyed a meal and the company, before heading back to the club and arriving at 10:30pm.

Although some heavy clouds threatened it stayed dry with enough wind for the "sailors" amongst us to sail both ways.

The cap on the evening's performance was performed by Rodger who managed actually sail out of the lock on the way up.



Pictures by Frank Rainsborough



Sailing Secretary Report

Richard Cannon

From January to March there had been over two knots of current and red board warnings. I didn't think we would be able to sail at the start of the new season; the Easter Egg Trophy. Fortunately by Easter Sunday the current had reduced to 1 knot **AND** there was a 3 to 10 mph **East** wind that gave the few who endured the fine but bitterly cold conditions an excellent sail.

The current remained at one knot for all of April and early May; fortunately there has been enough wind to sail every week.

The weather was ideal for the Open Weekend; fine although a cold 10 to 15 mph wind that gave visitors good sailing.

Three SigneTs went to Bewl on the late spring bank Holiday Monday family sailing. There was a glorious sunny day with excellent sailing in a 12 to 25 mph SW wind.

It was extremely windy at the Hampton SC Regatta on Saturday with 35 mph maximum gusts; Bryan Clements decided it was too windy to sail, Richard Cannon sailed but retired after capsizing.

We were fortunate to have very good but challenging sailing for the Regatta and SigneT Open meeting; an extremely gusty and shifty 12 to 24 mph WSW wind. On Sunday there was a bit less wind and not so gusty; excellent sailing.

We were lucky to have a warm fine evening for the evening cruise through the lock to the Weir Hotel for dinner; four sailors, a cruiser, a row boat and the AQSC patrol boat; 20 members in all.

Weather Station Update

Richard Cannon

I have provided a Weather Station for the club to use; during sailing days it is usually mounted on a pole strapped to a fence post behind the clubhouse and put in the bar at the end of the day. The display unit is put on a table in the Clubhouse. It displays things like temperature, humidity, pressure and those we have a particular interest in; the wind speed and direction.

The sensors transmit to the display every 48 seconds. The wind speed is measured every 2 seconds and the average of the last 24 readings is displayed. The maximum gust can be displayed and reset.

The history is stored every 10 minutes. There is a USB port so records can be transferred to a PC. I have added a wind speed page to the website Race Result page; a wind speed graph is displayed when the mouse pointer passes over a date.

The wind at the weather Station is generally more than at sailing level.

I have changed from knots to mph when quoting Weather Station wind speeds and generally use Beaufort Wind Speeds to indicate what boats are subject to and this data in race result column headings. I use knots for river current.

Easter Egg Trophy

Sunday 31st March was the start of the 2013 racing season and by chance Easter Sunday as well. The day opened with bright sunshine and although it did not last all day it lasted long enough to make everyone feel better; it was bitterly cold.

Having reminded his OOD partners of the clocks going forward Richard forgot and as a result arrived later than would otherwise have been the case. Conditions were good and although there was one knot of current the easterly wind direction balanced the equation making sailing possible.

With preparations under way Richard then realised that he had left his Psion PDA at home; as it would be needed to evaluate the race results he went home to remedy the oversight. With things running about 15 minutes late four brave matalots launched into the Easter Egg Trophy; as there was a late start the morning racing was changed from two sprint to one 45 minute race.

The first race with four boats went without too much drama except Bryan failed to see a wind gust through his hooded top and the result was his graduate filled with water. Luckily he managed to back away in horror from the terrible threat of engulfment and although he only got his feet wet it finished his race.

As always the ladies came to the fore with Diana and Brenda serving a warming soup with the lunch burgers while Pete warmed us with hot coffee from the bar. As she was in New Zealand Pat Irving had delegated the BBQ task.

The last two races of the day were back to back; three boats started the 2 o'clock race. Conditions were good although the temperature had dropped a little and the first race was trouble free. The last race started well and managed two laps without incident but on the third circuit John Panting encountered Bryan's gust and repeated the aquatic uptake once again only suffering wet feet like Bryan.

Notwithstanding some close attention from the Patrol Boat he bravely sailed on managing to drain away enough water to allow him to finish the race.

Liz Archer, who in the Assistant OOD role had managed to keep Richard from forgetting too much, had spent some time in her kitchen producing three varieties of cake for afternoon tea. Good one Liz!

With all the maths now checked and rechecked it became clear the Charles Dennis had won the biggest Easter egg and John Panting had won the smaller one. John was not too disheartened because due to a "Purchasing Malfunction" both eggs were the same size and as Charles is a vegetarian he could not eat his egg anyway.

All in all a pleasant opening to the 2013 sailing season that attracted four boats and sailors for the event and fourteen for the afternoon tea. Situation normal!

Hampton Regatta

Sadly only two boats left Aquarius on Saturday 15th June to carry the club burgee. Bryan Clements was to sail one and Richard Cannon and I the other. Due to the strong wind Bryan decided that wisdom was to be a spectator whilst Richard and I braved the elements.

After finding a nut loose in the cockpit (other than Cannon and Hendra) and dressing the naked thread, we made a late dash for the line and executed a perfect start. Conditions were difficult particularly with a geriatric crew with a combined age close to 150 plus another 45 for the boat, but we sailed well and watched others fall around us. Our course cycle time was about ten minutes with six cycles in the race and we were half way through four when the squall hit.

We had just tacked, I had waited for the head to come round, released the port sheet and hardened up the starboard when the gust struck us. I frantically struggled to free the sheet as water came over the starboard gunwale but it was too late and slowly I slid into the chilly water. Richard was still in the boat only partly immersed, eventually he held his nose and dropped into the river but only because he had very little other option. Ignominiously we could not recover the boat and suffered the complete indignity of a Patrol Boat rescue with me being hauled out of the stream by my buoyancy vest. Bedraggled and soaking we were returned to the club for a shower, a change and lunch. Race two was considered but without another change of clothes and with strengthening winds we threw in the towel and went back home. The Hampton weather station recorded a maximum wind of 35mph!!

SigneTs can capsizes if the genoa sheet is not released in time so the dunking was the crew's fault. Perhaps my squall indicator needs a new battery!

With Rodger joining the fleet on Sunday, the number of boats swelled by 50% to three but the wind was far more kindly, the risks far less and the results for Aquarius unexciting.

Aquarius Regatta

In their program the SigneT Association hold Open meetings at venues around the country and AQSC is one of the clubs visited.

This year, as in previous years, Frank Rainsborough's race management skills were employed, he was ably assisted by Jean Maracchi.

The SigneT Open Meeting and our Regatta were combined on Saturday the 22nd June, the longest day, and for many it seemed like that. The sky wore the grey pyjamas of a British summer and the wind blew from the south west with an eagerness that threatened the fleet with some swimming practice.

The clouds were not thinned when Bryan reported that his trailer had been stolen and the clouds gathered even thicker when questions arose about who should man the patrol boat in the prevailing conditions.

In a rash moment I had offered to make a Cassoulet for the Saturday evening and for an Aquarius function I had spent a lot on money but the uptake was not promising. My intention was to prepare and cook at the club and I went with that intention.

Mid Thames Trophy

Three club boats took part in the Mid Thames Trophy at Hampton Sailing Club on the 27th April. Not our biggest fleet but it certainly included some of our most competitive sailors. The north wind was extremely shifty and fluky with gusts up to 15mph so it was very difficult to make way against the 0.7 knot current. The course was lengthy, from Platt's Eyot well downstream towards the host club so it was a long and tiring day.

Charles Dennis did best with 11th place overall whilst Bryan Clements and Richard Cannon (with Joan Courtney crewing) managed 13th and 14th respectively. In the end we made third place but as the fourth place getter only had two boats in the race the celebration was somewhat muted. Given the day, wind and current, the event had reasonable support but sadly the conditions had not improved from those that we had experienced through April.

Once at the club I was persuaded into a Signet and with the wind conditions, this made another dunking probable. Di and Helen took on the task of preparation so at least I had help. In the end the girls help was invaluable and I stayed dry through what was an exciting sail.

After tea, cooking commenced and with the smell of garlic wafting through the club the uptake increased.

In the end we served the magic 20 that always seems to support the impromptu events so I hit the numbers target exactly and made a £2.00 profit (if you don't count the sherry we supplied for trifle).

Jean complimented my effort with a vegetarian version of my French sausage stew and a wonderful trifle topped of with fresh strawberries and 20 diners seemed to thoroughly enjoy the meal. "Thanks for coming!"

Sunday was just as windy but the wind was less shifty/gusty and the OOD Mike Baker and crew set out a very interesting course. The racing was very exciting with many of the crews enjoying a dip or two. In the end John Panting won the Personal Handicap Trophy and Richard Cannon took the (cup-less) Boat Handicap first place and forgot to tell anyone.

To finish, Aquarius Catering crowned a great weekend with a fabulous spread of sandwiches and cakes followed by strawberries and cream. None of the attendees needed dinner and many would not need breakfast the following day either.

Between cooking and eating I benefited from Nigel's marathon effort with the new shower. "Many thanks Nigel, good one!"

Special Thanks

Aquarius now has a lovely new shower thanks to a huge effort by our worthy Vice Commodore Premises. Nigel put in much blood sweat and tears as well as considerable number of hours in rebuilding the old sad cubicle; it needed much more work than Nigel expected. Please use the new one with respect, keep it clean and enjoy. "Thanks Nigel!"

Bowl May 2013

John Panting

Just over the hour and we arrive at Bowl Its 9:05 am and the free entry pass does its duty.

There was not any racing planned for the day, as Bowl were in a training mode for young sailors. Consequently, the exceptional canteen was not showing its usual offerings. Good job we took our own fare.

Three SigneT's with their helms (Richard - Keith - John), one crew (Liz) took to the water. Not to forget the two versatile wives Brenda and Madeline whose roles embraced shore crew and continuous conversation. Oh yes and one rambler Bryan.

There was ample sun and plenty of wind all day. The wind was challenging for its varying strength and varying direction. There were many capsize to be witnessed but none involving the Aquarius crews.

Bowl is a wonderfully large expanse of inland water with the longest stretch about three miles. It has a few large spurs which form the irregular shape around the spits of land that create different wind patterns to suit all, even in the somewhat blustery conditions of the day. I managed to park SunseT on the concrete ramp with a little more gusto than intended but thanks to SunseT's aluminium sacrificial rubbing strakes, protecting her mahogany strakes and plywood sole, no damage was inflicted.

What a great day and it was free. All topped of with an uneventful smooth drive home. Where were the rest of you? I can't wait for the late August visit. We are taking our tent for the three nights. See you there

Main Gate Lock

Richard Cannon

I have found the padlock at the main gate to be very difficult to use at times; I line up the correct numbers but it won't open. If the hasp is held in a bit as the wheels are turned it is much easier to get them to line up so the lock will open.

Remember never leave the lock unlocked; it can be stolen., Never leave it locked on one end of the chain. Use the padlock to reconnect the two ends of chain else the waterboard may lockup, bypass our lock and we can't get in or out; this has happened a few times.

On the Road

Mike Hendra

I was taught to drive back in 1958 by a London taxi driver, one who owned a shiny black cab. He always kept his cab clean and bright with Paraffin and over the years I have used his method on my own cars.

Wet or hose off your car. Fill a spray bottle with 20% cheap hair shampoo from Lidl, dish detergent or the like and 80% water. Shake well and spray the vehicle (not allowing it to dry). Wash off the soap and dirt using a sponge or brush and rinse with a bucket or hose.

Fill a bucket with warm water and add 2 caps full of the Paraffin to the water. Wring a wash-leather or the modern version of same in the solution and use it to leather the car dry.

If you do this carefully you will not need to buff the car afterwards and your car will sparkle. What you will notice is, no matter how clean the car looks after you have washed it, the paraffin water will be surprisingly dirty.

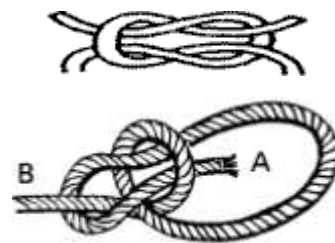
A Knotty Problem

Cath Bridger

Tying rope into knots is a fundamental necessity for all those who sail and each knot has been developed for its characteristics in relation to a particular function. Tying them and using them in their appointed place not only helps the person who ties them but it also is valuable to the person who may need to untie them. This can be very important if the knot needs to be untied in dark or difficult conditions.

So, can you name these knots? Even better, can you tie them? And can you give an example of when each one might be used?

There are more knots on page 16 of the AQSC Dinghy Sailing manual at <http://www/sailaquarius.org.uk/documents/aqtrainingmanual.pdf>



Barbershop Singing

Aquarius members enjoyed another great evening of entertainment on the 1st June delivered by Pat Irvin's friends from the "Thames Harmony Chorus" barbershop style singing group.

The club turn out was a little disappointing with Aquarians matching the group's 19 singers with about 21 members but the clubhouse was quite full anyway.

For the attendees there was a variety of songs and singing styles all executed with consummate professionalism. At interval Aquarius Catering turned their backs on the starving millions and fed the attendees to capacity and no one complained.

Well fed and now completely relaxed, both the entertainers and the entertained savoured the pleasure of the second half with all clearly enjoying themselves.

Thank you very much Pat and friends.



Thames Harmony Chorus - Picture by Rodger Wheeler

Bewl Valley Sailing Club

Three Day August Bank Holiday Visit 24-26 August 2013 *Mike Hendra*

Bewl Water is a beautiful 900 Acre reservoir three miles long in the natural surroundings of the Kent countryside. It is off the A21 Hastings road, just pass Lamberhurst, about one hour from the A3 Kingston bypass.

Last year we had a wonderful visit camping at Bewl over a September Regatta weekend and Aquarius has been invited back for 2013. The event takes place over the Summer Bank Holiday Weekend, Saturday 24 - Monday 26 August.

On the Saturday there is a Youth Regatta, Sunday an Open Regatta, and Monday family sailing. Saturday is usually the day for travelling and perhaps a social sail in the afternoon, Sunday is the Open Regatta in which members are able to participate; entry fee is £10 per crew member. Monday is usually an early sail, decamp and departure although there is no deadline for leaving the campsite.

The lake is huge and offers the kind of open sailing not able to be enjoyed in Aquarius' restricted reach of the river. As a result just sailing recreationally offers a very different sailing experience from that normally available to us and the racing experience is also very different.

Aquarius members usually take a variety of boats along and members mix and match boats and crews to spread and share the fun. .

The Bewl Sailing Club offers a very nice unpowered campsite with toilet and shower facilities not far away in their clubhouse. They also have a restaurant that is open for lunch, snacks etc at other times. Next door is the Bewl Aquatic Centre which also offers refreshments. There are several decent pubs close by for those who wish to eat out.

Last year Mike and Jean took their caravan and it served as a focal point for attendees offering a clubhouse atmosphere and shelter. They travelled out on Friday and back on Tuesday giving a base that covered arrivals and departure and the proposal is for them to do the same this year.

All club members are invited to come to enjoy the Kent countryside, the lake, the sailing and the weekend. Bird watching, cycling, sailing, walking, relaxing and socialising are all part of the activities we can enjoy. Sailing is not compulsory but it would be a shame to miss the experience.

Basic camping equipment, a tent and bedding, is a necessary requirement although there is some that may be borrowed. Or you could come down for a day visit.

Don't be put off if you haven't a boat because we will be taking some club boats and members will need crews. **New members** will have a great experience.

BVSC would like to know how many will be going, and when, so it is essential to let Richard know if you may be going by ringing 01932 786636 or emailing richard@cannonr.me.uk; he will also give you a voucher so you can enter the Bewl complex without paying the entry fee. We also need to know who may be going so we can plan what boats to take.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy sailing on a large expanse of water in good winds with no current.

Bring plenty of clothing, conditions can change very quickly and you often need to wade into the water to launch or come ashore; shorts can be good.

There is more information on the AQSC web site, sailaquarius.org.uk

Booking With Richard Cannon is necessary and volunteers to transport boats are a prerequisite for a successful weekend. Please help!

Source of 'Cut to the Chase'

Frank's 'Information Clips' have in the past featured amongst other subjects, Navy slang for food, and this time, from an item in Terry Breverton's Nautical Curiosities book, Frank is expanding on the book's explanation of the now oft used idiom 'cut to the chase'. The 'Chase' refers to a ship being pursued, and also the process of chasing it. The situation occurs when a 'chaser' and a potential 'chasee' are both anchored and in sight of each other. The 'chasee' the potential victim, might wish to depart (escape!) from its anchorage (when doing this it's said to be 'in the offing' another nautical idiom) and this preparation to raise its anchor could take up to an hour. The 'chaser' would observe this activity but to catch the victim he would have to sacrifice his own anchor (if he's successful he expects to regain one!) so by cutting the hemp cable to his anchor, he instantly releases it and by cutting the ties that kept the sails furled, his sails would drop and fill, enabling the chase to begin immediately. Hence 'cut to the chase.'

Bewl August 2012



Dates For Your Diary

2013

Sat 20 July	Hog Roast
Sat 10 Aug	Bring Your Own BBQ followed by a trip to Sunbury Regatta fireworks
Sat 24 Aug	Weekend visit to Bewl Valley SC
Sun 25 Aug	Weekend visit to Bewl Valley SC
Mon 26 Aug	Weekend visit to Bewl Valley SC
Sat 21 Sep	Russian evening 7:00 for 7:30 pm
Sat 02 Nov	Kempton Park Fireworks and a social with hot food at the Club afterwards. For reduced provisional price (£5.50 instead of £8) advance tickets contact Richard Cannon on 01932 786636 by Wednesday 30 October; meet & park at Richard's at 7:00 pm for a short stroll to Kempton Park
Sat 16 Nov	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools. Lunch will be provided
Sat 23 Nov	AQSC Annual Dinner starting at 7:30 pm.
Sat 7 Dec	AGM, Prize Giving and End of Season Party starting at 7:30 pm.
Sun 15 Dec	Cheats Christmas lunch 12:30pm and family games
Wed 18 Dec	Seasonal nibbles

2014

Wed 01 Jan	Hot Drinks Biscuits from 11a.m. New Year's Day Sail, subject to sailing conditions. Celebrate the New Year with a Soup and "Raid the Freezer" lunch from 1.30p.m. We may even prepare some mulled cider/apple juice
Sat 25 Jan	Burns Night Celebration, Haggis Tatties and Neeps from 7:30pm
Sat 15 Feb	Viennese evening
Sun 02 Mar	Lunch 12:30 and frostbite Cruise/scavenger hunt
Sun 16 Mar	Working party 10:30am. Come along with gardening tools and clothes. Lunch will be provided
Sat 22 Mar	Start of Season Party 7:30pm
Sun 30 Mar	Start of sailing; Spring Race 1, TFC, Spa Race 1

Watch for details of our RUSSIAN EVENING

Saturday 21st September
7:00 for 7.30p.m.
£15.00

BYO Barbeque Sunbury Regatta Illuminated Sail Past & Fireworks

Saturday 10 August from 6:00pm.
Bring Your Own supper to cook or purchase burgers, sausages etc. from the Bar.

Friends welcome

At 20.15 the patrol boats will leave the Club for Sunbury lock in order to view the illuminated sail past and fireworks, returning at approximately 10.30pm. Spaces will be allocated on a first come-first served basis by signing up at the Bar.

AQSC Website Address

The primary website address for Aquarius Sailing Club is <http://www.sailaquarius.org.uk>.

<http://www>. is not normally needed with modern browsers.

The following also open the website:
aqsc.org.uk
aquariussailing.org.uk
aquariussailingclub.org.uk

The main reason for buying these additional domains was so no one else could take them; aqsc.org.uk is very useful to minimise typing.

Road Closures Sunday 4 August

There is a major impact on road travel in London and parts of Surrey on Sunday 4 August, as a result of the Prudential RideLondon weekend cycling event; some of the route is similar to the Olympic cycle events.

The route passes through Kingston and Walton; Hampton Court Bridge is closed from 05:00 to after 15:30 northbound and 19:00 southbound. I think Walton Bridge will be useless.

Because it will be very difficult to get to AQSC by road from the South if any one needed it we could pick them up from Hampton Railway station.

For Sale

8ft GRP tender £50

Box trailer - wooden cargo box 6ft x 3ft (unbraked / indispension) £50

Contact Rodger Wheeler for details