

Although the first race of the season gave a good and much better than expected sail we then generally had poor light wind sailing conditions until the end of June. Fortunately from July we generally had much improved conditions.

We started racing on Wednesday afternoons on 7 April but after a succession of poor sailing conditions support petered out.

The big success for Aquarius was the Mid-Thames Trophy inter club event was held at Staines SC this year. Six Aquarius boats entered on 1 May but there was no wind, a lot of current and it was cancelled to be held later in the year. On 11 October there was a complete contrast with the 10 to 15 gust 20 knot shifty wind straight up the river giving a very good exiting sail; nearly everybody capsized. Aquarius entered 5 boats and did extremely well to win all three races and come 2nd in two races to win the Mid Thames Trophy, for the first time, and by a big margin. Well done everybody.

The conditions were poor for the Aquarius Open days; Saturday started wet but was dry by the time visitors arrived although there was little wind and it was difficult to make way against the current on both days.

There was poor support for both the May and August visits to Bewl although both gave superb sailing; probably the best of the year.

We only had 3 races cancelled and 98 races were sailed; the most for a long time. The maximum entry in a race was 11 with an average of 5.2 per race; similar to the last 4 years. A total of 33 members helmed in at least one race, 35 crewed and 53 helmed or crewed; a good increase over last year. Our regulars sailed in an impressive number of races with Charles Dennis and Nigel Knowles both helming in 62 races. Six others did over 40 races.

Club boats have only been used on just over half our race days and then, apart from 4 days, only one has been used. The 25 April was an exception when 5 club boats were used to help with 2 groups of visitors.

AQSC members supported all the Signet Meetings and came away with the many of the prizes. Richard Cannon had his most successful Signet season winning the Signet National Championships and the Signet Annual Points Trophy with Robert Britton as crew. As Richard had won the first seven Annual Points races he let Michael Stevens helm his Signet for the rest of the races and he did extremely well to win the Signet Junior Points Trophy; the first time both trophies have been one by the same boat in the same season.

As usual all trophies, except the Broken Boom which is for the overall best Boat Handicap result, have been allocated to Personal Handicap results and this gives much closer Series results and usually helps spread the Trophies amongst the competitors, although it hasn't this year. Some results were very close and a tie break was needed on one 1st, one 2nd and one 3rd place result, there were 2 ties in the ranking positions.

We need more members to partake in more races to make the distribution of prizes more interesting. It is a pity the conditions weren't better for the Wednesday afternoon racing. I welcome suggestions that might improve support for events. Please let me have suggestions so I have a chance to incorporate any suggestions in next year's programme.

The AQSC Web site and E-mail continue to be useful communication media. The latest race results are generally available on the web site by the morning following Sunday racing; the race results go back to 2000. Apart from the race results there are notes on the weather conditions for each race day. There is also a list of all the trophies with pictures and winners over the years back to 1952. Other useful pages are general News, Sailing and Social program, Sailing and Bar duty rosters, and the last 17 newsletters (all back to Summer 1999). I hope members are finding it useful. If Members with E-mail are not receiving occasional E-mails from me could they please let me have their E-mail address. I would welcome any suggestions on improving the communication, marketing and presentation aspects of the web site.

Richard Cannon.

2004 PRIZES

The race series match those of last year and the same trophies have been awarded. Everyone who was 1st, 2nd, or 3rd for Boat Handicap or Personal Handicap result in a main series receives a glass. Some glasses have also been awarded for amount of sailing. Charles Dennis has provided a new Trophy, Tumbling Waters, for the most improved helm.

If helm capsize or have any other incident or breakage would they please make sure it is recorded on the race sheet so it can be include in my result records

There were a number of contenders for the Water Rat Trophy; 6 helm had a total of 40 capsizes but Charles Dennis was way in the lead with 25 capsizes.

The Young Helm Trophy hasn't been awarded this year because no one has done enough races to qualify.

Although Graham Thompson often seems unbeatable it is Charles Dennis who has had an extremely successful season winning the majority of the Trophies. He was first on Boat and Personal Handicap in most series in spite of having a Personal Handicap of -13.

In 1999 Bryan Clements had gone up to a Personal handicap of 50, today it has gone down to 4 and he receives the Tumbling Waters Trophy for the most improved helm.

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 Club. As the race entry reports are very compact and give virtually all the information (except intermediate lap times) on the original race entry sheets these will not be retained.

SERIES	TROPHY	MEMBER, Number of races H = Helm, C = Crew
Autumn PH	Cruiser Cup	Charles Dennis, 62 H + 1 C= 63 races, rank 1
SPA PH	Saturday Trophy	Charles Dennis
Spring PH	Handicap Class	Graham Thompson, 59H + 0C =59 races, rank 2, caps 1
Sprint PH	Enterprise Cup	Rodger Wheeler, 43 H + 6 C = 49 races, rank 5
Summer PH	Laser Cup	Charles Dennis
Boat Handicap Result	Broken Boom	Charles Dennis
Long distance race	Cundy Trophy	Nigel Knowles, 62 H+ 0 C = 62 races, rank 7, caps 7
Wednesday afternoon		Bryan Clements, 51 H + 7 C = 58 races
Most improved helm	Tumbling Waters	Bryan Clements
Event	Water Rat	Charles Dennis , 25 capsizes, 20 in one race

No Other Prize

Most races	Summer Afternoon	Mike Baker, 39 H + 2 C = 41 races, capsizes 1
Most Crewed	Glass	Laurie Bridges, 8 H + 13 C = 21 races

PRIZE POINTS

The following table lists the places of helms that were in the first three places for Boat Handicap or Personal Handicap in any series, except the Easter Egg, Regatta and Fun series. One point is given for each 3rd, two points for each 2nd and 3 points for each 1st place. Ranking is according to the total number of points obtained; rank gives an indication of overall performance including BH and PH results. Bold figures are used to indicate that a tie break was used.

Series	Autumn		SPA		Spring		Sprint		Summer		Wednesday		Rank for Prizes			
Handicap	BH	PH	BH	PH	BH	PH	BH	PH	BH	PH	BH	PH	Points			
Name	Places												BH	PH	Total	Position
C Dennis	1	1	1	1	2		2		1	1			13	9	22	1
G Thompson	2	3	2	2	1	1			2	3			9	7	16	2
R Cannon	3						1	2	3				5	2	7	3
B Clements								3			1	1	3	4	7	3
P Halling			3	3	3	2	3						3	3	6	5
R Wheeler.								1			3	2	1	5	6	5
N Knowles		2								2	3		5	5	5	7
M Baker						3					2		2	1	3	8

PRIZE SUMMARY

RANK/POINTS

1/22	C Dennis	Cruiser Cup Saturday Trophy Summer PH Broken Boom Water Rat Glass	Autumn PH 1 st SPA PH 1 st Laser Cup Best by Boat Handicap Most Capsizes, 30 total, 20 in one race Autumn BH 1 st , SPA BH 1 st , Spring BH 2 nd , Sprint BH 2 nd , Summer BH 1 st ,
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RANK/POINTS

2/16	G Thompson	Handicap Class Glass	Spring PH 1 st Autumn BH 2 nd & PH 3 rd , SPA BH & PH 2 nd , Spring BH & PH 1 st , Summer BH 2 nd , PH 3 rd
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RANK/POINTS

3/7	R Cannon	Glass	Autumn BH 3 rd , Sprint BH 1 & PH 2, Summer PH 3 rd
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RANK/POINTS

3/7	B Clements	Tumbling Waters Glass	Most improved helm 1999 PH 50 to 2004 PH 4 Wednesday Afternoon PH 1 st Sprint PH 3 rd , Wednesday pm BH 1 st
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RANK/POINTS

5/6	P Halling	Glass	SPA BH & PH 3 rd , Spring BH 3 rd , PH 2 nd , Sprint BH 3 rd
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RANK/POINTS

5/6	R Wheeler	Enterprise Cup Glass	Sprint PH 1 st Wednesday BH 3 rd , PH 2 nd
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RANK/POINTS

7/5	N Knowles	Glass	Autumn PH 2 nd , Summer PH 2 nd , Wednesday PH 3 rd
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RANK/POINTS

8/3	Baker	Summer Afternoon Glass	Most races, no other prize, 39 H + 2 C = 41 races Spring PH 3 rd , Wednesday BH 2 nd
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	L Bridges	Glass	Most crewed, no other prize, 8 H + 13 H = 21 races
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