

The first race of the season in March was in much better conditions than we expected from the weather forecast but then all of April was terrible except for the Mid-Thames Trophy event at Littleton. Although 6 Aquarius boats went only 4 sailed due to the strong wind and AQSC only managed 4th place.

Fortunately the Open Days at the start of May were better than forecast although there was little wind; the patrol boat and sailing cruisers with outboards were very useful for taking visitors out. The Open Days were very successful with 28 groups and 67 visitors; the most we have had this century and even more than we had to the Big Blue event in 1999. Five families soon joined and another five joined later in the year; an excellent result.

The Regatta on 17-18 June had very hot fine days but the wind was very light, variable and shifty; much better for the Jazz/BBQ evening than for sailing. There was very good support for the regatta and we had 5 novices, including 3 ladies, in the novice/ladies race; just as well there wasn't a strong wind.

Four Aquarius boats entered the Hampton SC Regatta Handicap fleet on 24-25 June; it also had very light or no wind except for the last race which was quite a good sail. Richard Cannon won the last race to get 5th overall and Charles Dennis was 4th overall.

From July onwards there were generally good sailing conditions. Five Aquarius boats and 15 members went to Bewl on 28 August where there was excellent sailing in perfect conditions; fine with a 10-15 knot wind.

Late in the season several new families joined and we have had excellent support for racing, training and cruising.

The forecast for Wednesday 25 October was very wet, windy and cold but 3 families and others arrived; Richard Cannon expected to be showing videos and teaching knots to 16 members. Although wet and cold the steady 7 knt East wind was ideal for training and 4 boats were out. Five children practiced capsizing the Pico and Topper and had a great time!!

Weather through to mid November was still very good so Sunday activities have continued beyond the scheduled date. But we have had heavy rain so there is a strong current; we used the patrol boat to tow boats to start well upstream.

The maximum entry in a race this year was 11 with an average of 6 per race; an improvement over the last 4 years. A total of 35 members and visitors helmed in at least one race, 50 crewed and 64 helmed or crewed; this was a big increase over recent years. If you exclude all those who sailed in less than 4 races 28 helmed and 35 took part; a big increase over the 12 and 25 of last year. This was mainly due to the families who joined this year being very enthusiastic.

AQSC members supported all the Signet Meetings and came away with the many of the prizes. Richard Cannon won the Signet National Championships and the Signet Annual Points Trophy with Robert Britton as crew.

As usual all trophies, except the Broken Boom which is for the overall best Boat Handicap result and the Crews Trophy, have been allocated to Personal Handicap results. There has been some very close racing and there were nine ties for places.

We need more members to partake in more races to make the distribution of prizes more interesting. 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.

Liz Archer has been acting as a backup to me to evaluate race results. The entering and evaluation of results is done using a program I wrote for a Psion PDA; Charles Dennis has loaned one to Liz and I have set it up so it can be used to produce the race results. She has successfully evaluated the results when I was away.

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. New this year are some PDF files of the race results and analysis, like the race entry sheets for every race and all the Personal Handicaps used on every 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 23 newsletters (all back to Summer 1999; the last 6 are also in PDF format). 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.

2006 PRIZES

The race series match those of last year and the same trophies have been awarded, except for the Aquarius Main Trophy (GP Trophy for Enterprises) which has turned up after being missing for over 14 years; it has been allocated as the trophy for the most crewing. Everyone who was 1st, 2nd, or 3rd for Boat Handicap or Personal Handicap result in a main series receives glassware and have been included in the ranking. Some glasses have also been awarded for amount of sailing

If helm capsizes 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.

Graham Thompson has been almost unbeatable and was first in nearly all the series on Boat Handicap and Personal Handicap, but lost on tie break in two series.

There were some very close results; there were nine where a tie break had to be used. Three helms tied for first place in the SPA PH result and 2 for the Autumn PH and Summer PH series results.

Cath Bridger and Sarah Herbert only started sailing last year and have made excellent progress joining in the racing. Cath has been awarded the Tumbling Waters trophy for the most improved helm and Sarah receives the recently found Aquarius Main Trophy for most crewing.

Our recent junior members have made great progress and joined in the racing; Kate Downs had the best results and has been awarded the Young Helmsman Cup.

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 will be on the website. 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	Graham Thompson 68H + 4C = 72 races, rank 1
SPA PH	Saturday Trophy	Peter Carpenter 28H + 5C = 33 races, rank 7
Spring PH	Handicap Class	Graham Thompson
Sprint PH	Enterprise Cup	Bryan Clements 60H + 6C = 66 races, rank 6
Summer PH	Laser Cup	Rodger Wheeler 58H + 7C = 65 races, rank 3
Boat Handicap Result	Broken Boom	Charles Dennis 60H + 1C = 61 races, rank 2
Most improved helm	Tumbling Waters	Cath Bridger 31H + 3C = 34 races
Event	Water Rat	Nigel Knowles 59H + 0C, 8 capsizes, rank 3
Junior Helm	Young Helm Cup	Kate Downes 9H + 5C = 14 races
	Glass	Richard Cannon 38H + 1C = 39 races, rank 4
	Glass	Pat Halling 38H + 0C = 38 races, rank 5
No Other Prize		
Most races	Summer Afternoon	Mike Baker 28H + 3C = 31 races
Most Crewed	Water Main	Sarah Herbert 0H + 31C = 31races
Newcomer	Glass	Simon Lunniss 7H + 4C = 11 races
Newcomer	Glass	Hannah Lunniss 7H + 4C = 11 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. **Big Bold** numbers indicate that a tie break was used.

Series	Autumn		SPA		Spring		Sprint		Summer		Rank			
Handicap	BH	PH	BH	PH	BH	PH	BH	PH	BH	PH	Points			
Name	Places										BH	PH	Total	Position
G Thompson	2	1	3	2	1	1	3				7	8	15	1
C Dennis	1		1						1	3	9	1	10	2
N Knowles				3		2	2	3		2	2	6	8	3
R Wheeler		2			3			2		1	1	7	8	3
R Cannon					2		1		2		7		7	5
P Halling	3	3	2						3		4	1	5	6
B Clements						3		1				4	4	7
P Carpenter				1								3	3	8
C Bridger								4				1	1	9