



Commodores Update May 2022

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Easter Egg Draw and New Members Night, it was lovely to see the club buzzing again. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for all the great feedback we had from new members.

Graham Forshaw the River Exe Harbour Master has advised us that following a recent survey of the Exmouth Approach Channel there has been a significant move of the channel across to the East.

They are planning to move the navigation buoys that mark the inbound channel to new positions in the week commencing the 8th of May subject to weather conditions. There are also changes to the channel between No's 19 and 21.

Concerns have been raised about changes to general parking in Starcross with the loss of some of the 'free' spaces which may prompt non members to try and use our facilities.

Although they are monitored by PPS they can't watch them all time, the committee are looking into what options there might be to ensure that our spaces are always available for 'Our Members'. I will keep you posted with any changes we plan to make, but in the meantime please ensure you always displace your parking pass in your windscreen.



Waterside Team

The season has started at long last, its nice to see the river filling up with boats again after the past couple of years.

The waterside team has been busy ensuring that the moorings, pontoons and storage areas are ready for use. Your assistance would be welcome in keeping the various storage areas clean and free from rubbish – Please take any rubbish home with you the club does not have the facility to dispose of it for you.

Fishing and cruising are slowly starting to get underway for the season with the first major cruise planned for the end of May – speak to Neil if you are interested in joining us for the Channel Islands Cruise. This is normally well supported and for many of us it will be the first time in several years that we are making the trip across.

Customs formalities have changed slightly – you will need to send of the C1331 form prior to leaving the UK and on your return you will need to ring Yachtline (*HMRC National Yachtline: 0300 123 2012*) to

Easter Egg & Meat Draw Winners

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chocolate Orange Twirl Egg | Paul Tostevin |
| Large Chicken | Kathy Herdman |
| Minstrels Egg | Dave Browning |
| Breakfast for Two | Stella Holt |
| White Chocolate Bunny | Jill Mc Gill |
| Leg of Lamb | Kerry & Paddy |
| After Eight Egg | Mo Greenham |
| Steak Meal for 2 | Peter Harris |
| M&S Dippy Egg | Joise Kirkham |
| Pork Lion Joint | Richard Powell |
| Lindt Giant Gold Bunny | Becky le Milliere |
| Drink over the Bar | Linda House |

clear customs. Channel Islands will continue to throw an information book and their own customs form at you when you arrive on the other side so please ensure you fill it in and post in the correct letter boxes for them.

It might also be an idea to ensure your ships papers are in order. Small ships register (SSR) or full ships register if you have one may be asked for – they are quite lenient but don't get caught out after all it only costs £35.00 to renew. Carry your insurance with you and any papers that show you own the boat. You are also advised to carry a passport – it's a bit over the top for identification but again – you don't want to upset the local customs staff.

If any of you want to join us crossing the channel and perhaps have never done it before there are plenty of people in and around the club who will be willing to talk to you and put your mind at rest. I look forward to seeing you all in, on and around the club through the season.

Safe boating - Paddy

Paddy Smith - Rear Commodore
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Adam Coupe – Boatswain
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Paul Le Milliere – Boatswains Mate
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Fishing

The first of the new style competitions went reasonably well but alas! only one pair of decent Pollock's were weighed in.

The next competition is for flounder and is mainly fished in the estuary. I'm hoping to see more entrants between 14th and 20th May. Anyone can catch a flounder whether from a mooring or on the drift. And they don't taste muddy at all! Let's see you out there.

Steve Cowell– Fishing Secretary
cowellsteve@hotmail.com 07545 883402



Cruising

The sun is finally here and we now have lots of boats on their moorings. We have even seen people doing their annual jet wash on the wall at Starcross in preparation for the season. Generally, the wall is only usable on spring tides and so great demand early and late season. To book your date slot please note there is a booking diary in the club house for this.

Facebook is a great way to keep in touch and see what last minute cruises are happening around the area. Our next major club cruise is June 2nd – 5th across to Guernsey. This is a cruise in company and although we will be sailing as a group ultimately each captain is responsible for his own boat and crew. OK, I now have the legal disclaimer out of the way and we can talk about the cruise. I still remember my first channel crossing with Maxine. We had only had the boat a few months and thought "lets do it". We were very

stressed and nervous. It was our first time out of sight of land and totally dependent upon instruments for navigation. 3 hours into the trip Maxine said “should the carpet in the cabin be floating”. We were both new to sailing and new to this boat. Our first thoughts were “Oh my gosh, we are sinking!”. Trying to remain calm (not easy) I felt the water with my hands, it was warm and tasted like fresh water. So, this could only be a leak from the fresh water tank. We later found a pinhole in some very old soft water pipe. After some frantic pumping with the manual whale pump the bilge was emptied out and we continued on our way.

After this our arrival in Guernsey was very easy. People get very stressed about crossing the channel. Such comments as “it is so far” or “Oh no you have got to cross the shipping lanes”. None of these are a problem and hopefully this article will make you think about joining us? The main consideration is the weather and sea state. If the weather and sea state are not in our favour then we do not go. We leave Dartmouth around 4am and usually around 1 hour into the trip you see the most amazing sun rise. It is a single tack on a course of 140 degrees for 65 nm. This takes around 12- 14 hours. For those of you with auto pilot simply press the ‘go to’ button and get the kettle on. On a good day this is a wonderful trip, many of our boats have AIS on and so makes crossing the shipping lanes easy, it is just a matter of picking your time to cross as you would be crossing any road.



St Peter Port Guernsey

On arrival to The Little Russell simply follow the channel down with the tide and into St Peter Port. A short check in on the quarantine pontoon and you have made it. There will be lots of experienced sailors making the trip. Generally, in two groups, one for the motor boats and one for the sailors. Some paperwork is needed in advance, the main one is a C1331 form. Simply fill it in for each passenger and put it in the post. Having an active COVID passport on your phone will really help your entry into Guernsey. Although not strictly needed take you passport and I would always recommend keeping your boat paper work on board. Such things as: certificate of registration, VAT paid status and insurance etc. This is a cruise in company and there will be lots of people to ask questions and get some tips for the journey. So hopefully see you all on the trip! Exciting! - Neil Ewins

Neil Ewins - Cruising Captain
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Nigel Watsham – Cruising Secretary
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Work Party

Friday work party does far less in the summer months, just repairs in the main. Having said that I am keen to find a willing person able to point up the Regents House car park wall. Not looking for skilled person necessarily just a DIYer would be great please. The next bigish job which needs attention while the weather is good is stripping paint from the large front doors and repainting -Volunteers welcome.

Now I am getting on the water I can see the work carried out to the clubhouse windows which looks great. Thanks again everyone who took part in that.

Please don't forget to clear up spills from your dinghies in Brunel tower store, mop and bucket in the fishing room.

Club needs a cupboard to store regalia. The only space available is at bottom of the club stairs so needs to be a fairly secure cupboard max 80cm wide. Anything available please?

Chris Ellis – House Manager

housemanager.sfcc@gmail.com



Social

Hi Everyone -

Not much for me to report this month as not much happening on the Social front going into the Sailing & Fishing season but I might come up with some excuse for a party so watch this space.

A fun night was had by all at the recent Quiz Night and well done to the winners in Steve Cowell's Team and a big thank you to Phil Pearce for being the Quiz Master, there was a lot of head scratching going on for some of us.

The New Members Night and the Easter Egg & Meat Draw was a busy night and was nice to meet the new members that could make it, even if I did not get chance to talk to you all of you, as I was busy buzzing around it was just so nice to see the club so full of chatter & laughter.

Well done to all the winners a list has been provided in by Peter's report and a big thank you to Peter for the making the announcements of the winners, Jenny Sampson for pulling the winning numbers out and to my little helper Toby Tostevin for doing all the running around delivering the prizes to all the winners on the night.

Saturday night cooking will still be going on all through the summer so if you would like a table please email Debbie who will only be too please to book you in : SFCCtablebooking@gmail.com.

Please keep your eye on the board in the bar or on the club Facebook page just in case of any extra events are added. Hope to see you all soon either in the club or on the water - Happy Fishing & Sailing - Kerry ☺

Kerry Smith - Social Secretary

socialsecsfcc@gmail.com



Membership

I have recently interviewed two more prospective members, Andrew and Jacky Devine from Tewkesbury who are down here every weekend and have a Mirage 27 moored on the River Exe and also Ian and Karen Turner from Taunton who are retired and have a Seawych 19 foot moored in the Estuary.

I'm also pleased to welcome Ryan Chorley, Paul Weeks, Matthew Dart and Raymond Lacey to the club. We now have 270 memberships which compares well to this time in recent years, thank you to everyone who has renewed this year.

Lyn Allies - Membership Secretary

sfccmembershipsec@gmail.com



Firstly, I have to say it was fantastic to meet so many people at the recent new members evening. Thank you to all of you who asked me to contact them regarding their interest in the various courses we provide at SFCC. I have now replied to everyone - if my message hasn't come through to you, please email me, just in case the message has been misdirected somehow.



Congratulations go to Josie, Ben and Mike, who are the first members to successfully gain their RYA Powerboat Level 2 certificates this year. Well done to you all - especially given the windy conditions on the second day! Thank you also, for your very positive feedback on the course!

The **RYA Powerboat Level 2** courses are booking up into the season now, but there are still plenty of spaces available on the scheduled dates below, or we are always happy to put on extra courses if there is demand for them. There has been a date change to the September PB2 course, which will now take place over the weekend of the 17th/18th of September.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to take either of our **RYA Start Yachting** (two day) courses during June and July, or one of the two **RYA Competent Crew** and **RYA Day Skipper** courses (five days) in July. This really is the perfect opportunity to hone new skills or improve existing ones at prices not to be repeated! We may not be running these courses next year, so this could be your last opportunity to take them with SFCC!

The April **RYA Radar** courses had to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. I will publish a new date for this as soon as I have it agreed.

This course is run on board a yacht in a "real world" setting, rather than on a simulator in the classroom. This really is a rare opportunity to learn in this practical environment and one that is not to be missed!

Do let me know if you would like to gain your **RYA SRC/VHF** certificate this season. I have received enough interest to run another course and I am currently looking to arrange this for a weekend in May or June. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you.



UPCOMING COURSES:

Practical Courses

RYA Powerboat Level 2: Two Day Course - £150 per person

- Saturday 7th / Sunday 8th May 2022
- Saturday 25th / Sunday 26th June 2022
- Saturday 9th / Sunday 10th July 2022
- Saturday 6th / Sunday 7th August 2022
- Saturday 17th / Sunday 18th September 2022
- Saturday 1st / Sunday 2nd October 2022

RYA Start Yachting: Two Day Course - £200 per person

- Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th June 2022
- Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th July 2022

RYA Competent Crew / RYA Day Skipper: Five Day Course - £450 per person

- Monday 11th - Friday 15th July 2022
- Monday 25th - Friday 29th July 2022

ICC for Sail: One Day Assessment - £100 per person

- TBC - available from April 2022

Shorebased Courses

RYA Radar: One Day Course - £80 per person

- To be confirmed

Yachtmaster Ocean Theory: Six Day Course - £200 per person

- Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th October 2022, Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th November 2022 & Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th November 2022

All courses include a relevant manual and full instruction from experienced RYA Instructors.

If you have any questions at all, or wish to book a place on any of the above courses, please email me at training@starcross-fcc.com or call me on 07792 885 161.

I hope to see you soon, on the water, in the club, or on one of our courses!

Dan

Dan Tucker - Training Coordinator

RYA Centre Principal & Chief Instructor

training@starcross-fcc.com 07792885161



Looking ahead there's plenty going on in the Club

Social

Sat 7th May Saturday Night Cooking – please book in advance
Sat 14th May Saturday Night Cooking – please book in advance
Sat 21st May Saturday Night Cooking – please book in advance
Sat 28th May Saturday Night Cooking – please book in advance

Fishing

Sat 14th–Fri 22nd May Flounder Competition

Small Boats

Tuesday 17th May Dinghies, Kyaks & Canoes cruise to Turf Lock

Training

Sat 7th- Sun 8th May RYA Powerboat Level 2 Course



Finally

Now we are into May the season is well underway and the bar is getting busier – its so nice to see familiar faces coming in again.

Don't forget to keep an eye of our Facebook page and Website for all the latest updates. If you are a fisherman make sure Steve has your mobile number for any last minute updates about competitions.



Remember if you are in Dartmouth between 6th and 8th of May it's the 25th Anniversary of the Music Festival which is always good fun.

Have a great month



Peter Harris - Commodore
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