



Commodores Update November 2020

October got off to a bad start with Storm Alex. Torrential rain and very strong North Easterly winds whipped up some of the biggest waves I've seen in the river which caused damage to several boats on the pontoon. A big thank you to our waterside team for all their efforts securing boats etc. Fortunately there was no major damage to the pontoon although we have had to replace some floats.



You should have all received your Christmas Draw Tickets by now. Please support the club with this draw, as you can see below there are some great prizes.

SFCC Christmas Draw

- 1st Prize** **£250 Cash Treasure Chest**
- 2nd Prize** **Garmin Hand Held GPS**
- 3rd Prize** **Luxury Hamper**
- 4th Prize** **Seago Waterproof Binoculars with Compass**
- 5th Prize** **River Exe Cafe Vouchers**
- 6th Prize** **Westcountry Cruising Manual and Log Book**

Plus 4 other high value prizes!



Thursday 12th November **RNLI CHRISTMAS SHOP**

We will have a selection of RNLI Christmas Cards and Calendars

on Sale in the Club from
1900 – 21.30

Only Card payments please
No Cash accepted other than for
RNLI Donations

Any leftover stock will be
available when the Bar is open
until Sunday 15th

But when its gone its gone!
So don't miss out!

You can pay for your Tickets either by returning them with a Cheque or by Card if you prefer by writing your **Name** and best **Contact Phone Number** on the First Counterfoil of each Book of tickets. Post them back to the club and we will ring you on an evening when the bar is open and take a card payment over the phone. Additional tickets are always available in the Bar or by request. As with everything at the moment the draw will be slightly different this year. You won't be able to get up to collect your prizes but we will bring them to your table, we plan to use both the Bar and the Function room so there will be plenty of room to distance. Don't worry if you're not sat in the main bar we will ensure that whichever room you are in you won't feel left out of this exciting evening. Jenny Sampson our President will be drawing the winning Tickets.

Unfortunately we can't have our normal Christmas Dinner this year but we will have a 'Special' Christmas Menu on Saturday 12th December – more details next month, but booking will be essential.

Di & Arthurs Quiz Night ***8pm Friday 27th November***

Entry is £1.00 per person with

Teams of up to 4 People

Prizes for 1st 2nd 3rd



Waterside Team

Rear Commodore - The winter is upon us and the river is looking very empty. 2020 will soon be confined to the past and with a bit of luck 2021 will allow us to get back to the Sailing and Fishing that we all love.

The new tractor – ISEKI 4451 is nearly ready to be put to work and I would like to extend a very grateful thanks to John Addison who has put in endless hours of work over the past two weeks freeing up seized wheel bushes, replacing bearings and manufacturing new bearing cups from raw materials. Without his help we would be struggling to get this one back together - thank you John.

The pontoons took a bit of a battering in the past blow with the loss of 2 floats and a 3rd that has been dislodged. Some of the boats were taking on water and some took a battering or even sunk. – It is vitally important if you use the pontoons that you secure your vessel properly tied up with the appropriate size rope, using springs and breast ropes. If the boat hits the pontoon then you have not tied it up properly! Keep an eye on the weather, the forecasts are pretty good nowadays. Take all steps to properly safeguard your vessel and the integrity of the pontoons. The worst weather is generally when it's blowing from the North, East or South East.

Sadly we have had a few incidents where damage has been caused to the boats on the downstream side of the pontoon nearest to the breakwater. This is likely to be members who have misjudged the tide when leaving the wall. Only 1 of these incidents has been accounted for which I cannot quite understand. You have a responsibility to report any incident / or damage caused by an incident to your insurance company, the third party and the Coastguard or harbour master. Consider the impact that your actions have had on other fellow members of the club let alone the expensive repairs. – To avoid your embarrassment wait until high tide prior to leaving the wall next time please.

Finally if you feel the urge to help out around the club we have a full list of work that will need to be undertaken this winter from pontoon repairs to foreshore tidying up to rebuilding the workboat in readiness for next season. – Please give any of us a call on the waterside team if you can help out. Many thanks and have a good winter season

Paddy Smith - Rear Commodore

Brandybottle.paddy@hotmail.co.uk

Boatswain - Could I ask that all dingys and outboards are removed from their racks for the winter season, this helps us with the maintenance we always do out of season, please take locks ropes chains & rubbish with you, if not they could very well not be there on your return.

The Pontoon will be locked on the morning of the 1st Nov, all boats must be off without question Please keep an eye on the club Facebook page for requests for work parties.

Have a chilled out layup, I'm looking forward to next season already.

Keith Marshall –Boatswain

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Fishing

Flat Fish Competition - After several cancellations, I'm pleased to say that the Flatfish comp finally went ahead on the weekend of 17th/18th October. Despite a promising weather forecast, it wasn't that brilliant. Cold, breezy, and a bit lumpy. Only a single fish was recorded on each day. Kev Rouse fished all day on the Saturday, and had several dogfish, but only one small Plaice that weighed 10.4oz . This was beaten on the Sunday by Steve Cowell with the only Plaice on the day which weighed 11lb-3oz , Steve had every bait thinkable and caught his fish on a cocktail of prawn,squid and worm. Coming in to this final comp, Kev & Steve were both sharing top spot in the accumulator with 27pts. But with 10pts Steve is the winner of the Flatfish comp and the Phil & Carol Burrows Shield for competition accumulator champion. Well done to both of you for making it such a close finish to our season.

FINAL ACCUMULATOR POSITIONS

1 ST STEVE COWELL	37pts	4 COMPS
2 nd KEV ROUSE	36pts	4 COMPS
3 rd MIKE WHITING	26pts	3 COMPS
4 th JOHN ASTILL	19pts	2 COMPS
5 th JOSIE KIRKLAND	10pts	1 COMP
6 th STEVE MARKS	9pts	1 COMP
7 th PETE HARRIS	6pts	1 COMP

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in what has been a difficult season. Hope to see some of you at the Trophy Presentation Evening, sometime in 2021.

Mike Whiting – Fishing Secretary

trepolpen1@sky.com



Cruising

Neil Ewins – Cruiser Captain -Well despite being a very late start to the season it has been great to see a very active cruising membership this season. We have had many new members joining us on our revised cruising schedule to. Brixham, Dartmouth and Lyme Regis which were all well attended. Its good to have new members joining despite the pandemic and the club continues to grow.



Great to see so many new boats and members at the Brixham rally

I have only been sailing for 2.5 years and am still learning. We still have many questions as regards destinations and sailing. I have had so much help from other club members who have even been at the other end of the phone when I needed advice. So do not be afraid to ask someone we have an incredible wealth of experience in the club. There is always someone who can help you out in the club. The Thursday night meetups are still going ahead but just with a 6 people to a table. Again this is a great place to meet and catch up.

We have made the most of the short season and sailed from Poole down to the Scilly Isles. But the season is drawing to an end and all of the boats will be safely tucked away and off the River Exe. Like most of us we already have our list of winter projects. If you have a project you are not sure about someone in the club will be able to help you out with advice and recommendations. The club is still very active in the winter season and a good place to catch up. We are booked up on some of the courses run by Dan starting in January. It is worth looking at these courses and if you are a club member they are at greatly reduced costs.

This season has been greatly reduced as regards events this year due to the pandemic. Hopefully next season will give us more opportunity to meet up at rally's. We usually have at least one Rally per month. We also should be able go further afield and do the channel Islands, this is great opportunity to get your first channel crossing under your belt with the safety of cruising in company. Be assured we will be organizing plenty of events for the new season so watch this space.

Neil Ewins - Cruiser Captain
neil@neilewins.com

Nigel Watsham - Cruising Secretary Despite being a difficult year many of our members have still been out on the water and actively cruising, so we hope to be able to give out plenty of trophies at some point. Please email either me or Neil with your nomination as soon as you can, we want to give out as many trophies as possible.

SFCC CRUSING TROPHIES

The Whitbread Trophy – Annual “Round the cans” race (Nominations not required)

The Yandle Trophy – Offshore Cruiser Race
(Nominations invited from those who participated in non-SFCC events)

The Seamanship Trophy – Demonstrating Act(s) of Good Seamanship
(Did the nominee make a particular effort to assist another boat in need).

The Rowe Shackle – Best Kept log

The Langdon Long Distance Trophy -Longest cruise

The West Exe Trophy – Notable Cruise in a Boat Over 36ft

The Gale Cruising Shield – Notable Cruise in a boat under 36ft

The Peter and Margarete Kidd Seaborne Trophy – Notable Cruise in a boat under 26ft

The Harris Trophy – Most Miles logged in One Week (7 days)

The Shapter Cruising Trophy – Most miles logged in one Season

The Tomlinson Trophy – Saving Life at Sea

The Blue Boy Trophy – Best Achievement by a newcomer (Fishing / Cruising)
Are you” newish” to sailing in the Southwest and achieved a passage or destination which brought you real personal satisfaction?

The 24-Hour Run – Fastest Distance under sail within a 24-hour period at sea

The Sampson Cup – Personal Cruising Achievement

The Piney Trophy – Fat Channel Crossing.

Nigel Watsham - Cruising Secretary

nigel.watsham@googlemail.com



Social

Hi all and thank you for your support with the Saturday night cooking which I have to say is going from strength to strength despite the current challenging times.

We will have RNLi Christmas Cards and Calendars for sale in the club on Thursday 12th November, any remaining stock will be available from the bar when its open on the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The usual Social functions are still on hold but we are going to go ahead with a speciality meal in the club on the 12th December. The normal Saturday night cooking menu will be replaced with a 3 course Christmas Meal. Full details in next month's update. The normal Saturday night social distancing conditions will apply. Pre Booking is essential, I will advise of the price and booking format in due course as soon as possible.

Finally a reminder we have the Quiz booked for Friday 27th November.

Kerry Smith - Social Secretary

socialsecsfcc@gmail.com



Membership

With only a couple of months left of this year we are unlikely to get any more new members until January. The membership presently stands at 270 made up from Life, Family and Single memberships. which I think is good considering the year we have had.

Lyn Allies - Membership Secretary

sfccmembership@hotmail.co.uk



Bringing on-water training at SFCC to its conclusion this year, were Liam and Clarke who gained the RYA PB2 certificates on the October Powerboat Level 2 course. Congratulations to you both for well deserved passes and for being so keen and enthusiastic. Well done guys!



A big thank you also, to all of the members who have enabled us to continue to offer training courses this year, with your much valued support. Running the courses with the necessary Covid-19 prevention measure in place has certainly created it's additional challenges, but I thank you all for your patience and understanding.

The 2021 RYA Powerboat Level 2 schedule will be published early in the new year and will hopefully be able to run from

April until October next year. I will contact all members who have requested a place in 2021, as soon as it is finalised. If you would like to take the course next year or would like further information, please get in touch and I will be only too happy to help.

Now that most of us have taken our boats off the water, now is the perfect time to think about learning new skills or refreshing your memory by taking one of our excellent RYA shorebased courses. Despite the C-19 restrictions in place, we have worked to make and ensure that all of the following courses are able to be run in a safe and practical way.

There are limited spaces available on our RYA Coastal Skipper / Yachtmaster Offshore course running during January and February 2021. At only £200 per person, this really does offer excellent value for money as well as providing you with the multitude of benefits from learning the content of this advanced navigation and seamanship course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you wish to take this course. I've taken it myself and can heartily recommend it as well as the excellent instruction provided by our YM Instructor, Jim Wright.

The following courses currently remain on schedule with 1m+ social distancing measures in place.

Extra course date to be added - to be confirmed in the December update

RYA Yachtmaster Theory

- Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th January 2021, Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st January 2021, Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th February 2021 and Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th February 2021

RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance

- Sunday 7th March 2021

RYA First Aid

- Saturday 13th March 2021

RYA SRC (VHF) Marine Radio

- Saturday 20th March 2021

The following courses are not currently scheduled, but could be organised if there is enough demand from members and that it is safe and practical to run them. PB1 and ICC for sail are not available due to the C-19 measures at the moment, but please register your interest in order to be at the top of the list when we are able to run them:

Is it on your radar? We are looking to further increase our course offering to members, by running the RYA Radar course at the club. In order to gauge interest, if you are keen to take this course or would like further information on it, please let me know.

Practical Sailing Courses

If you would be interested in taking a practical sailing course at the club, please contact me to register your interest. There is no obligation at this stage, it is purely to gauge demand and viability. Potential courses that could be run are: RYA Basic Skills, RYA Start Sailing, RYA Day Skipper or RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Offshore.

ICC for Sail. As you may remember, last year SFCC became a registered ICC (International Certificate of Competence) test centre. We are able to offer any members who would wish to qualify for this, to take the test on their own boat with our Yachtmaster Instructor, Jim Wright. Further information on the ICC for sail is available on the RYA website, or if you would like to arrange taking test from the club, please contact me.

RYA Essential Navigation & Seamanship. This is a two day shorebased course, providing the perfect introduction to navigation and safety awareness for new or inexperienced boaters. We need a minimum of four students to run this course and I encourage any members who would like to take it to contact me.

Sea Survival. If we can gather six members who would like to gain the RYA Sea Survival certificate, I hope to be able to secure a group discount at one of our local training centres who offer this invaluable one day course. Please let me know if this is of interest to you.

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

Dan Tucker - Training Coordinator RYA Centre Principal & Chief Instructor
training@starcross-fcc.com



Looking ahead there's plenty going on in the Club

Social

Sat 7th Nov

Thu 12th Nov

Sat 14th Nov

Sat 21st Nov

Fri 27th Nov

Sat 28th Nov

Saturday Night Cooking in the Brunel Restaurant

RNLI Christmas Card & Calendar Stall 19.00 - 21.30

Saturday Night Cooking in the Brunel Restaurant

Saturday Night Cooking in the Brunel Restaurant

Di & Arthurs Quiz Night Start 20.00

Saturday Night Cooking in the Brunel Restaurant



Finally

Cas Marshall our Honorary Secretary is reluctantly standing down as she is finding it increasingly difficult to juggle the clubs business with her demanding work. Cas has done a great job and we are indebted to her for all she has done for the club. I'm pleased to say that Nigel Watsham will be taking over as acting Hon Sec until the AGM.

With the season drawing to a close we would normally be getting ready for a full winter program. Unfortunately the present restrictions limit what we can do so while we hope to be able to hold a few low key evenings it won't be on the normal scale. Rest assured that whatever events we do put on, we will be ensuring that the club remains COVID Secure for your safety.

Last but not least apologies for getting the maker of the new tractor wrong last month – I thought paddy had gone dyslexic when I read 'ISEKI' ! Have a good month and as always thank you all for the way you are supporting the club in these different times.



Peter Harris - Commodore

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