



## Commodores Update September 2020



It's very pleasing to see the club getting busier again – it might be the new normal but its working pretty well and it's great to have the kitchen open again on Saturday evenings and I'm pleased to say that we are now allowing guests and visiting yachtsmen into the club.

I hope you have all been receiving this update ok, we have been experiencing problems when sending bulk emails to the membership causing our website to crash

If you have been affected by this please accept my apologies. To sort the problem will be setting up a new email address solely for communicating with the membership. It will not be monitored, so if you need to contact the club please continue to use the existing contact email addresses you have. I would also like remind you all to let the club know if you change your email address or any other contact details so we can keep in touch with you.

As you will see there has been plenty of activity on the water with the revised Fishing and Cruising schedules and we have now been able to run our first RYA Powerboat 2 Training Courses of the season.



### **Waterside Team**

Where has the season gone. I am currently sat on board in the Dart. It's blowing 40kts and pouring down. A far cry from the blistering heat we experienced in the last 3 months.

No doubt our Cruising and fishing Captains/Secretaries will update you fully of our limited calendar but I would like to thank them all for attempting to put on some events through this challenging time.

The club moorings, pontoon berths and storage facilities are doing well but as always we need volunteers to help maintain them. Particularly the pontoons that need constant upkeep to ensure they stay up and running. The club was donated a workboat last year that needs significant repairs. If any of you are a budding boat builder or just keen to have a go I may be in need if some assistance through the winter to get it sea worthy again.

The club Rib is back in the water and Dan is doing well to put on as many courses as he can in the short period of time left, give him a shout if you would like to do any of the clubs RYA courses.

Enjoy what's left of the season and let's hope next year allows us back across the channel again.

***Paddy Smith - Rear Commodore***

***Brandybottle.paddy@hotmail.co.uk***



**Saturday Night Cooking Every Week in the Brunel Restaurant**  
**Email Kerry to Book Your Table**  
[socialsec@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:socialsec@starcross-fcc.com)

Hello to all, I hope this strange season has been great for you so far. The waterside team are compiling a list of works to be carried out during the coming months and out of season so please keep an eye out for our requests for help on the club Facebook site when the time comes.

Can I remind all members who have equipment on club premises to have some kind of security on them to keep them safe. As always if you see anything that needs attention please let someone know. Have a safe rest of season.

**Keith Marshall – Boatswain**  
*bosun@starcross-fcc.com*



### **Fishing**

Hopefully after all the disruption to competitions due to the weather the Bass & Pollack comp will have taken place by the time you read this. September 5th/6th is Bream & Conger competition and hopefully I can rearrange the cancelled Flatfish competition for later in the month possibly September, 19th/20th but I will confirm this in due course. Please remember to record your catch on the board in the fishroom.

**Mike Whiting – Fishing Secretary**  
*trepolpen1@sky.com*



### **Cruising**

*Hi Everyone* Although it has been a late start to the season it seems that many of the cruisers are getting out. We have also had a great influx of new members into the club. We had our first meet up of the season which was a cruise to Lyme Regis. We had 3 sail boats and a rib on this cruise. New Members Tanya and Grant in their Hawk 20.



The Hawk was only 20 feet but it was very fast outperforming the bigger 33 ft sail boats. This was only their second outing in this boat as it was new to them. We also had Bob Watson in his Westerly Pageant. If you want to see some incredible adaptations and some incredible stainless-steel welding you have to take a look at Bobs boat. The crossing started well with a good sailing wind but as the day progressed, we had to resort to the “Iron Sail”. We had good fun on the crossing and stayed in a close group. On arrival to Lyme Regis there was no space on the floating pontoon. So, we managed to get a visitor mooring buoy. I moored up to this buoy on Sea Pigeon and the

other boats moored up either side. We all then gathered on Sea pigeon and recanted lots of salty sea dog tails whilst having a few drinks. Alex was moored up on the pontoon with his RIB. He swam out to Sea Pigeon and joined us for a drink. This turned out to be a great evening. Seven people and a dog all sitting in the cockpit drinking & chatting into an incredible summer evening. A gentle swell came in overnight, Sea Pigeon a ten-ton boat with boats tied up securely either side was fine. Grant & Tanya were wedged into the tiny cockpit of their 20 ft Hawk! but some how they slept ok on the mini roller coaster. At around 09.30 every one left ( Alex left last night with a simple 40 minute ride back in his RIB). Sea pigeon continued on later that day but sailing East towards Poole. This was a very last-minute cruise that was organised due to the current epidemic, but turned out to be great fun.

Our next cruise is to one of my favorite mooring in Salcombe. We moor up to a pontoon in a place



called the Bag. This pontoon is up past the main town by the curve of the river and flat calm with stunning views. A water taxi into town is £2.00. Again we will just be sitting and telling tales over fine food, wine & beer late into a summers evening.

There is no power on the pontoon but every morning a water supply barge will turn up to fill your tanks if you need it. So, come self-sufficient if you can you will not necessarily need a tender but if you do other club members will have one that you can use. If you can message me or let me know if you are going it will just help with the logistics. Again, this is very weather dependant and we will make a last-minute call Thursday or Friday. Look forward to seeing you all on the next cruise – Neil

**Neil Ewins - Cruising Captain**

*neil@neilewins.com*



**Small Boats –Dinghy's, Kayaks and Canoes**



Early in the year when I planned the small boats calendar, I had high hopes that the 2020 trips were going to be successful and well attended but the weather dealt a big blow to all our plans until a last minute



reprieve on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> when after an afternoon of torrential rain and thunderstorms the sun came out and we were able to get on the water. We had a great trip up to Turf and a lovely social evening. Twelve of us (arriving in 4 boats, 2 bikes and a car) enjoyed drinks and food on what turned out to be a lovely calm evening after the storms. This was the last planned small boats trip of the summer.

A big thank you to all those who turned up.

I will be organising more of the same in 2021 - dates will

be out early in the new year, look forward to seeing plenty of people on these trips next year!

**Richard Bentley – Small Boat Captain**



**Social**

The COVID pandemic is still having an impact on our social activities but we are slowly getting back to some sort of normality. It's pretty unlikely that we will be hosting any parties for some time to come, but the Saturday night cooking is at least start of our return to normal.

A lot of work has been done to ensure we are as covid secure as we can be to ensure you are safe when visiting your club. Dining is now in the Brunel Restaurant area but feel free to have a drink in the bar before you eat and return to the bar if you like when you have finished your meal.

Our new Chef John has done well to provide an average of 20 meals each Saturday assisted by Kyra, both started with us in March but where furloughed until we were permitted to reopen in July. We are very grateful for them being onboard.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support as we adapt to the new normality. Please continue to book your meals through me via email : [socialsec@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:socialsec@starcross-fcc.com)  
I will give you a time slot, which helps to ensure you don't have to wait too long for your meal. This month I have made a couple of minor changes to the menu removing items that have not sold well in the past and I have added Burgers, served with chips and your choice of salad and sides. The burgers are great value at just £8.00. You will need to order your food and drinks at the bar in the shielded area where you will be given your table number. Once again a big thank you for your continued support.

**Kerry Smith - Social Secretary**  
[socialsec@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:socialsec@starcross-fcc.com)



## Membership

It's encouraging that in these strange times we are still recruiting new members, although our numbers are still slightly down I think we have done well to maintain the level of membership we have. Unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions we haven't been able to hold our New Members Evening. It is unlikely we will be able to reschedule it now before next year, but I will let you know once a new date has been set.

**Lyn Allies - Membership Secretary**  
[sfccmembership@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sfccmembership@hotmail.co.uk)



Hi everyone - I'm so pleased that we have finally been able to return to practical training out on the water, with two RYA Powerboat Level 2 courses having been run in August and two further courses scheduled for September and October.

Congratulations to Aimee and Tom, who are the first members to successfully gain their RYA PB2 certificates this year. The stringent CV-19 prevention measures in place and followed throughout the course, didn't hamper the learning experience of the weekend and it proved to be just as effective and fun as it was prior to CV-19. There is currently only one space remaining on the October RYA PB2 course. Please contact me today if you would like to take it.



Thank you to all members who have contacted me to either book on to a course or to express your interest in one of the courses proposed for the future. All courses and dates are listed below, so do please contact me if you would like to take a course this year or in 2021.

The level of interest has been very positive for both the RYA Radar course and RYA Sea Survival, so I'm now actively working to arrange both of these courses in the near future. More information on this as soon as I have it.

I am very excited about the possibility of being able to offer practical sail cruising courses at SFCC from next year, if social distancing measures allow. In order to gauge demand and viability, please contact me as soon as possible if you would be keen to take on of the following practical sailing courses: RYA Basic Skills, RYA Start Sailing, RYA Day Skipper or RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Offshore. These courses would take place on the "coded" boat of a highly experienced Yachtmaster Instructor SFCC member.

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

**RYA Powerboat Level 2**

- Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2020
- Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October 2020

**RYA SRC (VHF) Marine Radio**

- Saturday 17th October 2020

**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.

**Encouraging Young Powerboaters!** Would any younger members of the club be interested in taking the Powerboat Level 1 course? This one day course is a fantastic and fun introduction to powerboating - covering preparation, safety on the water and boat handling in a safe and controlled way. They might even be able to teach mum or dad a thing or two after completing the course! If you are the parent of a budding powerboater between the ages of eight and sixteen - please contact me for more information, or to arrange a course date.

**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 centers 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](mailto:training@starcross-fcc.com) or call 07792 885 161.

**Dan Tucker - Training Coordinator RYA Centre Principal & Chief Instructor**  
[training@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:training@starcross-fcc.com)



Looking ahead there's plenty going on in the Club

### **Social**

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sep

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Sep

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sep

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Sep

**Saturday Night Cooking in the Brunel Restaurant**

### **Fishing**

Sat/Sun 5/6<sup>th</sup> Sep

Sat/Sun 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Sep

**Bream and Conger Competition**

**Flat Fish Competition – *To be confirmed***

### **Cruising**

Sat/Sun 12/13<sup>th</sup> Sep

Sat/Sun 26<sup>th</sup>/37<sup>th</sup> Sep

**Cruise to Brixham**

**Exe Champaign Challenge Race to Brixham – Hosted by ESC**

### **Training**

Sat 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Sep

**RYA Powerboat Level 2 Course**



### **Finally**

We would normally be putting the final touches to our winter program now, but unfortunately everything is on hold. We may be able to have some Forums and hopefully we can still hold our Annual Draw, but with the present restrictions it's unlikely we will be holding our Gala Evening this year.



The National Transport Trust has a scheme which highlight sites of important Transport Heritage. The Brunel Tower's connection to the Atmospheric Railway makes it a significant building in transport history and Lord Devon will be unveiling a 'Red Wheel' plaque with Lady McAlpine who is President of the Trust on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 11.30.

Please remember to keep an eye on your boat particularly if it's on the pontoon, with all the recent bad weather it doesn't take long for them to become awash with water which puts a added strain on mooring lines and the pontoon and increases the chance of it sinking.

Many of you will remember Roger Milligan who tragically died some five years ago. His partner Jill still has all Rogers Fishing Magazines dating back several years which contain a wealth of information. Jill would like to pass these on to someone rather than dispose of them so if anyone would be interested in these please contact me and I will put you in touch with Jill.

I will be away on holiday from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September until the 5<sup>th</sup> October. Like most people at the moment I have had to change my holiday plans so instead meandering around France in our motorhome we will be travelling around Scotland.



**Peter Harris - Commodore**  
[info@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:info@starcross-fcc.com)