

# Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club



[www.starcross-fcc.com](http://www.starcross-fcc.com)

## Spring 2017 Newsletter

The Brunel Atmospheric  
Railway Museum  
1982 - 1990



**Founded 1959**

**Affiliated Club Member of the Royal Yachting Association  
and the Angling Trust**





# **SFCC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2017/18**

**President:** Gordon Mortimer

**Vice Presidents:** Wynn Yandle, Paul Goody, Phil Burrows, Derek Turner, Jenny Sampson, Peter Harris.

**Trustees:** Alan Towell, Courtenay Yandle, Paul Goody, Peter Harris.

**Commodore:** Phil Burrows

**Vice Commodore:** Paul Le-Milliere

**Rear Commodore:** Paddy Smith

**Hon. Secretary:** Linda Le-Milliere

**Hon. Treasurer:** Becky Le-Milliere

**Bar Manager:** Dave Browning

**House Chair:** Mark Hutchinson

**Fishing Secretary:** Mike Whiting

**Cruising Secretary:** Kevin Brown Martin

**Membership Secretary:** Sue Earle

**Social Secretary:** Jackie Smith

**Boatswain:** Keith Marshall

**Forums:** Arthur Handy

**RYA Training Coordinator:** Dan Tucker

**Publicity / Website:** Russell Thompson

**Personal details have been intentionally removed from this online copy.**

**Enquiries may be sent by e-mail to [bruneltower\(at\)aol.com](mailto:bruneltower@aol.com)**

**General Committee Members** - M. Whiting, P. Smith, L. Le-Milliere, D. Browning, J. Sampson, J. Smith, B. Le-Milliere, A. Handy, M. Hutchinson, T. McGuire, S. Earle, R. Thompson, K. Marshall, D. Tucker, K. Brown Martin.

All club e-mail correspondence may be sent to [bruneltower\(at\)aol.com](mailto:bruneltower(at)aol.com) in the first instance.

## Commodore's Report

Welcome to the start of our new season of on the water activities, backed up by some great shore based events. We have a brilliant program of cruises for you to enjoy and some excellent fishing comps to test your skills and have some fun with your fellow members. I hope we can continue to build the interest levels in our little craft and kayakers group, as this is very much in line with the fun aspects of SFCC life. Our social program continues all summer and offers a good range of events for your enjoyment. The message is a simple one, come and join your fellow members and add that extra dimension to your summer boating.

SFCC is in good heart and as you will have seen from the AGM data, we are doing well in these most testing of times. We are bucking many of the national trends and building our membership. However this is not a time to sit back, we must continue to develop and grow to meet the expectations of our members, hence the investment in the club's assets and the expansion of our training programs.

The education and training has enjoyed a great winter season with some very good RYA based courses and some exceptional forums. Jenny has now stood down from her long term role as our training and RYA lead. Jenny has done an exceptional job for us and has found a kindred spirit in her successor Dan. You've all heard me banging on about the importance of training; it's a genuine passion of mine. I think we all carry the responsibility to help both our fellow boaters and the next generation by passing on what skill and knowledge we've acquired.

We are hoping to purchase a RIB, so we can start to offer members the opportunity to attain their RYA Power Boat 1 & 2 qualifications at SFCC. If this is of interest to you please let Dan know so he can gage the numbers. As part of this change we will be selling our trusted work boat so if you have a few pounds to spare and fancy a nice boat give Paddy a call.

You will have noticed that we are refurbishing the kitchen area and some aspects of the bar. There will be a level of disruption to club life during this period for which I'm very sorry but the long term gain will benefit the club for many years to come. Just to complete this phase of works we are also carrying out work on our flat above the function room. These works are all scheduled for March as

this should be the least disruptive time to get the work done. I would ask for your patience and understanding as this period will be extremely stressful for the volunteer's running these programs.

I would like to thank, our entire group of volunteer's for their contributions throughout the winter months, they have smartened up the club and facilitated much of the upgrade work we are now doing. Their efforts are what makes our club special and helps to give it its unique character. The voluntary aspects of our club should not be over looked or taken for granted, I'm afraid it very much a case of the few looking after the many.

You may see a number of people from the Environment Agency in yellow coats armed with clipboards, sucking pencils walking around the Tower slipway. No need for panic they are working on the estuary flood protection plan. There will be no works carried out around the club during our summer boating season. At **present** their plan is to raise the slipway at the tower by about 300mm without altering the angle of slope and grade back the car park to suit plus the addition of some very fancy handrails. All-in-all we should benefit from these works as well as helping to protect Starcross from the rising sea level.

We are staging a new event this year based at Brixham; on the 1<sup>st</sup> July everyone will be most welcome to our first 'Brixham Revel'. The basic idea is to have a fun day on the water followed by a social evening gathering on the events pontoon at Brixham marina. SFCC will be providing some refreshments to kick off the evening. There will be berthing for boats and there is a good supply of parking close by so come along and enjoy the evening.

Last but not least please be safe on the water and keep those around you safe.

Have a great summer.

**Phil Burrows.**

	<b>RICHARD'S MOORING SERVICE</b>	
<i>Boat Moorings On The River Exe For Rent, For Sale, Inspected, Serviced, New Moorings Laid.</i>		
richard@riverexemoorings.uk		07709 587814

## **Vice Commodore's Report**

Various items of maintenance and refurbishment are currently being carried out.

The kitchen is being replaced and this is being tied in with some work in the bar area, we have also invested in some new stools for use at the bar. The floor has been repainted in the dinghy store and also a thorough overhaul of the showers has been carried out by the work party. In addition we are replacing the kitchen in the flat which is long overdue.

A tree in Regents House Car Park has been removed due to concerns over safety and we are now taking advice regarding the wall which may have to be replaced by a fence.

Hopefully you will be pleased with the improvements and there are more in the pipeline so watch this space.

***Paul Le-Milliere (Millie).***



## **Rear Commodore's Report**

2017 is here already, where did the winter go? I have managed to unshackle Brandybottle from her winter berth in the Dart and had the usual rough weather trip back to the Exe in a relaxing 35-40kts of icy South Westerly wind. On the plus side, the rain stayed away.

I have had a quick look around the pontoons and so far adding the weights to the hammer head seems to have done the trick and we will be starting the season with everything intact. I will be arranging a work party towards the end of March and would like as many as possible to turn up armed with stiff brushes and buckets to give the pontoons a quick scrub. This year Phil has managed to negotiate an amendment to our planning permission and we will be able to make full use of the pontoons from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October. Please remember it is a pontoon in the middle of the river not a marina so make sure your

boat is secured properly and well protected with fenders.

I would remind you that you need to take care to ensure your boat and any property in it are properly secured – there is not much point spending money on a decent chain and padlock if you tie it through a rope or plastic rail. I would recommend a 10mm stainless steel eye bolt in the transom fastened with sheer bolts. Better still drill a hole in the transom and feed the chain through it and your outboard if you leave it attached. In the past the thieves have used an axe and knife to help themselves to your property often slicing the D rings out. Mark your boat with your post code, big and bold is the way to go, this makes it easier to reunite you with your property if it's located but also makes it hard for the thieves to pass on.

Fishing and Cruising is what we as a club are all about, so I hope to see you all on the water at some point through the season and look forward to the programs produced by both Mike Whiting and Kevin Brown-Martin, our fishing and cruising secretaries. We also hope to purchase a Rib this year to enable Dan Tucker to provide power boat 1 and 2 course adding another valuable string to the Clubs RYA bow.

Have a great season on the water.

***Paddy Smith (Brandybottle).***

## **Honorary Treasurer**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING February 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 to 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2016

The figures for the year ending October 2016 were agreed at our General Committee meeting held in January and have since been audited by Dermot Nolan and John Nuttall, the Club Auditors agreed at the last AGM.

For the first time in many years we are reporting a shortfall of income over expenditure in the sum of £4786.

When comparing the figures to the previous year it is noticeable that membership income has reduced. However in the year ending Oct 2015 the income reported was generally higher than usual. This was in the main due to the increased joining fees possibly because of the influx of new members in

the first full year for the pontoon facility, and extra income received for keys with the introduction of the new security system.

The one area that has excelled is training and thanks must go to Jennie Sampson who has introduced new courses and continued to promote their benefits. We now plan to develop the training facility further and have paid for Dan Tucker to take the Power Boat 1 and 2 Instructor course which will enable us to run on the water practical courses in the coming years.

Both bar and social income were down year on year which is disappointing considering the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to provide reasonably priced drinks and meals, along with a variety of social functions, all thanks to Jackie Smith and Dave Browning. Supporting the social side of the club provides members the opportunity to build new friendships with people of similar interests, and I believe gives better enjoyment of the water based activities during the boating season.

As a result of this shortfall we are now in a position where we will be reviewing our pricing structures and inevitably there will be increases over the coming months.

Expenditure overall is generally at a similar level compared to the previous year. However there are a couple of costs which should be mentioned.

The cost reported under Legal and Professional is in respect of an Insurance valuation carried out at the request of our insurer's for the sum of £2,274.

The other cost to note is £4,188 paid out to fix leadworks etc. which was all managed under the supervision of our then House Manager, Jane Green.

It is also worth reminding members that the 2<sup>nd</sup> year loan interest payments are included in these figures, leaving a total of £60,000 + interest of £13,128 to be paid over the next 3 years.

Going forward we have plans to provide better facilities and benefits for the future of the Club.

Amongst them are plans to

- sell the current workboat and replace with a rib which can be used for training purposes
- an over haul of the club kitchen and bar to update and bring in line with health, hygiene and safety requirements
- And a long overdue refurbishment of the kitchen in the rented flat, which will also enable us to consider a rent review.

enables drinks, meals and regalia to be purchased using this method over the bar. Membership fees can also be paid over the bar by presenting your renewal form to a member of staff, or alternatively can be processed direct by the Membership secretary. This can be done by phoning the club mobile number and speaking to Sue Earle direct. Unfortunately this facility comes at a cost, but it has been decided not to pass this onto the member and so in future expect to see credit card costs in the region of £5/600 per annum, which will inevitably rise as the popularity of this method of payment increases.

The Club Regalia has also been updated and a wider range is now available such as jackets, polo and rugby shirts all of which can be personalised at a small charge, as well as caps and badges. We have also sourced double sided burgees at a more affordable price and so plenty of opportunities to fly the club flag. Orders forms can be found on the club notice boards and once paid for will be ordered to your requirements. Alternatively there is a limited range of sizes held in stock. Generally the items are being sold at cost with the intention of promoting the club rather than using sales as a money making exercise.

As some of you may be aware all Employers are now required by law to provide a workplace pension scheme. The staff currently employed by SFCC fall into the category of Entitled Workers which means they can opt to join the pension scheme and make their own contributions, although no contributions are required from the Employer. I have therefore written to our staff notifying them of their options so that I can ensure we fulfil the requirements as set out by the Pensions Regulator and complete the Employers declaration by the required date.

I think that just about covers everything for this year, however just to let you know that having served the club as Treasurer for the last 8 years I feel the time is right to hand over the position to someone who can better fulfil the role and as such I have given the General Committee one year's notice of my intention to step down at the next AGM. I am already pleased to report that I am talking to an interested member and will obviously do my very best to ensure that adequate training is provided and that the handover is as smooth as can be.

**Becky Le-Milliere.**





**\* Parking Reminder \***

Our car parks are controlled parking, and contracted out to PPS, Newton Abbot.

If you are parked in either of our car parks, and not displaying your Permit in your front windscreen, or on your dashboard, then you might have an unwelcome surprise when you return. Please display.

**Training**



All the courses in the last six months have been well attended, of which the VHF has needed three separate dates. The new 'Essential Navigation 2 Day Course' also generated a lot of interest, from both motor boaters, and sailors alike.

For many years now I have headed up the training section for the club, and feel that now is the time to hand over to someone else whilst the courses are working so well.

Most of you will already know Dan Tucker, who recently trained to take RYA Power Boat 1 and 2, as well as SRC DSC (VHF) Marine Radio courses. So I hand over very willingly into his capable hands.

Dan can be contacted on this new e-mail address; [training@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:training@starcross-fcc.com)

Hope you all have a good season on the water. I will see you back in the club.

**Jenny Sampson.**

It only seems like yesterday that our boat 'Delphi' was being lifted out for its winter at Topsham. And at the time, as per previous years, I had a list of jobs to do that I intended to do slowly over the winter. Guess what, as usual most of them are still on the list and only 4 weeks until she is lifted back in! Well I hope all your winter jobs have progressed better than mine.

The good thing is this season's planned schedule of cruises for both cruisers and small boats and kayaks have been prepared and are all available to see on our website, the clubs notice board, the blue book or by visiting our Google calendar from the link which can be found on our facebook page.

Thanks to Russell he has now set up a new club email address for the cruising, which I shall be using in the future [cruising@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:cruising@starcross-fcc.com) if you wish to be added on to our mailing list please contact me on this address.

I wish you all a very good season along with an invitation to join us on any of our cruises. If you have any questions or require any further information please do not hesitate in contacting me. I do hope to that you will join us either cruising in company and or our small boats and kayak events.

If you are unfamiliar with our cruises and do decide to take part, you will find that they are very informal with comradery, support and help if wanted during the cruise, and afterwards too, although there is always a chance to meet up with others at the destination if you should so wish.

Tight Ropes.

website: [www.starcross-fcc.com](http://www.starcross-fcc.com)

Facebook Group: [Sfcc Cruising](#)

email: [cruising@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:cruising@starcross-fcc.com)

**Kevin Brown Martin 'Delphi'.**



## Fishing Secretary

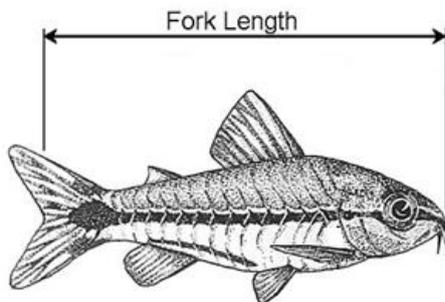


Well the new season is already upon us and I would like to welcome back all our old members and a big hello to all those who have just joined SFCC. I hope to see you out on the water.

On Friday 25/11/2016 a group fishing meeting was held at the club and was attended by twelve members. During the meeting the proposed fishing competitions schedule was distributed. This was mailed to all members, but can also be viewed on the club website, and Fish room notice board.

At the time of the meeting restrictions on recreational sea anglers for Bass landed in 2017 were unknown. Steve Cowell raised the possibility of Bass being measured on board boat and then returned alive. Now that we know that the restrictions remain unchanged from those applied in 2016 it has been decided to adopt Steve's proposal for this season. This will be reviewed at the next group fishing meeting in November 2017.

All Bass caught before July 1<sup>st</sup> must be returned to the sea alive. However, anglers will be permitted to take a measurement of the length (in centimetres), from the tip of the nose to the V in the tail (known as 'fork' length), and record this on the fish board. No Bass under 42cms to be recorded.



All Bass caught after July 1<sup>st</sup>, including those landed during the Bass competitions, can also be measured and their lengths recorded on the fish board. However, after July 1<sup>st</sup> the regulations allow for one Bass per angler per day to be retained. This will allow for the capture and submission of more than one fish per angler per day without contravening current regulations. Again, no fish under 42cms to be recorded.

Please note that throughout 2017 there is no requirement to weigh Bass and therefore only length (minimum 42cms) will be accepted. Remember, in order to ensure the successful return of Bass to the sea every care must be taken when handling live fish. Place fish on a wet towel (not a hot deck!) when measuring, restrict handling to an absolute minimum and return the fish to the water as soon as possible.

We also discussed the shortage of Bream being brought to the scales during competitions, so we have decided to allow an extension of the 20nml and a later Sunday weighing in time. This will allow

anglers to fish from the marks out from Beer and also to fish from chartered boats.

The annual Trophy Presentation took place in January and was well attended. Congratulations to all those that won. A big thank you to Keith & Pat Graham, Brian, Kevin Rouse & Russell for all their help.

There were several Trophies that were not awarded this year which included Ladies Bass, Ladies Most Species & Ladies Wrasse, So come on Ladies, you must try harder !!

Don't forget the first competition of the new season is the Pollack Comp, which, weather permitting takes place on the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> April.

If you would like to receive a text message regards any fishing information, please message me on \*\*\*\*\* and I will add you to my fishing group.

Hope to see you soon.

**Mike Whiting. mobile \*\*\*\*\***

**Email; [trepolpen1\(at\)sky.com](mailto:trepolpen1(at)sky.com)**

## House Chairman

Apart from all of the exiting stuff that is arranged by the other members of the committee, there are lots of behind the scenes activities that are required to guarantee the efficient running of the club's affairs. Being the current holder of one of the short straws involved, I have during the last year helped the club to secure a three year deal on our Insurance, and even save us a fair amount of money at the same time.

Additionally, the club now has a card machine behind the bar, which has saved a few members from the nightly trek to the shop over the road when funds were getting low. Members can now use this facility to pay for drinks, meals, purchases of club clothing, and even membership fees. Although in its infancy, the facility now exists for fees to be paid remotely by telephone. I have paid my subscriptions this year using this facility, and it is really easy, and safe. You even get an email to confirm the payment, a quantum leap indeed!

As some of you will know, the club kitchen is now undergoing an extensive refurbishment. Not to be outdone, the kitchen in the club flat is to receive a long awaited re-fit that will bring it up to a high standard. In case you didn't know, the club rents out the flat and it is a valuable asset.

**Mark Hutchinson**

## Social Secretary

I think we all look forward to the upcoming summer months, with good weather, (hopefully), good boating, and most of all a plan to stay safe.

Main social event through the summer is the Brunel Tower Evening BBQ on Saturday 12th August. As the sun goes down, why not relax and chat with friends, enjoy the BBQ, finishing with a Live Group indoors?

Saturday Cooking continues every week, except for occasional functions. Please see [www.starcross-fcc.com](http://www.starcross-fcc.com), or mailing updates sent to you.

I look forward to seeing you in the club, or at events that occur.

**Jackie Smith.**

[harrietsmith48@gmail.com](mailto:harrietsmith48@gmail.com)

## Bosun



As the new Bosun I'd like to introduce myself. I am Keith Marshall, I live in Starcross, and can be contacted anytime the need arises on 07590 196428. Or email to [bosun@starcross-fcc.com](mailto:bosun@starcross-fcc.com)

Please be reminded everyone, that as the new season approaches thought needs to be given regarding the security of our property. I advise that all outboards and dinghies are locked in a way that makes them as difficult as possible to steal.

Please also be sure to respect all club areas, and take any rubbish home with you.

May I wish you a safe and fun season ahead, see you out there.

**Keith Marshall.**

## Forum Coordinator

Friday Forums seem to have gone well, with one or two better than others. Quiz night proved to be very popular, which is food for thought for next year.

Anyone with constructive thoughts can contact me on the number given in this Newsletter, and in your Blue Book. I am now looking for good and proven, perhaps new ideas, for next year.

Although we have a hardcore of members supporting the Friday Forums we can still do with more, so please come along for an hour or two and you might learn some useful things whilst supporting your club at the same time.

**Arthur Handy.**

## SFCC Publicity / Website

**Website** - [www.starcross-fcc.com](http://www.starcross-fcc.com)

**Webcam** - [www.starcross-fcc.com/webcam](http://www.starcross-fcc.com/webcam)

**FaceBook** - [www.facebook.com/starcross-fcc](http://www.facebook.com/starcross-fcc)

**E-mail** - [bruneltower@aol.com](mailto:bruneltower@aol.com)

Please let me know if you think something should be on the website, and any links that don't appear to work either.

Next mailing is due September.

**Russ.**



Due to the significant cost of postage stamps, and printing, we as a club are always looking at as many members as possible receiving our general mail electronically. **PLEASE** let me know if you are happy to accept general club mailings by e-mail to;

[bruneltower@aol.com](mailto:bruneltower@aol.com)



## Honorary Secretary

Following last year's AGM and at his first meeting of the General Committee Phil clearly set out his four driving goals for the club, these included:-

- a Integration and acquisition of members.
- b Increasing the communications to go out to all members.
- c Refurbishment of all of the public areas including the bar, toilets, notice boards etc.
- d Everything in the club should be based on fun.

I am pleased to report that progress on these goals are well on track, demonstrated by the following:-

- The numbers of new members continues to grow with membership renewals reported as 252 at our last General Committee meeting, the club have moved a step forward with the introduction of electronic card payments which has also assisted the renewal process.
- This year has also seen the introduction of a monthly Commodore's update, which we hope members are finding useful. The Cruising Secretary has also introduced a club Facebook page where members interested in the sailing events can keep in touch and find out what is happening, this now includes a calendar of events.
- The club refurbishment programme has begun with improvements to the bar and kitchen currently being carried out. The Friday work party have been carrying out improvement works to the showers and downstairs toilets, and many other jobs, some less noticeable to many visitors, have been carried out throughout the year.
- The range of training available from this year will include RYA Power Boat 1 & 2 courses
- As usual a well-planned social calendar provides members with a wide choice of events.
- The waterside team have carried out many improvements on Ashes Quay and the pontoons.

**Linda Le-Milliere.**

<b>Simon Turl</b>		
<b>Moorings</b>	<b>Salvage</b>	<b>Boat Maintenance</b>
Mob. 07967 132852	 e-mail <a href="mailto:simonturmoorings@gmail.com">simonturmoorings@gmail.com</a>	Tel. 01395 272497

## Membership Secretary

So far this year we have 264 members, with a number still to renew as the second reminders went out later than usual. However, any storage not paid for is taken back at the end of February. There is a steady stream of membership applications to, hopefully, make up for those who leave.

A number of members, particularly some who left the Club this winter, expressed their thanks to all the volunteers who run the club so well, and have made their time with us so enjoyable. It is nice to be appreciated.

There will be a New Members Evening on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, to which all members are welcome. Most of the Committee, who are volunteers who also help to keep your membership fees down, will be present. It is a good opportunity to meet and chat. New members are often glad of information and advice from older members, so do come and join in.

Membership cards, Car Parking Passes and stickers have been sent out this year, apart from local members.

Reminders: Please don't forget to display your Parking Pass when parking in either Car Park. It is in the hands of a Car Parking Company and you will be fined if they come round.

Please put your stickers on your engine and dinghy. It is in your interests as well as ours.

Please remember to sign in your guests.

Any queries regarding membership or dinghy and engine storage, contact me by email, or phone between 1800 and 2100 Monday to Friday, when I try to be available, or leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Looking forward to the new season on the water. Let's hope it is a good one!

**Sue Earle.**

**Membership Secretary**

**\*\*\*\*\* 6-9pm Mon-Fri**

**Or leave a message. Or email  
[sfccmembership@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sfccmembership@hotmail.co.uk)**