



Commodores Update January 2026

Happy New Year!

I trust that you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

It was a busy time in the club with a well supported Christmas Dinner and busy Christmas Draw

Debbie, Colin and the Kitchen Crew did a great job over the busy Christmas period and I must thank all the members who supported this year's Christmas draw as well as those who donated some lovely prizes for the 'Draw in the Room' which followed the main Christmas Draw.



Congratulations to Rick Jones who won the First Prize of £200. Lastly thank you to Paul and Becky for once again organising a great draw night.

Christmas Draw Winners

£200 Treasure Chest – Rick Jones

Garmin Watch – John Abunassar

£100 River Exe Café Voucher – Geoff Munson

Deluxe Hamper – Hugh Scudder

Dash Cam – Paddy & Kerry Smith

£50 of Club Regalia – Jon Seal

Nautical Bag of Goodies – Jamie Ellor

Selection of Wines – Adam Coupe

Savory Gift Box – Phil Speary

£50 Turf Voucher – Heidi & Bob Willis

Draw in the Room on the Night

One 4 All Voucher – Theo Mortimer

Breakfast at New Place – Jen Harris

(Donated by Rozi Partridge)

Chocolate Bomb – Rick Jones

(Donated by Russell Thompson)

Hamper 1 – Annabelle Greenslade

(Donated by Tony & Michelle Lloyd)

Hamper 2 – Caroline Whiting

(Donated by Tony & Michelle Lloyd)

Pickled Eggs & Sprouts – Paul LeMilliere

(Donated by Powderham Farm Shop)

Drink over the Bar – Caroline Whiting

Mars Bar – Janet Parker

Starcross Fishing and Cruising Club



Friday 9th January 2026

7.30 for 8.00pm start

Steve and Louise Hockings-Thompson present '31 years in the RNLI'.

All welcome.



A date for your Diary is Friday 9th January, when Steve and Louise are giving a talk about their involvement with Exmouth RNLI over the past 31 Years – As you know Steve retired as Coxswain back in the summer but is still involved with the Station and Louise's Great Grandfather was also a coxswain – *A Night not to be missed!*



Vice Commodore

Hello all members, First of all, I would like to welcome all the new members to our club, and hope this is a better season all round for everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Ellis and the stalwarts of the Friday morning work party for their ongoing efforts to keep the club ticking over.

For those that are unaware, there are several changes to heads of departments on the committee, coming up in the coming months ahead. I for one am lowering my flag for the last time and stepping down, as vice commodore after eight years, but would like to wish my successor good luck in the new year ahead.

I shall still be contactable by phone or mail, should anyone wish to talk on any club related matters. Wishing everyone fair winds and following seas and an enjoyable season..

Yours Aye - Arthur

Arthur Handy - Vice Commodore

vicecommodore@starcross-fcc.co.uk



Fishing

Happy New Year to all you fisheroos!

There's a few months yet before we're all back out on the water but it'll come around quicker than you thought. So, it's time to make up a few rigs and decide what to put in your tackle box.

Remember that this season there'll be a bag limit of three pollack and two bass per angler per day.

Whiting are still about from the shore and boat, should you manage to get out on a calm winter's day.

Cheers all Steve

Steve Cowell – Fishing Secretary

fishing@starcross-fcc.co.uk



Cruising

I still need nominations for the awards to be presented at our SFCC awards night.

If you think you fulfill the criteria for any of the trophies below, then feel free to nominate yourself, and yes this is normal because nobody else knows what you have been doing. Otherwise propose someone else who you think is worthy and get your nominations to me by 10th January.

The presentation night is on Saturday 17th January from 8.00pm at the SFCC, please come along to support your club on what is always a great evening.

The Sampson Cup

Personal Achievement by a Novice Sailor

The West Exe Cup

Notable Training Achievement

The Blue Boy Bowl

Notable Achievement by a Newcomer
(Fishing or Cruising)

The Graham Trophy for Junior Achievement

For Enthusiastic Young Person

The Seamanship Trophy

Demonstrating an act of 'Good Seamanship'

The Tomlinson Trophy

For the Saving of Life at Sea

The Piney Trophy

First Channel Crossing

The Rowe Shackle

For the Best Kept Log

The Langdon Long Distance Trophy

For the Longest Cruise

The Shapter Trophy

Most Miles Logged in One Season

Birdseye Power Trophy

For a Notable Cruise under Power

The 24-Hour Run

Outstanding Passage under Sail Within a 24-hour period at sea

The West Exe Trophy

Notable Cruise in a Boat over 36ft

The Gale Cruising Shield

Notable Cruise in a Boat 26 - 36ft

The Peter & Margaret Kidd Seaborn Trophy

Notable Cruise in a Boat under 26ft

The Harris Trophy

For the Most Miles Logged in One Week

The Whitbread Trophy

For Cruiser Racing

The Yandle Trophy

For Offshore Sailing

The Mechanical Mishap Award

As it says!

I need nominations – don't be shy! Contact me on the e-mail address below if you wish to nominate.

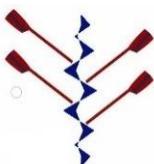
If you wish to participate in any of our club trips in 2026, please join our WhatsApp and Spond groups.

Spond is a communication App that is used for organising club events, which shows all the trip dates and allows people to chat and organise around specific cruises. Joining the Spond App is easy, just the follow this link: <https://group.spond.com/UEKOF>

To join our WhatsApp cruising chat group, please email me your phone number at the address below and I will add you.

Richard Bentley - Cruising Captain

cruising@starcross-fcc.co.uk

**Rowing**

The end of 2025 brought some chilly windy weather which did not deter club members from taking Shambler out on the estuary. Being able to have easy access to outdoor physical exercise and socialising with a group of people that love the water as much as I do feels very special.



At the start of December, we were blessed with a still starlit sky to row out under the light of the last cold supermoon of 2025. We grabbed the weather window, aligning tide and promise of a bright night to row. The estuary was still as we paddled out in sync. Jamie treated to baileys and coffee on the beach as we admired the water reflecting the light and shapes all around us.

The end of December brought sharp easterly winds which meant wrapping up warm and tough pulling on the oars to encourage the boat through the water against the chop. This challenged the cox to find the least exposed route, to keep the crew motivated and in time with the rise of fall of the waves. Arriving back in the calm of the mooring leads to celebratory 'well done's' as the sense of achievement sets in.

Shambler is coming out of the water at the start of January for the maintenance to begin. We have a plan of get togethers where we will do essential work to keep her safe and tidy. While she is out, club members have kindly been invited to participate in a Teign rowing club event in late January which shows how Shambler is raising the profile of SFCC to other local groups.

Everybody is always welcome and if anyone has any ideas to help make Shambler accessible to more people, please send me a message at rowing@starcross-fcc.co.uk. Thank you

Emma Swanton - Rowing Captain
rowing@starcross-fcc.co.uk.



As you can see our Shore Based Courses start on 3rd January with a Day Skipper Course, which is now fully booked.

I have also had a lot of interest in the other courses, so if you are interested in our SRC/VHF Radio, First Aid or Diesel Engine Courses please contact me as soon as possible and I'll let you have a Booking Form so that you can secure your place – It's all first come first served, so don't miss out.

Over the next couple of months we will be carrying out some work on the Rib. Once everything is done I'll be publishing our Powerboat 2 Course dates, but again you can register your interest by emailing me.

Peter Harris – RYA Training Centre Principal
training@starcross-fcc.co.uk



RYA DAY SKIPPER SHORE BASED COURSE

This Course is spread over three alternate weekends
Saturday 3rd January / Sunday 4th January
Saturday 17th January / Sunday 18th January
Saturday 31st January / Sunday 1st February

The course offers an introduction to chartwork, navigation, and the basics of seamanship. Its goal is to help prepare students in making the key decisions needed onboard to skipper a vessel in familiar waters. Students will need access to a Tablet or Laptop type device for the course

£295.00

FULLY BOOKED

RYA SRC / VHF RADIO COURSE

Saturday 7th March

RYA Marine Radio Short Range Certificate course is a one-day course aimed at anyone who wants to operate a marine VHF radio, with or without Digital Selective Calling.

Course Fee £75.00 plus Exam Fee £76.00



RYA FIRST AID

Saturday 14th March

RYA First Aid course is a one-day course for anyone who goes afloat, teaching essential first aid skills with a focus on boating-specific situations like hypothermia, cold water shock, and CPR with a drowning protocol.

Course Fee £70.00



RYA DIESEL ENGINE COURSE

Saturday 28th March

RYA Diesel Engine course is a one-day course perfect for beginners, taking you through ways to prevent and solve diesel engine failure. Most engine problems can be solved by taking simple precautions, and you don't need a detailed mechanical knowledge to take the course.

Course Fee £70.00

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE OR ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL : training@starcross-fcc.co.uk



Social

Ring in the New Year Together!

Wednesday 31st December — 7:30pm 'til late

As the year draws to a close, we're inviting all members and friends to gather for a relaxed and joy-filled **New Year's Eve** celebration at the club. This is always one of our most cherished evenings of the year — a chance to unwind, share good company, and welcome the year ahead with laughter and music.

Bring a Plate to Share

In true community spirit, we're asking everyone to bring along a plate of tasty nibbles. Whether it's something homemade, a favourite shop-bought treat, or a surprise creation you're proud of, it all adds to the shared table and the festive atmosphere.

Your Music, Your Night

We'll have our in-house custom music playing throughout the evening, but this year we're adding a fun twist: you choose the tracks!

List your favourite songs, guilty pleasures, dancefloor classics, or tunes that mean something special to you. We'll weave them into the night's playlist so everyone gets a moment that feels like "their song."

Stay as Long as You Like

Doors open at 7:30pm, and we'll keep the celebration going well into the night. Whether you're popping in for an hour or staying to toast the New Year with us, you'll be in great company.

Let's make this New Year's Eve one to remember — full of warmth, good food, shared music, and the wonderful people who make our club what it is.

Castoff Celebration Night – Save the Date!

As we look ahead to brighter days and shared adventures on the water, it's time to mark a very special occasion in the club calendar. We're delighted to announce that our **Castoff Celebration Night** will take place on **Saturday 28th March** — an evening dedicated to friendship, laughter, and the joy of launching into a brand-new season together.

This annual gathering is one of the highlights of our social year, bringing members old and new together to reconnect after the winter months. While we're keeping the finer details under wraps for now, you can expect the usual blend of good company, lively atmosphere, and a few surprises along the way.

Over the coming weeks, we'll share more information in subsequent newsletters — including timings, activities, and how to get involved. For now, simply pop the date in your diary and start looking forward to a night that promises to set the tone for a fantastic year ahead.

Let's cast off in style this March and celebrate everything that makes our club such a special community.

Kevin Rouse - Social Secretary
Social@starcross-fcc-co.uk

Guitar Jam Nights

Friday 16th January

Friday 20th February

Playing from 20.00

Friday

Forum's

All Forums start at 20.00

Friday 9thJanuary - 31years serving the RNLI Steve & Louise Hocking Thompson

Friday 23rdJanuary - Knots Road Show with Pete Ketcher & Ben Lowings

Friday 27th February - TBC

Friday 27th March – Beginners Fishing with Steve Cowell



Skittles

Team SFCC are currently enjoying our win from back in late November.

Celebrations will continue until at least the next game, which is not until February.

February will be a busy 5 game month before the season then ends. We can expect some tiredness and exhaustion to creep in, but a few more wins will probably be all that's needed.

We really would like to reach out to anybody who fancies a game. No expertise is required, or expected, though getting the ball down the right end of the alley is always a good thing. Please try us out on a Home Fixture, and see what you think. Please TEXT Kevin Rouse on 07969 169534 if you'd like to play.

Lympstone Dolphins HOME Thursday 5th February

Exe Ladies AWAY Tuesday 10th February

Topsham SC HOME Tuesday 17th February

Exe Tornados HOME Thursday 19th February

Beachcombers HOME Thursday 26th February

Russ and Kevin.

SFCC Skittles Coordinators.



Looking ahead there's plenty going on in the Club

January

Thu	1 st	Lunchtime Bar - in Aid of the RNLI 12.30-15.30
Sat	3 rd	Saturday Night Cooking
Fri	9 th	Friday Forum – 31Years serving the RNLI with Steve & Louise Hocking Thompson
Sat	10 th	Saturday Night Cooking
Fri	16 th	Guitar Group Jam – 20.00
Sat	17 th	Annual Presentation of Trophies – 20.00
Sat	24 th	Saturday Night Cooking
Fri	23 rd	Friday Forum – Knots Road Show with Pete Ketcher & Ben Lowings – 20.00
Sat	24 th	Saturday Night Cooking
Sat	31 st	Saturday Night Cooking



Finally

The start of a New Year always means that Presentation Night is only a couple of weeks away and it's always a good evening and so nice to see members achievements recognised.

Please don't forget our Friday Forum on the 9th January with Steve and Louise, as the talk about their experiences with Exmouth RNLI over the past 30 years or so

In February we have our AGM and as many of you already know I will be standing down as your Commodore – having served the club for the past 35 years with just a short 18 month break its time to hand over the reins.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year with fair winds and tight lines.



Peter Harris – Commodore

commodore@starcross-fcc.co.uk