

DAY SKIPPER COURSE SYLLABUS

The day skipper course is conducted on board a cruising yacht (7-13m LOA)

You will be taught pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling to the standard required to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in tidal waters with which you are familiar.

SECTION A: ALL CANDIDATES

Preparation for Sea:

Is able to prepare a yacht for sea, including engine checks, selection of sails, securing and stowage of all gear on deck and below.

Deck Work:

Can reef, shake out reefs and change sails to suit prevailing conditions. Can prepare an anchor, mooring warps and take charge on deck when mooring alongside, coming up to a buoy, anchoring, weighing anchor, and slipping from a buoy or alongside berth.

Navigation:

Is proficient in chart work and routine navigational duties on passage including:

- Taking and plotting visual fixes
- Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing.
- Use of waypoints
- Working up DR and EP
- Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams
- Working out course to steer to allow for tidal stream, leeway and drift.
- Knowledge of IALA buoyage
- Maintenance of navigational records
- Use of echo sounder and lead line

Pilotage:

Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry into or departure from harbour.

Understands the use of leading and clearing lines. Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage.

Meteorology:

Knows sources of forecast information, can interpret shipping forecasts and use a barometer as a forecasting aid.

Rules of the Road:

Has a working knowledge of the application of international Regulations for the Preventing Collisions at Sea.

Maintenance and repair work:

Understands and is able to carry out maintenance tasks. Knows the properties and uses of common and synthetic fibre ropes.

Engines:

Knows how to change fuel and water filters, pump impeller and bleed fuel system.

Victualling:

Understands how to victual a yacht.

Emergency Situation:

Is able to correct action as skipper for recovery of a man overboard. Understands distress flares and how to use a liferaft. Can operate a radio telephone in an emergency and send a distress message. Understands how to secure a tow. Understands rescue procedures including helicopter rescue.

SECTION B: SAIL TRAINING CANDIDATES ONLY

General organisation:

Understands the organisation and is fully competent to take charge of a watch at sea and in harbour.

SECTION C: YACHTING CANDIDATES ONLY (DAY SKIPPER)

Yacht handling under power:

Can bring a boat safely to and from an alongside berth, mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide.

Yacht handling under sail:

Can bring a boat safely to and from a mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide. Can steer and trim sails effectively on all points of sailing.

Passage Planning:

Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking account of relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat and strength of the crew.