



## **RYA Day Skipper Syllabus (Practical Course)**

**Aim:** The day skipper course is conducted on board a cruising yacht (7-13m LOA) to teach pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling to the standard required to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in tidal waters with which the student is familiar. The watch leader course is conducted on board a large yacht or sail-training vessel, to teach navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to a standard required to take charge of a watch on deck at sea or in harbour.

### **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 bouyage
- 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.

## **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.

## **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.