

# RYA Day Skipper Practical

## Course Syllabus and Outcomes

### 1. Preparation for Sea

- Knowledge of basic stability and buoyancy for small vessels
- Can prepare a cruising vessel for sea, including engine checks, securing and stowage of all gear on deck and below
- Can select sails based on conditions

### 2. Deck Work

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

### 3. Navigation

- Knowledge of the uses and limitations of AIS
- Understands working up dead reckoning (DR) and estimated positing (EP)
- Understands use of a lead line, or similar
- Understands how to work out a course to steer to allow for set, drift and leeway
- Can take and plot visual fixes
- Can use electronic navigation equipment for position fixing
- Can use secondary means of position fixing
- Can estimate tidal heights and tidal streams
- Can use waypoints and routes
- Can use knowledge of IALA buoyage
- Can maintain navigational records
- Can use an echo sounder

### 4. Pilotage

- Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry into, or departure from, harbour
- Can use leading and clearing lines
- Can use transits and soundings as aids to pilotage

### 5. Meteorology

- Understands how to interpret shipping forecasts and use a barometer as a forecasting aid
- Can source forecast information

### 6. Rules of the Road

- Can demonstrate suitable awareness of other water users boat at sea and in close-quarter manoeuvring
- Can demonstrate a practical understanding of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

### 7. Maintenance and Repair Work

- Knowledge of the properties and uses of common synthetic-fibre ropes
- Understands maintenance tasks and is able to carry them out

### 8. Engines

- Understands the need for periodic maintenance checks on engines and electrical installations
- Understands requirements for tool kits, spares and lubricants
- Understands the locations of filters and bleed points for fuel
- Understands the tension of drive belts and how to adjust or replace them
- Can carry out checks before starting, while running and after stopping
- Can clean water filters and knows the location of impellers
- Can estimate fuel consumption at various speeds and knows the effects of fouling
- Can carry out basic troubleshooting

### 9. Victualling

- Understands how to victual a cruising vessel appropriately for the planned passage

### 10. Emergency Situations

- Understands how to issue distress signals by all available means, including distress flares and a VHF radio, in an emergency
- Understands how to use a life raft, and how to secure a tow
- Understands rescue procedures including helicopter rescue
- Understands the effects of cold-water shock on a casualty in the water
- Understands the aftercare requirements of a casualty who has been in the water
- Can carry out the correct action as skipper for the recovery of a man overboard

### 11. Handling under Power

- Knowledge of effects of waves on boat handling and crew comfort
- Understands differing styles of hull and propulsion systems
- Understands how to moor and leave a bow/stern-to mooring
- Understands how to identify and take into account wind and current conditions when planning and executing manoeuvres
- Can carry out the following manoeuvres under power: steer a straight course; turn in a confined space; anchor at a pre-determined position; berth alongside; leave an alongside berth; pick up a mooring buoy.

### 12. Yacht Handling under Sail

- Understands the characteristics of different types of keel
- Understands how to identify and take into account wind and current conditions when planning and executing manoeuvres and choosing appropriate sail plan
- Can bring a boat safely to and from a mooring buoy, and can anchor
- Can steer and trim sails effectively on all points of sailing

### 13. Passage-making

- Knowledge of marina locks
- Understands the practical benefits and limitations of a chart plotter or GNSS
- Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking into account relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat and the strength of the crew.

### 14. Night Cruising

- Has experienced cruising at night, including leaving and entering harbour
- Understands special considerations for pilotage plans, keeping a lookout and identifying marks by night

The Day Skipper course is taught on board a cruising yacht. You will learn pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling to the standard required to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in waters with which you are familiar.

