



## **RYA Day Skipper Shorebased Course (40 Hours)**

A comprehensive introduction to chart work, navigation, meteorology and the basics of seamanship for Potential Day Skippers and those that want to learn the art of Navigation.

Assumed knowledge for this Course is zero; however it is probably best taken after some on the water experience, ideally the RYA Competent Crew Course.

There are two exams, one on navigation and the other a general paper covering seamanship, meteorology and the collision regulations.

At the end of the course you will be awarded the RYA Day Skipper Shorebased Certificate.

We recommend this course is taken before attending the Day Skipper Practical Course.

### **Syllabus**

#### **Nautical terms**

Parts of a boat and hull

General nautical terminology.

#### **Ropework**

Knowledge of the properties of synthetic ropes in common use.

#### **Anchorwork**

Characteristics of different types of anchor

Considerations to be taken into account when anchoring.

#### **Safety**

Knowledge of the safety equipment to be carried, its stowage and use (see RYA Boat Safety Handbook C8)

Fire precautions and fire fighting

Use of personal safety equipment, harnesses and lifejackets

Ability to send a distress signal by VHF radiotelephone

Basic knowledge of rescue procedures including helicopter rescue.

#### **International regulations for preventing collisions at sea**

Steering and sailing rules (5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12-19) General rules (all other rules)

#### **Definition of position, course and speed**

Latitude and longitude

Knowledge of standard navigational terms

True bearings and courses

The nautical mile.

#### **Navigational charts and publications**

Information shown on charts, chart symbols and representation of direction and distance

Navigational publications in common use

Chart corrections.

#### **Navigational drawing instruments**

Use of parallel rulers, dividers and proprietary plotting instruments.

### **Compass**

Application of variation  
Awareness of deviation and its causes  
Use of hand-bearing compass.

### **Chartwork**

Dead reckoning and estimated position including an awareness of leeway  
Techniques of visual fixing  
Satellite-derived positions  
Use of waypoints to fix position  
Course to steer.

### **Tides and tidal streams**

Tidal definitions, levels and datum  
Tide tables  
Use of admiralty method of determining tidal height at standard port and awareness of corrections for secondary ports  
Use of tidal diamonds and tidal stream atlases for chartwork.

### **Visual aids to navigation**

Lighthouses and beacons, light characteristics.

### **Meteorology**

Sources of broadcast meteorological information  
Knowledge of terms used in shipping forecasts, including the Beaufort scale, and their significance to small craft  
Basic knowledge of highs, lows and fronts.

### **Passage planning**

Preparation of navigational plan for short coastal passages  
Meteorological considerations in planning short coastal passages  
Use of waypoints on passage  
Importance of confirmation of position by an independent source  
Keeping a navigational record.

### **Navigation in restricted visibility**

Precautions to be taken in, and limitations imposed by fog.

### **Pilotage**

Use of transits, leading lines and clearing lines  
IALA system of buoyage for Region A  
Use of sailing directions  
Pilotage plans and harbour entry.

### **Marine Environment**

Responsibility for avoiding pollution and protecting the marine environment