

# **DAY SKIPPER PRACTICAL (TIDAL)**

## **SYLLABUS**

The Day Skipper course aims to teach pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a motor cruiser safely by day in tidal waters with which the student is familiar. Students should have a knowledge of Day Skipper Theory.

The minimum age for the award of a certificate is 16 years old.

### **1. Preparation for Sea**

- Is able to prepare a motor cruiser for sea, carry out fuel engine checks, secure and stow all gear on deck and below.

### **2. Boat Handling**

- Can carry out the following manoeuvres under power in various wind and tide conditions. Has understanding of the different styles of hull and propulsion systems.
- Steering a straight course
- Turning in a confined space
- Anchoring at a pre-determined position
- Berthing alongside
- Leaving an alongside berth
- Picking up a mooring buoy
- Correct use of power trim and tabs
- Awareness of other water users

### **3. Navigation**

- Is proficient in chart work and can carry out the following tasks:
- 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 and leeway
- Knowledge of IALA buoyage
- Maintenance of navigational records
- Use of echo sounder

### **4. 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

## **5. Passage Making**

- Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking into account the relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat, weather, tide and the strength of the crew
- Has been introduced to practical benefits and limitations of GPS

## **6. Meteorology**

- Knows sources of forecast information
- Can interpret shipping forecasts and use of a barometer as a forecasting aid

## **7. Rules of the Road**

- Has a working knowledge of the application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

## **8. Engines**

Has a working knowledge of the prevention of common engine faults and is competent in the following areas:

- Checks before starting, whilst running and after stopping
- Periodic maintenance checks on engines and electrical installations
- Requirements for tool kits, spares and lubricants
- Can clean water filters and knows location of impellers
- Knows location of filters and bleed points for fuel
- Knows tensions of drive belts and how to change
- Fuel consumption at various speeds and the effect of fouling

## **9. Emergency Situations**

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

## **10. Night Cruising**

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