

Professional Yachtmaster Training Course 2012

Information Pack



Introduction

There will be two courses running consecutively at the National Centre Cumbrae this year, both delivering an intensive fully residential programme, designed to provide all the skills and qualifications required for starting a career in yachting. The course will be delivered using the highly qualified and experienced staff at sportscotland's National Centre Cumbrae. The intensive style of this course would also be ideal for those wishing to gain RYA qualifications for personal recreational use.

Over the 18-week course you will work towards RYA/MCA DoT Yachtmaster (commercially endorsed). (*Royal Yachting Association / Maritime and Coastguard Agency*) This qualification can create opportunities for work onboard yachts, and is essential for aspiring skippers and cruising instructors, and anyone looking to provide yacht deliveries. It would also be great personal training to confidently cruise your own yacht throughout the world.

The sailing areas will encompass the sheltered waters of the Firth of Clyde and its many islands and will progress into the Irish Sea and up the west coast of Scotland. These areas give possibly the best diversity on offer providing challenging sailing, strong tides, the infamous Corryvreckan whirlpool, a variety of anchorages and superb scenery.

In addition to sailing a variety of yachts, there will be opportunities to try your hand at dinghy sailing, windsurfing and power boating. There will be onshore sessions that cover the wide range of shorebased subjects and towards the end of the course you will have the chance to 'self skipper' the boat. This will provide invaluable experience as skipper.

We will ensure a personal, friendly and professional service, which will be supported by our highly experienced team of instructors.

The course will take considerable commitment both financially and personally. With this in mind there will be **Information Days** scheduled for 29th January 2012 and 17th June 2012. These information days will explain in more detail the course, syllabus, the structure and the career opportunities.

The information days carry no charge and there is no obligation whatsoever. For those that require accommodation it is available on Sunday night. Pre-booking for an information day is essential.

To book on to an information day please contact the centre on 01475 530757 or email cumbraecentre@sportscotland.org.uk





Qualifications

Our aim is for you to leave the centre with the following qualifications:

RYA Yachtmaster Coastal / Offshore Certificate of Competence

RYA CompetentCrew, Dayskipper, Watchleader and CoastalSkipper Practical

RYA Dayskipper and Yachtmaster Theory

RYA Short Range Certificate (VHF) incl GMDSS Operations

RYA First Aid Course

RYA Sea Survival and ISAF Offshore Safety

RYA Small Craft Radar Operations

RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance

RYA Powerboat Level 2

RYA Dinghy Start Sailing

RYA Start Windsurfing

There are several other non-certified sessions i.e. Sail Repair, Winch Servicing, Rope Splicing etc



The Course Structure

Throughout the 18 weeks, you will have approximately 75 days on the water and 25 days based at the centre. To allow you to recharge your batteries, there are a number of days off in the program. This time off will also be important as it will give you time to consolidate what you have learned.

Our aim is to produce experienced and rounded skippers that are not just confident to pass the Yachtmaster exam, but who feel that the base for a successful career in yachting has been laid.

To allow this to happen, we realise that people will learn at different rates. We will endeavour to build your experience at a pace that suits.

It is, however important that you accumulate the necessary sea miles for your Yachtmaster examination.

At the end of each practical sailing session the instructor in charge will hold a detailed de-briefing session designed to give you honest and constructive feedback on your progression. This feedback system will also allow our staff to structure the course towards your needs whenever possible.

In addition to all of these practical sessions we will also be running a wide range of shorebased courses. This is the time to concentrate on the theory of navigation, skippering, yacht maintenance and safety. The emphasis will then be on putting your theoretical knowledge into practice.



As an important part of building your experience, you will also have the opportunity to sail aboard the 92ft Gaff Schooner 'Spirit of Fairbridge'. We are also able to offer the opportunity of sailing aboard one of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland's Ex BT challenge 72ft yachts.

These vessels will allow an insight into the world of sail training and how things are done onboard a bigger boat. Sailing on these sail training vessels could also open up networking and career opportunities.

It is also an excellent opportunity to gain some insight into what it takes to lead and motivate people aboard a vessel.



The Centre and the Staff

The Centre

The centre is a log chalet style building with excellent indoor facilities. During shorebased courses you will use the purpose built lecture rooms, changing rooms, drying area and dining room. For relaxing in the evenings there is a comfortable lounge bar, sauna and gym facilities.

The log chalets accommodate up to 14 persons in twin rooms with bunks and twin single bed en-suite rooms. All accommodation costs are included in the course fee and when not on board the yachts you will have a room at the centre

The Staff

A huge bonus is that during the course you will have the opportunity to work and learn alongside a variety of our expert national centre staff

All our full time and seasonal staff are highly qualified in what we do. As well as being very highly qualified, staff members bring with them their own energy and enthusiasm for the activities. They also have a huge breadth and depth of personal and instructing experience in their own specialist areas that their qualifications do not reflect. You can read staff biographies on our website <http://www.nationalcentrecumbrae.org.uk/about-staff.asp>)



As well as the full time staff, each season we take on senior seasonal staff and also many temporary activity instructors. Although many staff become regulars there is a healthy turnover of qualified and vastly experienced staff to keep the team highly motivated and fresh in terms of development and new initiatives.

All our Instructors hold valid First Aid certificates and are Scottish Criminal Records Office (S.C.R.O) checked before commencing work at Cumbrae
Ashore our support staff will endeavour to make your stay with us as comfortable and welcoming as possible.

Catering

Whilst onshore we realise that good wholesome food makes a considerable difference to your course. Domestic arrangements are organised by our catering team who work from a modern kitchen to provide a choice of tasty meals. The food costs for the entire course are included in the course fee.

The Yachts

Our two yachts are based in Largs Yacht Haven, one of Scotland's finest marina's. It is located in beautiful sheltered sailing waters and offers top class facilities.

Our two yachts are : ‘Somerled of Cumbrae’– Salona 37’
 ‘Santa Vey’– Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 36i

It is intended that you will spend some time on the centre's yachts. However you will also spend time sailing various yachts to give you a broader experience. The Yachtmaster examination will take place aboard the centre's yachts.



Preparation for the course

Previous Experience

There is no formal requirement for any sailing qualifications. However we require that you have a minimum of 200 tidal sea miles logged.

It is important that you enjoy sailing and have an idea of whether or not the course is for you.

If you are relatively new to sailing, contact the centre to discuss.

Health

The practical sailing at sea can be physically demanding and you will need to ensure that you are fit enough to participate in the course. It is also important to understand that as part of the commercial endorsement you are required to obtain a medical.

We would recommend that if you are in any doubt as to your medical fitness, then it would be prudent to contact your doctor.

If you are not looking to use the Yachtmaster qualification professionally, then you do not need a medical.



Clothing

As part of the course you will receive a set of Gill Offshore Waterproofs. All other clothing should be provided by you and include warm layers, hats and gloves. Advice will be given to assist you having the correct gear.

Books and Equipment

All necessary books will be provided at the start of the appropriate course. A G15 logbook will be issued at the start of the course. This is used to record your miles and the stages of your progress.

However you will need to purchase a Portland Course Plotter and dividers, these are available from the centre.

Fees and Dates

Dates: 11th March – 15th July 2012 (course 1)
29th July – 2nd December 2012 (course 2)

Price: £8900 including all course fees, tuition, accommodation and food (the price excludes RYA examination and commercial endorsement fees see below)

Short Range Certificate (VHF Radio)	£30.00
RYA /MCA DoT Yachtmaster Examination Fee	£194.00
Commercial Endorsement	£32.00

