

The RYA Day Skipper practical course is an **intermediate course** for aspiring skippers building on previous RYA courses and/or your own yachting experience. To ensure you get the most out of the course it is important your previous sailing experience means **you can sail around a course using all points of sail with basic sail trim and able to control the boat's speed**. It is also important that you have **theory knowledge** to day skipper level (it is strongly recommended you attend a Day Skipper theory course first).

It is assumed those undertaking the Day Skipper course are **competent in crewing activities**. These should include: hoisting, reefing and dropping sails; preparing to come alongside (warps and fenders); **points of sail with basic sail trim, tacking and gybing the yacht**. The aim is to refine and enhance these skills taking you to the next level.

The emphasis is on seamanship, practical navigation, close quarters manoeuvres under engine and sail, emergency situations and to learn how to skipper a yacht with crew. Race quality sail trim is not expected but it is expected you can sail the yacht efficiently and safely on all points of sail. A Skipper must be able look at the bigger picture.

Candidates who do have insufficient sailing experience struggle to handle the many elements involved in skippering a yacht. There will be practical application of the theory elements but there is insufficient time to teach theory from first principles.

This course should empower you as a skipper to undertake short passages taking credit when it goes well and being responsible when it doesn't.

Chief Instructor - Solent Boat Training